



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021

ABOUT THE CPC

CPC MEMBERS

Elizabeth C. Hamner (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)
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Marquetta Burton (ABC Board)
Audrey Ellis (Tuscaloosa City School System)
Brandy Fields (Alabama Quality STARS)
Cheryl Fondren (Success by Six)
Jackie Hudgins (Tuscaloosa County School System)
Joy Humphrey (Tuscaloosa County DHR)
Lakrisa Hunt (ABC Board)
Melanie Ingle (Juvenile Probation Office)
Whitney Jamison (Big Brothers Big Sisters)
Joyce Jelks (Medicaid)
Chris Jordan (Tuscaloosa's One Place)
April Kendrick (Child Development Resources)
Jamie Lake (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)
Shannon Lynch (Assistant District Attorney)
Lisa Maddox (Child Abuse Prevention Services)
Susan Miles (Children Rehabilitative Services)
Mary Norwood (Easter Seals West Alabama)
Derek Osborn (Turning Point)
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)
Jennifer Thomas (Medicaid)

Kimdeldria Washington (Alabama Department of Public Health)
Stephanie Waters (Child Development Resources)
Shakina Wheeler-Cox (Alabama Department of Public Health & National Coalition of 100 Black Women)
Alexis Wilson (Community Service Programs of West Alabama)
JacQuan Winters (Kristen Amerson Foundation)
Jackie Wuska (United Way).

CPC Contacts

Hon. Elizabeth C. Hamner,
Circuit Judge
Elizabeth.Hamner@alacourt.gov

501(c)3 Status	Tuscaloosa County
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 2021 assessment and the information about those needs.

Ranking of Needs and Corresponding Data for 2021	
Mental Health Rank: 1	
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?	568
Which population has the greatest mental health needs in your county?	9 to 17 years old
Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Rank: 2	
Number of children in foster care?	142
Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?	No
School Success Rank: 3	
Graduation rate:	90
Chronic absenteeism:	21
4 th Grade Reading Proficiency:	44
4 th Grade Math Proficiency:	46

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Accomplishment 1	Mobile Food Pantry. Tuscaloosa's One Place (TOP) hosts Mobile Food Pantries across West Alabama in partnership with the local food bank. At each pantry, 150 families receive approximately 70 lbs. of groceries, including fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, canned goods, and non-perishable items.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Those who benefited include 1,350 families experiencing food insecurities.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$3,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Funds for Mobile Food Pantries are from private donations by TOP supporters.

Accomplishment 2	Doing What Matters Conference. The Doing What Matters Conference was held on February 23, 2021. The conference is an annual event focused on the well-being of our children. In 2021, the conference highlighted "Promoting Resilience in Uncertain Times." It uses the Five Promises of America's Promise and the Annie E. Casey Kids County 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?	Social services agency staff, social workers, University of Alabama faculty, staff and students, parents, law enforcement, nurses, teachers, counselors, attorneys, court staff, and medical professionals.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$7,000.00
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 attendance fees.

Accomplishment 3	Head Start/Early Head Start Programs. Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start provides comprehensive services to children, ages birth to 5, and their families. Services are offered in Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Tuscaloosa Counties. The program was able to continue services for the 2020-2021 school term, even during the COVID pandemic. Additional health and safety practices were implemented to increase protection for children, families, and staff.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Children and families enrolled in the program. The community also benefited because the Head Start/Early Head Start program allowed parents to work while their children learned in a safe environment.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$6,800,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	The program is funded through a federal grant under the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). Additional funds are also received through donations and community partners.

Accomplishment 4	Tuscaloosa Backpack Connections. Backpack Connections is a collaborative effort to enhance student and families lives by providing backpacks and first-day school supplies to those in need in our Tuscaloosa City and County Schools. Because of the COVID Pandemic Backpack Connections had to do things differently in 2020. There wasn't as much need for backpacks as most students were learning remotely much of the year. Backpack Connections supplied "teacher survival kits" to classrooms in our city and county schools. Supplies were available to students as needed for home learning per the teacher. Supplies were also available in the classroom. Backpack Connections also "connected" with local churches and groups to write notes of encouragement to our city and county schools' faculty and staff.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Students and teachers in the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$22,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Community monetary and in-kind donations from individuals, churches, businesses, organizations, and the Apples for Education Campaign.

Accomplishment 5	Girl Talk 3. PRIDE of Tuscaloosa hosted its 3rd annual opioid addiction prevention event, Girl Talk, on Wednesday, May 5 th , 2021, at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Girl Talk is an event to discuss opioid and prescription drug abuse prevention best practices, and other issues affecting young women within our community.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Young ladies from area high schools in Tuscaloosa and Greene Counties (in person), as well as to the community at large via the simultaneous Facebook Live feed.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$4,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Alabama Department of Mental Health State Opioid Response grant (90%) and donations from local area businesses (10%).

Accomplishment 6	Journey Program. 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 the stigma associated with mental health treatment, improve access to care, increase the frequency of service, and provide needed support and education to the community.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	During the 2020-2021 CPC Needs Assessment period, 286 TCS students and 207 TCSS students were seen through the Journey Program. Approximately 4979 treatment sessions were provided to the 493 students within Tuscaloosa County.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	0
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Insurance providers, TCS, TCSS, and IRBH. IRBH bills available insurance for services provided through the Journey Programs. Services for students without coverage are supplements by TCS and TCSS.

Accomplishment 7	Kindergarten Readiness Calendar. The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar is in its 16 th -year of publication. The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar is designed to help families in preparing their children to successfully enter school. It includes low costs for free activities to engage children and families in learning.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Since its inception over 175,000 children and families have benefited from the calendar. In 2020 over 6000 copies were distributed to childcare centers, schools, and Head Start Centers throughout West Alabama with more than 16000 statewide.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$300.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	United Way of West Alabama's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, The Hewson Family Foundation, The Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation, The Daniel Foundation & generous gifts of individual donors and businesses to the work of UWWA's Success by 6 Program.

Accomplishment 8	Read for the Record. Read for the Record is an international event created to mobilize a record number of volunteers each year to read the same book to children. The Read for the Record event is designed to bring awareness to the importance of early literacy. For the 11th year Success by 6 coordinated efforts schools, childcare centers, and Head Start programs across West Alabama. On October 29, 2020, a total of 12,016 children and volunteers read the children's book, Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Molina.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	12,016 children and volunteers at schools, childcare centers, and Head Start Programs across West Alabama
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$2,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	United Way of West Alabama's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, The Hewson Family Foundation, The Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation, The Daniel Foundation & generous gifts of individual donors and businesses to the work of UWWA's Success by 6 Program.

Accomplishment 9	Parenting Assistance Line. 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 information, support, and tools to parents across the state whose children are ages birth through adolescence.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Parents & Caregivers statewide. 707 calls/chats received; 99 website contacts with parenting questions; 10761 PAL brochures/tip sheets were distributed in English & Spanish; 14991 people were reached through PAL presentations and/or PAL exhibits.
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$145,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (70,000) & Alabama Department of Human Resources (75,000)

Accomplishment 10	Second Step & Child Protection Unit. Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) provided 2 programs in our schools. Second Step provided students with socioemotional strategies. Second Step worked with every elementary and middle school in the Tuscaloosa City School System. Second Step also worked in a school in Tuscaloosa County and Hale County. The program taught anger management, empathy, emotional management, bully prevention, and problem-solving skills. The other program, Protecting Our Children, dealt with sexual abuse prevention and addressed topics such as self-esteem, assertiveness, rights and responsibilities, health, and unhealthy relationships, and seeking assistance when needed.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Pre- K to 5 th -grade students in the Tuscaloosa City, County, and Hale County School systems
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$260,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	\$170,000 for Second Step and \$90,000 for Protecting Our Children. Funding was provided by the Children's Trust Fund, Tuscaloosa City School System, Tuscaloosa City Council, and the Tuscaloosa County Commission