



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 *

Winston

Honorable Judge *

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

Honorable Michael E. Newell

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Sheila Wallace

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

wallacejeep@gmail.com

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

11 Blake Dr

Address Line 2

City

Double springs

State / Province / Region

AaAL

Postal / Zip Code

35553

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	CPC Member	CPC Member
J. D. Snoddy	Diane Watson	Kayren Howron
Peggy Armstrong	Shelly Hess	Cassandra Hearn
Misty Collins	Crystal Till	Cassandra Tingle
Rachel Blanton	Heather Tucker	Annette Laney
Judge Mike Newell	Rea Ann Moore	Susan Cole
Kirstie Moon	Lauren Archer	Bart Shannon
Greg Farris	Micah Smothers	Tracy Yearlock

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. *

9

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? *

60

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? *

115

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.

5 of the 53 juveniles or only 9.4% reoffended. We attribute this low recidivism rate to our C.O.I.N. Program. This is a juvenile diversion program in its third year of operation.

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

Of 115 complaints/cases for the questions period. 17 of these cases, or 15% involved illegal substances. This percentage is second only to truancy. It should be mentioned that we firmly believe our truancy problems also involved substance abuse at some levels.

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.

Due to the limitations of Winston County resources, family counseling and mental health support continue to be limited. This year a major step was made by the Winston County School System by hiring a second Mental Health Counselor. This allows each mental health counselor to serve each side of the county. Thus, working specifically with 2 schools each.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

87

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.

We do not have any facilities with beds in our county. We have outpatient therapy which primarily is out of the county with a limited staff to assist the needs of Winston County in Haleyville.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

We have approximately 7 mental care facilities their primary care is substance abuse. Substance abuse is a major problem but, so are the effects of children not being equipped to handle the various stress points of life. Bullying, peer pressure, sexting, rape, domestic violence, and family problems, all help to create an environment that is difficult at best for a pre-teen to teenager to deal with. Society had developed a picture that often is not as true as real life and the adjustments are hard for the teenage to cope with. Having a better understanding of coping skills would assist in developing a framework of how to manage decisions, and face consequences in a more positive direction.

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, Haleyville AL
MarWin Counseling Services, INC, Haleyville, AL (Substance abuse)
Client Care Continuum, INC., Haleyville, AL (Substance use Disorder)

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.

Winston County CPC along with the Winston County Commission has applied for the ADECA LETS grant for the last 3 years. We have been implementing the C.O.I.N. Program within our county, working with 13-21-year-olds that have entered the Juvenile System. Our Clients are referred by the following organizations: DHR, juvenile system, and community referrals. C.O.I.N. provides a support net for the clients that enter the judicial system. Over the last three years, we have only had 3 clients that have reentered the program. We have had 1 that did not complete the program. We have had 4 get their high school diploma after dropping out of school due to being virtual/COVID. We have had 2 complete their GED. Other accomplishments are several getting their learner's permit, getting summer and part-time jobs, buying their first car, and not being truant in school for a complete year. Which is a very good thing!!!

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Youth 13-21 and their families

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$16,500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

ADECA LETS

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Northwest Alabama Mental Health professionals begin providing 2 full-time mental health counselors for the Winston County School System. This enables each counselor to focus on 2 of the four schools in the Winston County School System (Addison-Meek; Double Springs, Lynn). This addition of one more counselor has assisted each school counselor in meeting the demands of the ever-changing world of life for this age group

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Families and children in grades K-12 in the Winston County School System.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Winston County Schools and NWAMH

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Addie's Place, Children's Advocacy Center has continued to grow and meet the needs of the children of Winston County. This year they have stepped out and begun the process of being a stand-alone facility. They are in the process of applying for NCATE and ADECA grants. We are thankful that Cramer Children's Center assisted in helping Winston County to develop Addie's Place to better serve the county. The burden to have to travel 3 hours to have a counseling appointment or to have a forensic interview no longer has to occur. Our parents, children, and law enforcement are no longer being displaced from work for long periods of time and the child no longer has to miss hours of school. Although Addie's Place is beneficial to our county and has been a blessing to have, it is sad that this service is even needed. Yet, it is our responsibility to take care of the children.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

The families of Winston County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

0

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Non-Profit

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.

Members of WCCPC.pdf 84.69KB

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 Julymeeting.pdf 851.53KB

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.

Winston CPC july 28 22 sign in sheet.docx 13.05KB

Conclusion *

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

Due to the rise of COVID at certain times of the year, Judge Newell being involved in an accident and out for several months, and my mother's Alzheimers growing worse and her death in late November, it was difficult to schedule our meetings. We did have one in July. It is my hope that we will get back to being a better resource for Winston County. Although we haven't met formally, many of us have met or been at other functions throughout the year and had discussions and have shared emails of events, shared the updated version of the Winston County Resource Guide, and share accomplishments that have occurred throughout the year.