



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 *

St. Clair

Honorable Judge *

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

Judge Robert L. Minor

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Cheryl Fagan

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

stclaircpc@gmail.com

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

18200 Alabama Highway 174

Address Line 2

City

Pell City

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35125

Country

USA

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

Gail Benefield

Cheryl Fagan

David Gray

Adam Jones

Nicole McCants

Judge Robert Minor

Patricia Patterson

Karen Steele

Myrus Strong

Lindsey Woodard

Connie Bain

CPC Member

Mitzi Carden

Judge Alan Furr

Laurie Funderburg

Stephanie Lowery

Marie Manning

Amy Wiram

LaKeeshia Sandlin

Dionne Stevens

Josh Winslett

Cheryl Wortham

Ashley Loflis

CPC Member

Matt Coupland

Tammy Gibbs

Liletta Jenkins

Cathy Nichols

Jessica Smith

Synetra Scales

Judge Phil Seay

Monique Wright

Angela Taylor

Arnika Whitaker

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. *

35

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? *

11

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.

We have a Family Drug Court in St. Clair County which is designed to address the entire family and the effects of substance abuse. Teens who have a similar problem due to family issues are included in the meetings. The recidivism rate is 30 - 35%. Family Drug Court has been helping St. Clair County families for 8 years.

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 is a big negative influencer when it comes to high school dropout rates, unemployment, food insecurity, physical/sexual abuse and criminal activity. This problem affects more than just the user. The entire community suffers through their actions because of individual substance abuse.

School Success

School Success takes many forms. It begins in the early years as often measured through subject proficiencies, and in later years can be measured by graduation rates. The questions in this section are to help drill down into the root causes and specific factors contributing to the needs surrounding school success.

School Success 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

Graduation Rate *

Enter the estimated percentage of students who successfully graduate from high school in your county.

91

Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance *

Describe programs in your county designed specifically to prevent dropping out of high school or to encourage reenrollment.

St. Clair County Schools use Edgenuity, an online learning platform that encourages students to make up credits during the year.

Several businesses and industries in St. Clair County offer "real time" training, during the school day. The students are encouraged to stay in school, graduate and get a job where they trained.

Pell City Schools have a PST (Problem Solving Team) to prevent dropouts. This group of leaders looks at students who are struggling academically, behaviorally, and with attendance to find the best interventions/supports that the students need.

The high school has implemented a "Just One" approach where every faculty member develops a relationship with a student who is struggling. The staff will check in on the student and encourage them through their time at PCHS. The Career Coach works with College and Career Readiness which prepares students for what they will do after high school.

The school system has contracted with Whole Child Coaches (elementary, middle and high school) to assist in reaching out to families of students who are having issues.

Truancy Cases *

Enter the number of truancy cases referred to early warning court.

177

Discipline problems in schools *

Describe the types of discipline issues in schools which disrupt or interfere with student performance, including suspensions and expulsions.

When talking with counselors about discipline issues in schools, along with fighting, the main ones are cell phone usage in class, defiance/ disrespect for authority and vaping.

School Success Factors *

Mark the items that apply to your county's needs related to school success.

- ☐ Graduation rates
- ☒ Child literacy rates
- ☐ Unsafe school culture
- ☒ Truancy and absenteeism
- ☒ Need for alternative school placements
- ☐ Services for children with special needs
- ☒ Lack of tutoring and specialized teachers outside school hours
- ☒ Discipline issues
- ☐ Suspensions and Expulsions

Chronic Absenteeism *

Enter the percentage of students who are chronically absent, defined as missing 10-17 days of school, in your county.

16.95

Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade *

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks for reading in 4th grade.

58.1

Math proficiency in 4th grade *

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks in math in the 4th grade.

23.6

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.

Patients are sent to facilities out of our county.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

Most mental health needs appear to be in the schools. Both systems have created a Mental Health Supervisor position. They are helping but the needs are greater than the help available.

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.

School Counselors/ CAC Counselor

Eastside Mental Health

Private Practice 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.

Our CPC installed 3 Book Nooks in our county! These were built by the Construction Classes at the Eden Career Center and painted/decorated by students at a local art studio and DAY Program students on the Pell City and Ashville campuses. Better Basics in Birmingham is providing books for the children to take from the Book Nooks. They do not have to leave a book....just take a book! They were placed at the Riverside Park, the Glenn City Park and the Housing Authority Apartments in Pell City.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Children in the Pell City/Riverside area of St. Clair County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$1500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

Budget

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Our CPC had a School Supply Giveaway at First Baptist Church in Pell City in August. We advertised and provided back bags and basic supplies to 100 students. Anything left over was divided among the county schools.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Students in St. Clair County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

\$2044.97

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

budget

Accomplishment 3 *

[Describe this accomplishment.](#)

Our CPC donated funding for 3 different groups in our county who provide weekend food for the students who are food insufficient. The groups included First United Methodist Church/ PC, Community Missions/ Springville, and Backpack Buddies in Leeds/Moody. The Backpack Buddies in Leeds provide weekend bags of food for over 1000 students in 27 schools in both area school systems.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Students in Pell City and St. Clair County schools

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

\$2500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Budget

Accomplishment 4

[Describe this accomplishment.](#)

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

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.

CPC Membership 2022-2023.xls

29KB

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.

2023 minutes.pdf

356.65KB

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.

Sign in sheets 2023.pdf

947.1KB

Conclusion *

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

Can't think of anything that is not covered!