

PICKENS COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2017

ABOUT THE CPC

CPC Members

Lance Bailey-District Judge

Laurie Cummings- Family Resource Center

Debra Abston- PCSO

James Fields-JPO

Tracy Sutton- JPO

Tim McCool- District Attorney

John Paluzzi- Probate Judge

Anissa Ball- PCBOE

Tony Junkin- FNBCA

Steen Koon-Bevill State

Frieda Blakney- Family Housing Authority

Joe Thomas-PCFRC

Cid Haley- REACH Program

Frederick Kennedy- PC Commission

Tracy Hardy- PC DHR

Ben Curry

Patricia McCafferty- HELP inc

James Granger- Youth Build Program

Lakeia Binion- PC Community Action

Keith Cox- Circuit Clerk

CPC Contacts

Honorable Lance Bailey, District Judge

Coordinator: Lance Bailey and Patricia McCafferty
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School Systems in County	Number: 1
Are school systems in the county active on the CPC?	Yes, all are represented and active
Does your county currently conduct a youth survey? If yes, please describe	No

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The sections below relate to the needs of children ages birth to 19 in your community as well as the families of those children.

Please find the rank of your **top 3 needs** and the information about those 3 needs.

Poverty	Rank: 1
What is the unemployment rate of your county?	6
What is the percentage of households receiving some type of public assistance?	34
Please describe access to higher education and job training in your county.	The BOE offers dual enrollment with Bevill State and Shelton State CC. We have a local Bevill college in Carrollton.
What are the 3 largest employers in your county?	Pickens County Board Of Education, Pickens County Commission, Hospital, PECO farms
Please describe the types of jobs available.	Very few jobs are available in Pickens County. Most are very low wage paying jobs that don't allow a family to get out of poverty. Logging, lumber yards and chicken industry are large employers. The hospital also has higher wage paying jobs.
Please describe the workforce.	The majority of the workforce are not adequately prepared for the available jobs. The majority of the college educated workforce commutes from Pickens County to Tuscaloosa County or to Columbus, Mississippi. Both of those areas offer greater paying jobs and jobs that require higher education and training.

Juvenile Crime and Safety	Rank: 2
Please select the statement that best fits the state of juvenile property crime in your county.	Seems to have stabilized and remains virtually the same
Select the statement that best fits the state of juvenile violent crime in your county.	Has risen significantly over the past year
Please describe the factors that have led to the above trend(s).	Cell phones, the internet and social media are big factors in the increase of our student's sex crimes. Pornography from the internet or the students sexting or sending pictures of themselves has greatly increased. Our drug cases and violent crimes are the same as the past, maybe even lower. The kids have so much access to bad information or pictures and this is a major reason for the increase in sex crimes. Pornography pictures and sexting has become a major problem.
What are the causes of teen accidents or deaths?	Distracted driving Inexperienced drivers
What is the biggest challenge to teen safety?	In Pickens County, social media and the internet are a major issue with sex crimes. Also texting or drinking and driving.
Are gangs a significant and/or growing threat in your county? If yes, please describe how the problem is being addressed.	Yes. Pickens County Juvenile Court has partnered with the Alabama Gang Coalition. The Juvenile probation officers are working directly with the coalition and the BOE to address these problems. The BOE has had speakers come in and educate the students regarding gang activity and how to handle those issues. Juvenile probation is heavily involved with local law enforcement to address this issue.
Please describe the successes, challenges, initiatives and other relevant information related to the partnerships between Juvenile Probation Offices and the school system(s) in your county.	Our JPOs are highly involved with our BOE. We have a great relationship with the BOE and meet with them often to discuss the increased gang activity and our concerns.

School Success	Rank: 3
What percentage of students successfully graduate from high school in your county?	90
Please describe programs in your county specifically designed to prevent high school dropout or to encourage drop back in.	Our credit recovery program is called Compass Learning. We also provide ACT work keys and the REACH program implements the Compass Learning also. Aliceville High School had a 94% graduation rate, Gordo High a 93% and Pickens County High a 79%. The Compass Learning is active in all 3 schools and has helped with the graduation rate.
What percent of students miss 10 or more days of school?	23
Please provide the number of truancy cases referred to early warning court.	91
Please provide the percentage of children not proficient in reading in 3 rd grade.	49
Please provide the percentage of children not proficient in math in the 3 rd grade.	9
Please describe the types of discipline issues in schools which disrupt or interfere with student performance. Please include suspensions and expulsions.	All of our schools have explosive temper problems with a few students that interrupt the class room. We have very few drug issues during school. Ungovernable children with behavior problems is the major issue with disrupting the class. We have some fighting and gang activity is increasing in our system.
Which items most apply to your county's need related to school success.	<p>Graduation rates</p> <p>Child literacy rates</p> <p>Need for alternative school placements</p> <p>Services for children with special needs</p> <p>Lack of tutoring and specialized teachers outside of school hours</p> <p>Discipline issues</p>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below, is a list of your CPC's top accomplishments.

Accomplishment	YOUTHBUILD Program (helps with jobs and training)
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Teens age 16-19
How many people benefited?	100
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$30,000.00 grants
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	This program addresses the poverty issue and helps to train for jobs.
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The teens are using their skills and job training to go on and work other jobs and they are almost all currently employed.

Accomplishment	Fatherhood Program
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	all children where fathers couldn't pay chld support
How many people benefited?	100
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 Grants through Family resources
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Addresses poverty
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	Men are helped through the Fatherhood program to obtain jobs where employers have partnered with our Family resource program. The Fatherhood rep comes to child support court and is available for individuals that are seeking help.

Accomplishment	FATAL DECISION
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	All high school students 9th through 12th grades
How many people benefited?	800
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 Juvenile probation, police departments, sheriff department, board of education and others donate their money and time to put this program on.
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	This addresses juvenile crime and safety
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	It has helped with responsible driving and distracted driving such as texting. We have very few fatal accidents.

Accomplishment	Juvenile Detention Center
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Juveniles that are detained but do not have to go out of county
How many people benefited?	50
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$80,000.00 Pickens County Commission and we used approved inmate labor
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Juvenile crime
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The building is almost complete so we have no results yet

Accomplishment	Alabama Gang Coalition
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	All schools and all students
How many people benefited?	800
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 This is a coalition that the juvenile probation office is involved with
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Juvenile Crime
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	We are experiencing gang related activity in Pickens County now and this coalition along, with law enforcement, are meeting this and addressing this problem.

Accomplishment	THE BRIDGE
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	All children with substance abuse issues are families with substance abuse issues
How many people benefited?	50
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 NA
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Juvenile crime
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	Our substance abuse is down in our schools. The Bridge is a vital part of this accomplishment.

Accomplishment	Erin's Law Child Abuse Policy
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	All students in Pickens County
How many people benefited?	2000
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 NA
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Juvenile crime and safety
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	We have had a policy in place before this mandatory law was passed and our children have become more aware and better educated in sex abuse cases.

Accomplishment	The REACH Program
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	All children taht could have been detained but were allowed to enter this program and stay at home
How many people benefited?	200
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$200,000.00 DYS Grants
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Juvenile crime and school success
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The REACH program has been a huge success in our reduced the detained juveniles by 90% and given us an alternative to sending a child away from home.

Accomplishment	COMPASS Learning
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	all students
How many people benefited?	2000
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 Board of Education
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	School succss
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	Many of our students use compass learning on line to help further their education and for credit recovery.

Accomplishment	Pickens County Career Center
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	all Pickens County students
How many people benefited?	2000
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$8,000,000.00 Board of Education and State of Alabama
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	School auccess and poverty
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The multi million dollar facility is not completed yet but it will be in December of 2017. It will offer vocational and college prep courses. The building is a state of the art facility.