



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 *

Washington

Honorable Judge *

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

Judge Alex Odom

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Judge Alex Odom & Victoria Hillman

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

alex.odom@alacourt.gov & victoria.hillman@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

P.O. Box 1025

Address Line 2

City

Chatom

Postal / Zip Code

36518

State / Province / Region

AL

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.

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
W. Alex Odom (District Judge)	Ruth Lynch (ADA)	Stephen Winters (DA)
Zachary Turner (Attorney)	Frances Fleming (WCSD)	Ashley Carlock (DHR) & CAN caseworkers
Ashley Blount (Alta Pointe)	Shannon Courington (Alta Pointe)	Caldwell Adams (Chief JPO)
Sharon Beech (Family Support Services)	Haley Dickey (Regional CAC)	Amanda Dement (Drug Education Council)
Jenny Kilpatrick (Health Department)	Betty Brackin (School Board)	Carlie Roley (Pathway Program)
Kristin Clikas-Murphree (Penelope House)	Trista Stout-Walker	Washington County School Principals & Counselors
Jessica Odom - Arc of SW Alabama	Heather Dees - Helping Families Initiative	Gerald Deas - ALEA

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. *

8

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? *

22 removed since May 2022 & 31 children currently in care due to parent drug use

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.

n/a

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

Data for the reasons is not available.

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.

Educational limitations and socio-economic issues. Limited access to viable substance abuse treatment programs, family counseling, parenting classes, domestic violence classes, mental health support, and limited transportation services.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

47

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.

Washington County does not have any facilities in the community that maintains inpatient beds for mental health issues. However, when there is a need for inpatient treatment in our community, BayPointe Children's Hospital in Mobile Co., AL and EastPointe Hospital in Baldwin Co., AL provides assistance by serving the residents of Washington County who may need inpatient mental health services. AltaPointe's Health Outpatient community mental health center works with local agencies and individuals to provide referrals for inpatient screening when necessary. Should inpatient treatment be unavailable if all beds are occupied and mental health hospitals are at capacity, individuals are encouraged to utilize any emergency room if they are in a crisis situation and in need of emergency services for psychiatric stabilization.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county.*

Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, and other psychosis related disorders are some of the common mental health needs seen in our adult population.

Problems such as ADHD, depression, anxiety, disruptive behaviors, conduct disorders, and adjustment disorders relating to changes in family dynamics or other significant life transitions are some of the needs we see in our child and adolescent population.

The psychological effects of trauma that a person may experience is another reason a person may have a need for mental health treatment. PTSD is another problem we see in our community where traumatic experiences can have such a negative impact and cause disruption in a person's life that they begin to have functional impairment in their daily living.

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.

AltaPointe Health Washington County Community Mental Health Center, SCF Family First Counseling.

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.

In 2013 AltaPointe Health began to partner with Washington County School System and became a part of the School Based Mental Health Collaboration in the State of Alabama. Since that time, school-based therapy services have been available to the students in need of mental health counseling in our Washington County Schools. This service is a great benefit to the children and families in our community because it provides access to counseling services on site at the school campus with minimal disruption to the child's education and their caregiver's do not have to take time away from work or make travel arrangements for appointments.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1?*

The families of those being served, the schools and communities overall.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1*

unsure

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1*

unsure

Accomplishment 2*

Describe this accomplishment.

In 2021, the Washington County Commission passed a resolution and proclamation and joined the Stepping Up Initiative. Stepping Up is a national initiative designed to reduce the number of people who have mental illnesses in jails and emergency rooms. To carry out this vision, AltaPointe Health was awarded funding from ADMH to support this program. This award supported intensive case management services to screen, assess, and develop a case plan for and link clients to appropriate and necessary mental and social services.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2?*

Those suffering from mental health, their family, and the community.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2*

unsure

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

unsure

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

A local planning committee was formed in Washington County, made up of various community partners and agencies, to create supportive local policies and increase communication within the county in an effort to mobilize community support and best utilize our resources. Since Stepping Up has been an active program in Washington County, over 50 inmates have been screened for mental illness in our local jail, and several of those individuals began receiving mental health services.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Those suffering from mental health, their family, and the community.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

unsure

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

unsure

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

Annual Report Documentation

CPC Members List

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

Childrens Policy Council - Member Lists.Contact Info (5.5.23).docx 16.18KB

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.

April 28, 2023 Minutes of CPC Meeting (signed by Chairman).pdf 168.89KB

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.

April 28, 2023 Sign-In List for CPC Meeting.pdf

1.18MB

Conclusion *

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

Washington County, Alabama is a rural County and has limited resources available as many rural counties. Funding is always an issue for critical resources but the people who work and live in Washington County, Alabama are always supportive, and in many ways, volunteer their time and services, especially for the youth of our County. With technology changing and information being so fast, the needs of the children are changing as a result and therefore resources are having to be tailored to the changing needs of children. What was typically issues for adults is now being seen in children in many cases and it's important for resources to be available to meet those needs.