CPC Needs Assessment

Introduction

The Children's Policy Council Needs Assessment is an opportunity for local communities to inform state policy-makers of the unmet needs of children throughout the state. The growing demand for evidence-based practice requires using metrics. As policy-makers rely more and more on data to drive decisions, we ask CPCs to provide objective data to support their identified needs.

We appreciate your willingness to dig deeply into what is happening at the local level to inform state leaders and ultimately guide policy and funding decisions.

About Your CPC

Please provide the requested information regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

County *

Lamar

Honorable Judge *

Please provide the name of the Judge who leads the county's Children's Policy Council.

Jacob West

Name of CPC Coordinator *

Please provide the name of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

Jacob West

CPC Coordinator Email *

Enter the email of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

jacob.west@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

330 1st Street NE

Address Line 2

P.O. Box 643

City	State / Province / Region
Vernon	AL

Postal / Zip Code	Country
35592	United States

School System/LEA Representation *

Are the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) all represented on the CPC?

- ⦿ Yes, all are represented and active
- ◯ Yes, all are represented but not all are active
- ◯ Some are represented, but not all
- ◯ Only 1 school system is represented

Number of School Systems *

Indicate the number of school systems or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in your county.

Does your county currently conduct a youth survey? *

◉ Yes
◯ No

CPC Members

Use the fields below to list the names of all CPC Members, with each name in a separate field. Use the "Add" link to create more fields as needed.

CPC Member	CPC Member	CPC Member
Thames Shelton	Sharon Owens	Kaleena Sorrells
Caitlin Bruce	Paul Young	Bobby Latham
Donna Jackson	Scott Walker	Treca Spinger
Alexis Wilson	Vance Herron	Hannah Shackelford
Caitlyn McCartney	Shannon Lugo	Marty Gottwald
Tim Robinson	Amanda Barnes	
Sherri Carroll	Myra Holt	

Does your CPC currently have 501(c)3 status? *

◯ Yes
◉ No

Needs Identification

The questions below relate to the needs of children ages birth to 19 and their families in your county. The sections represent umbrella categories of needs which have been identified over the past several years through local CPC Needs Assessments.The data requested in each section aims to help identify root causes, risk factors and/or specifics within each category.

Please rank your county's top three needs and provide the requested data regarding those needs.

Links to several data sources and local organizations are listed below as a resource to assist CPCs in completing the needs assessment and locating the requested information.

Kids Count Data:

https://alavoices.org/2021-alabama-kids-count/

https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AL/2/0/char/0

CPC Website for AOC County Data: www.alcpc.org

Local Mental Health Center that serves county

Local County Department of Human Resources (DHR)

Three Most Urgent Needs *

Select the three needs below that are the most urgent. These are the ones you will provide more information about.

☑ Substance Abuse
☐ Parental Involvement and Family Engagement
☐ School Success
☐ Early Care and Education
☑ Mental Health
☐ Juvenile Crime and Safety
☑ Poverty
☐ Health and Well Being
☐ Neighborhoods and Housing
☐ Transportation

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse affects youth, families and all parts of society and is manifested through underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, as well as illegal substance manufacturing, access, and use.

Substance Abuse Rank *

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- ◉ 1
- ○ 2
- ○ 3

Number of juvenile delinquency cases filed for drug and substance violations. *

12

Have substance abuse violations and delinquency cases increased or decreased over the past year? *

- ○ Increased significantly
- ◉ Increased somewhat
- ○ About the same
- ○ Decreased slightly
- ○ Decreased significantly

How many children have been removed from their home due to parent drug use in your county? *

109

Characterize the trend of children removed from homes due to parent drug use year over year. *

- ○ Each year, significantly more children are being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.
- ◉ We are seeing a leveling off of this trend.
- ○ We have seen a significant decline in children being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.

Is there a Juvenile Drug Court in your county? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Substance Abuse Characteristics

Please select all that describe characteristics of substance abuse in your county.

- ☑ Youth Substance Abuse
- ☐ Underage Alcohol Sales
- ☑ Family Prescription Abuse
- ☑ Family Illegal Substance Abuse
- ☑ Drugs in Schools
- ☑ Lack of space to refer individuals with addiction issues

Recidivism Rate *

Provide the recidivism rate and any additional relevant information such as length of time drug court has been in existence and contributing factors to recidivism.

The recidivism rate for the 24th Circuit Drug Court over the last 3 years is at 23%. We have had drug court in existence for a little over 10 years. Within the last 2 years we have changed drug court directors and have a new judge presiding over Drug Court. The highest contributing factors to recidivism would have to be:

1. Poverty
2. Environment and lack of options for hobbies and down time.
3. Small county so it is harder for addicts to separate themselves from bad company.

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

Provide additional information and data regarding why you believe substance abuse is a significant problem in your county.

Along with the factors listed above, I also believe that mental health issues are a direct correlation to the substance abuse issues. The fact we have next to nothing available for mental health issues within our county exacerbates this issue.

Additionally, with the steady rise of addiction more and more children are being removed from homes. These children have grown up around and in drug use at home. They are not only see this example early on but they are also negatively impacted by the upheaval at home and the lack of parental involvement. Consequently, more and more youth are using themselves and setting up a vicious cycle of family addiction.

Mental Health

Mental Health is important at every stage of life from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have any mental health conditions identified early so they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient services that meet their needs.

Mental Health Rank *

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

○ 1
◉ 2
○ 3

Needs Related to Mental Health *

Select all statements that apply to your county.

☑ We have a dire need for inpatient mental health facilities.
☑ We have a dire need for outpatient mental health facilities and care.
☐ Our need and the demand for mental health services match pretty well.
☑ We do not have enough counselors to fill the needs in our county.
☑ Children with mental health issues is a growing problem in our county.
☐ We do not have a need for mental health services and care in our county.
☐ Services are only available for those with ability to pay.

How many facilities in your community maintain inpatient beds for mental health issues? *

0

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for children? *

0

Does this number meet the demand? *

○ Yes, demand is almost always met.
○ Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.
◉ Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults? *

0

Does this number meet the demand? *

○ Yes, demand is almost always met.
○ Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.
◉ Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.

If the demand for services is unmet, what are some actions taken? *

Describe how the unmet needs are currently addressed.

We either use online resources when possible or we attempt to send individuals out of the county where we there are resources are available.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

Resources

Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county? *

18 to 54 years old

Top 3 Mental Health Resources *

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center

Poverty

Poverty has many faces: unemployment, poor living standards, and the working poor not having enough money to provide for the basic needs of their children.

Poverty Rank *

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2
- ◉ 3

What is the unemployment rate in your county? *

3% in 2021

What is the number of SNAP recipients (all ages) in your county? *

2,152

What is the rate of "children in poverty" in your county? *

33.5%

Describe access to higher education and job training in your county. *

The only available program for higher education would be the Upward Bound program available through Bevill State Community College. There are no high education options in the county outside of online programs which would be not be county specific.

Bevill State offers a job training option one day a week in the public library in Vernon. The school offers training for high school age students at the Vo-Tech location.

LIst the 3 largest employers in your county. *

Belzona

School System and LEA

Weyerhaeuser

Describe the types of jobs available in your county. *

Plant based jobs
Education based job (Elementary-High School)
Trucking
Construction
Lumber Mills

Describe the workforce in your county. *

Is the workforce adequately prepared for the available jobs? Does the workforce commute into the county from another location?

Most of the local workforce is constituted of in county employees but this has been decreasing because of substance abuse.

Many of our eligible employees in the county travel out of county for employment.

Accomplishments

With regard to your programs in existence from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, consider accomplishments in those areas. Provide information about who benefited from the accomplishment and the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Describe at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

Accomplishment 1 *

Describe this accomplishment.

We started a Family Court this year which focuses on reunification of parents who struggle with substance abuse with their children.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Parents and children

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

30,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

State Grant

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Began utilizing Pathways as a program for Juvenile Court

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Delinquent children

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

NA

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

DYS

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Continued funding for Lamar County Schools to have a School Based Mental Health Worker this year.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

This mental health worker will be an asset to our children and our schools as they deal with on-going mental health issues.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

NA

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

State Grant

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

Lamar County Schools employ In School Suspension personnel to keep our students in the buildings as opposed to Out of School Suspension. This keeps our children in face to face learning opportunities as opposed to falling behind and points deducted from their 9 week report card for each day of suspension.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

School age children

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

NA

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4
NA

Accomplishment 5
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

Accomplishment 6
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

Accomplishment 7
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Accomplishment 8
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

Accomplishment 9
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9

Accomplishment 10
Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 10

CPC Self-Assessment

Self-assessment is an integral part of the County CPC development. Please provide the information below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

Level I CPC

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Mandated Members (at least 8 of 15) attended at least two meetings last year
- ☐ At Large Members (at least 5 of 7) attended at least two meetings last year
- ☐ Minutes and sign in sheets were kept for all meetings
- ☐ CPC met at least quarterly
- ☐ Membership list was kept current
- ☑ Needs assessment was turned in on time and in correct format
- ☑ Annual Report submitted with needs assessment

Level II CPC

Select all that apply.

- ☐ At least 10 of the 15 mandated members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- ☐ At least 6 of the 7 At Large members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- ☐ At least 3 members attended the CPC conference last year
- ☐ New Member Orientation Manual was developed
- ☐ Committees met at least quarterly in addition to regularly scheduled CPC meetings
- ☐ Committees presented reports at CPC meetings
- ☐ Committees took action toward identified issues
- ☐ CPC has a mission statement
- ☐ CPC has an elected Vice-Chair
- ☐ CPC has an elected Secretary

Level II - Committees

Select all committees which have been established.

- ☐ Early Care and Education
- ☐ Economic Security
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Parent Involvement and Skills
- ☐ Safety

Level III CPC

Select all that apply.

☐ Council has developed strong leadership
☐ Fiscal agent has been identified or a 501(c)3 has been established
☐ Bylaws have been written and approved
☐ Members have attended CPC Leadership Training
☐ Council is active in child advocacy efforts
☐ Council sponsors community efforts for children's issues
☐ Committees are active and performing specific actions
☐ 5 or more members attended the CPC Conference last year
☐ Communication line has been developed with legislators
☐ Communication with the media occurs
☐ CPC has a strategic plan in place

Self-Rating *

Based on the answers above, how would you characterize your current level?

◉ Striving for Level I
◯ Level I moving toward Level II
◯ Level II moving toward Level III
◯ Level III

Annual Report Documentation

CPC Members List

Use the upload button below to provide a CPC membership list with contact information.

CPC-Membership.xlsx   31.79KB

CPC Meeting Minutes *

Upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

CPC Minutes and Sign In.docx   11.84KB

CPC Sign-In Sheets *

Upload all CPC Meeting sign-in sheets from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

CPC Minutes and Sign In.docx   11.84KB

Conclusion *

What have we not asked you about that you feel is important?

I have had some new responsibilities added over the last year which I have allowed to take away my attention from the CPC. I hope to change this over the next year and utilize CPC as it needs to be.