



# **TUSCALOOSA COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2020**

## **ABOUT THE CPC**

### **CPC MEMBERS**

**Elizabeth C. Hamner (Juvenile Court Judge)**

**Philip N. Lisenby (Juvenile Court Judge)**

**Dennis Steverson, Sr. (Juvenile Court Judge)**

**Hon. Rob Robertson (Chairman Tuscaloosa County Commission)**

**Hallie Leavell (Juvenile Court Referee)**

**Tamika Alexander (United Way)**

**Marilou Baker (S.P.A.N. of Tuscaloosa)**

**Jill Beck (Youth Service Institute)**

**Brent Blankney (Tuscaloosa Chief of Police)**

**Marquetta Burton (ABC Board)**

**Lauren Byrd (Bradford Health Services)**

**Stephanie Covarrubia (Child Development Resources)**

**Audrey Ellis (Tuscaloosa City School System)**

**Brandy Fields (Alabama Quality STARS)**

**Cheryl Fondren (United Way West Alabama)**

**Jackie Hudgins (Tuscaloosa County School System)**

**Joy Humphrey (Tuscaloosa County DHR)**

**Lakrisa Hunt (ABC Board)**

**Melanie Ingle (Juvenile Probation Office)**

**Joyce Jelks (Medicaid)**

**Chris Jordan (Tuscaloosa's One Place)**

**Jamie Lak (PRIDE of Tuscaloosa)**

**Tangi Landers (The Bridge)**

**Bobby Latham (Alabama Department of Youth Services)**

**Javelin Lewis (Community Service Programs of West Alabama)**

**Amanda Lightsey (Tuscaloosa's One Place)**

**Whitney Jamison (Big Brothers Big Sisters)**

**April Kendrick (Child Development Resources)**

**Shannon Lynch (Deputy District Attorney)**

**Lisa Maddox (Child Abuse Prevention Services)**

**Susan Miles (Children Rehabilitative Services)**

**Mary Norwood (Easter Seals West Alabama)**

**Sherri J. Presley-Dumas (Easter Seals West Alabama)**

**Laura Reeves (Indian Rivers Mental Health)**

**Faye Royal (Alabama Department of Public Health)**

**Trendle Samuel (Alabama Department of Public Health)**

**Corey Savage (Tuscaloosa's One Place)**

**Tyler Simmons, (Tuscaloosa County DHR)**

**Jennifer Thomas (Medicaid)**

**Shakina Wheeler-Cox (Alabama Department of Public Health & National Coalition of 100 Black Women)**

**Alexis Wilson (HeadStart)**

**JacQuan Winters (Kristen Amerson Foundation)**

**Jackie Wuska (United Way).**

**CPC Contacts**

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<b>501(c)3 Status</b>	<b>Tuscaloosa County</b>
Is this CPC a 501(c)3?	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 below your identified top needs for your new (2020) assessment and the information about those needs.

<b>Ranking of Needs and Corresponding Data for 2020</b>	
<b>Mental Health   Rank: 1</b>	
How many in-patient beds are available for children in your community? :	56
How many in-patient beds are available for adults in your community?	56
Which population has the greatest mental health needs in your county?	9 to 17 years old
<b>Parental Involvement and Family Engagement   Rank: 2</b>	
Number of children in foster care:	130
Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?	No
<b>School Success   Rank: 3</b>	
Graduation rate:	89
Chronic absenteeism:	22
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Proficiency:	46
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Proficiency:	47

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

<b>Accomplishment</b>	2020 Census Community Leaders Forum (tie for 1). The Children's Policy Council partnered with VOICES for Alabama's Children to present the Census 2020 Community Leaders Forum on September 24, 2019. The Forum was a means for Tuscaloosa County to facilitate a conversation among community leaders to discover ways in which we can work together to ensure complete county during the 2020 Census.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	People who benefited include K-12 education faculty and staff, social service agencies, business leaders, University of Alabama faculty and staff, court staff, and community members.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	No funding was provided by the Children's Policy Council. VOICES for Alabama's Children provided funding.
<b>Accomplishment</b>	Journey Program (tie for 1). The Journey Program, a school-based mental health program, is made possible through the collaboration of the Tuscaloosa City School System (TCS) and the Tuscaloosa County School System (TCSS) with Indian Rivers Behavioral Health (IRBH). The goal of the Journey Program is to reduce stigma associated with mental health treatment, improve access to care, increase frequency of services and provide needed support and education to the community.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Therapists from IRBH provided over 5,000 treatment sessions to over 540 TCS and TCSS students enrolled in the Journey Program.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Insurance providers, TCS, TCSS and IRBH. The Journey program therapists are employees of IRBH. IRBH bills available insurance for services provided through the Journey Program. Services for students without coverage is supplemented by TCS and TCSS.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	Kindergarten Readiness Calendar (tie for 1). The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar is in its 15th year of Publication. The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar is designed to support families in preparing their children to successfully enter school. It includes low cost or free activities to engage children and families in learning.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Since its inception over 150,000 children and families have benefitted from the calendar. In 2019 over 6000 copies were distributed to childcare centers, schools, and Head Start Centers throughout West Alabama with more than 13, 000 statewide.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Funding was provided by the University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies, United Way of West Alabama, individual and business sponsors, and through an attendance fee.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	Doing What Matters Conference (tie for 1). The Doing What Matters Conference was held on January 30, 2020. The conference is an annual event focused on the well being of our children. It uses the Five Promises of America's Promise and the Annie E. Casey Kids Count data to direct the content of the conference and track our progress in meeting the needs of Alabama's children.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	People who benefitted from the conference include social services agency staff, social worker University of Alabama faculty, staff, and students, parents, law enforcement, nurses, teachers, counselor, attorneys, court staff and medical professionals.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Funding was provided by the University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies, United Way of West Alabama, individual and business sponsors, and through an attendance fee.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	Parenting Assistance Line (tie for 2). Alabama's Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) is a statewide free confidential service available to anyone who wants information and support in becoming a more confident parent or caregiver. PAL provides free informati
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Parents & caregivers statewide-386 calls/chats were received; 56 website contacts with parenting questions; 4232 PAL brochures were distributed in English & Spanish; 8402 people were reached through PAL presentations and/or exhibits across the state.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0

Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention & Alabama Department of Human Resources
<b>Accomplishment</b>	Tuscaloosa Backpack Connections (tie for 2). Tuscaloosa Backpack Connections is a collaborative effort to enhance student and families lives by providing backpacks and first day school supplies to those in need.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Students in the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools; the specific students were identified by school guidance counselors and other area non-profit organizations.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Community donations and in-kind donations; amount of funds and other specific details requested multiple times but not provided.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	Baby TALK (tie for 3). Baby TALK is a parental involvement program that encourages parents in establishing a nurturing relationship with their children and reinforces positive parenting practices. Baby TALK teaches infant and child development to parent
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Families with children birth to 3 years of age. 5103 adults and 4867 children were reached through direct contact prior to the COVID move to limited operations. Since March, 4047 Baby TALK families have been served through indirect contact methods.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect

<b>Accomplishment</b>	0
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Dtudents in pre-K through 12th grade in one or both programs
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	\$100,000 grant from Children's Trust Fund and \$50,00 in matching funds from the United Way of West Alabama



<b>Accomplishment</b>	Drug U: Parent Education Session (tie for 3). Drug U: Parent Sessions was a 5 week program designed to educate parents in our community on the current substances abuse trends among our youth.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	This event benefited parents and the children, grandchildren, neices, nephews, loved ones and communities represented by those parents in attendance. Children, families, schools and law enforcement
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Prevention grants from Alabama Department of Mental Health and generous donations from several restaurants who provided meals each week and Bryant Bank who provided the space for the event.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	YMCA Child Case for First Responders and Essential Workers during COVID (tie for 3). In response to the closing of the Tuscaloosa schools due to COVID-19, the YMCA of Tuscaloosa opened to provide childcare for healthcare, government, public safety and oth
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Children of healthcare, government, public safety and other essential workers.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	The YMCA did not have funds in its regular budget for this program, but felt it needed to provide the service. The YMCA lowered its normal camp price and gave scholarships to those that were in need. A virtual 5K was held to help pay for the program.