



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 *

Marion

Honorable Judge *

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

MARK E HAMMITTE

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

JENNIFER NIX

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

jennifer.nix@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

132 Military St S

Address Line 2

Room 305

City

Hamilton

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35570

Country

Marion

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

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. *

14

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? *

48

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.

Hard to really tell. As far as recidivism resulting in additional charges, it may not be high, 10 to 15 %. The continued use of drugs while they are under the supervision of the court is a problem. Although they are in out-patient treatment and being on supervised probation they continue to use. A lot of it is marijuana usage which they say is from vaping.

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

Substance Abuse in all age groups is a problem in our county. Due to the adults using has resulted in a higher number of children having to be removed from their homes and placed in foster care.

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.

Limited availability of out patient treatment for adults, lack of transportation to be able to attend counseling is an issue in the county, mental health services are limited and are typically not court ordered so the adults see no need to seek help on their own. Also, the problem of parents/guardians not getting the children to treatment is an issue as well.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

48

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.

Out of county placements; in school mental health counselors that see the children at school

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

In Patient Mental Health placements for children; additional out-patient placements; additional substance abuse services

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

9 to 17 years old

Top 3 Mental Health Resources *

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center; Hamilton Children's Service Center; in school Mental Health Counselors

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 Juvenile Court has been able to add The Bridge Northwest Transitions Program at a resource. This program is a diversion program focused on counseling juveniles both in home and at school multiple times a week. They also work with the child's family.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

The juveniles and families of Marion County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

n/a

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

DYS/State funded grant

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Marion County School District and Winfield City School District both have school based Mental Health therapists that are so beneficial for the children that they work with. It keeps the children from having to miss school for a mental health appointment and helps families who have transportation issues.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

The school age children of Marion County Alabama.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

amount n/a

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Federal funding to the school systems

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The Helping Family Initiative Program through the Marion County District Attorney's Office was involved with several At-Risk youth, providing support to children with school problems, attendance, clothing and housing issues and transportation problems. HFI has developed a summer program that meets once a week. This summer they have partnered with Beville State Community College and taken the children there to learn about the technology programs that the school has to offer.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

At Risk Children enrolled in Hamilton Middle School and Hamilton High School

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

amount not known

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

A HFI grant received by the Marion County District Attorney's Office

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

We used the Advent eLearning online treatment program again this year. Over 30 evidence-based courses are available: Alcohol & Substance Abuse Level I and II, Anger Management Level I and II, Animal Care, Boating and Outdoor, Bullying, Conflict Resolution, Corrective Thinking, Defensive Driving, Harassment, Hunting Responsibility, Impaired Driving Level I and II, Juvenile Sexting, Life Skills, Marijuana Level I and II, Parenting, Prostitution, Revenge Porn, Shoplifting,, Thef, Traffic Safety, Truancy, Underage Alcohol & Substance Abuse Level I and II

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

All children of Marion County that appear in Juvenile Court

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

unknown

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

Marion County District Attorney's Office

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

Presentations in all of the county school systems by different agencies of the local CPC discussing the dangers of drugs, child pornography, human trafficking, school attendance, suicide and bullying issues, vaping, and home safety.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

School age children of Marion County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

n/a

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

Juvenile Probation Officers attended several training programs focused on Domestic Violence to help to better identify, address and work with domestic violence victims and offenders.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

All families that are dealing with Domestic Violence issues in the home.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

n/a

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

Partnering with Beville State Community College's GED Center and the Career Center to provide services to those who have dropped out of regular school.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

Juveniles who have withdrawn from the traditional school programs

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

n/a

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.

LABELS (version 1).xlsx 21.15KB

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 22-23.docx 13.21KB

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 SHEET.doc 28.5KB

Conclusion *

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

Membership has not changed, we do not have regular meetings, sign in sheets or minutes. A lot of the members meet monthly as other committees and we talk about the children, their needs and the needs of the families, the lack of resources in the county, and all that you are asking about in this form.