



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 *

Lawrence

Honorable Judge *

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

Angela Terry

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Abigail Arnold

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

lawcocpc@gmail.com

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

14451 Market Street, Suite 210

Address Line 2

City

Moulton

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35650

Country

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.

2

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
Angela Terry	Callie Waldrep	Abigail Arnold
Jon Brett Smith	Tasha Davis	Cathy Sanders
Erek Jett	Bobby Burch	Dr. Larry Stutts
Garlan Grudger	Andrew Sorrell	Max Sanders
Tiffany Callahan	Markita McLemore	Sonya Tinsley
Africa Patterson	Jason White	Rachel Chobot
Lisa Coleman	Donna Shanklin	Leah Brown
Rachel Townsend	Dean Griffin	Jerome Thompson
Hood Mullican	Jesse Reeder	Wannell Scott
Laura Akers	Chris Waldrep	Kim Bevis
Sue Jones	Renee Smith	Latoria Horton

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. *

16

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? *

72

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

How many juveniles went through the court last year? *

34

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.

Recidivism rate = 50%

Contributing factors= Domestic violence, truancy, & lack of parental engagement and involvement

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

According to DHR reports, substance abuse is the #1 reason children are removed from their home.

Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Family risk and protective factors impact the involvement, or lack thereof, of parents in their children's social-emotional development and their academic education.

Parental Involvement 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

Trends of Child Abuse *

Mark the answer that best characterizes reports of child abuse in your county.

- Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of reports of child abuse.
- We are seeing a leveling off of child abuse reports.
- Our county has seen a decline in the reports of child abuse.

Domestic Violence *

Select the item that best characterizes the domestic violence trends in your county.

- Increasing
- Remaining about the same
- Declining

Community Factors Impacting Trends *

Describe community factors which may impact the trends in domestic violence and child abuse, including but not limited to, access to family counseling and mental health support.

The increase in the number of child abuse and domestic violence reports correlate with the rise in substance abuse among the parents in Lawrence county.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

88

Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county? *

- Yes
- No

Which components of parental involvement and family engagement apply to your county? *

- Single parent families
- Support for teaching children at home
- Increased foster care placements
- Increased child abuse and domestic violence rates
- Increased adoption needs

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.

Clients are referred to the nearest hospital where they are assessed. If the person is classified as high-risk by the hospital staff, they they are referred to an in-patient clinics in a neighboring county. One problem is that many of our families do not have adequate transportation to transport their child to the hospital then to an in-patient facility out-of-county; therefore, students' needs are not met. Another problem is that if the in-patient facility in the neighboring county is full, the student is put on a waiting list for in-patient treatment facilities in the state. This is extremely difficult for families.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

The greatest mental health need is more adequate mental health services with providers that can prescribe medication for students in need. The enrichment center caseloads are packed full, and they can only see students during school hours.

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.

North Central Mental Health Center in Moulton, AL (outpatient facility)
Mental Health Counselors contracted through the enrichment center to service students at the local schools
District-wide Social Worker that coordinates mental health resources for the Lawrence County School District

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.

The CPC completed the social media campaign, "It's All About the Kids." The program consisted of a series of short videos by subject matter specialists addressing topics such as vaping, bullying, safe-dating, internet dangers, etc. An added feature of the project involved notable personalities simply reminding Lawrence County citizens that "it's all about the kids." All of the videos have now been completed and placed on the schools' websites and Facebook pages.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

All of the families with students enrolled in the Lawrence County School System.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$10,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

Community Grant from the State of Alabama
Lawrence County School System Federal Funds

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC continued its partnership with the local Lions Club to participate in their program called "Lions Quest." This nationwide initiative utilizes adult mentors to teach teenagers such skills as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. The lessons were taught to young people in the county who were on juvenile probation. There was a recognition luncheon at the end of each semester for students who completed the Lions Quest program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Youth serving juvenile probation

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

\$7,500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Lions Club International Foundation

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC continued its award-winning program for 5th graders called "Have a Fit." This was the first year we were able to have it in-person since Covid. Changing the location gave us more space for activities. Students rotated through 10 different stations, including health/dental screenings conducted by Calhoun Community College nursing students. The essay contest, poster contest, and fitness awards remained part of the event.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Fifth grade students enrolled in the Lawrence County School System

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

\$1,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

CPC funds

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC continues to offer "When Sex Isn't Sexy" to county schools for use in selected classes as part of the regular academic curriculum. These videos feature young women from Lawrence County sharing their personal stories of how an unplanned pregnancy affected their lives. Some of the outcomes demonstrate the emotional toll of an abortion, having to give up a child for an adoption, raising a child as a single mother, etc.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Young people enrolled in selected health, science, and physical education courses in the Lawrence County School District.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

Not applicable

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

CPC Members List

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

LawCoCPC Membership 23.xlsx 16.96KB

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- Meeting Minutes 2022-2023.docx.pdf 58.16KB

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 Sign-in Sheets 22-23.docx 15.36MB

Conclusion *

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

On the question with the number of schools systems/LEAs, there should be an option for 1.

I had to mark 2 because this was the lowest number. We only have 1 school district in our county. There is not a separate city school system.