



Introduction

The Children's Policy Councils 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-base 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 in the spaces provided regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

County*

Jefferson

Honorable

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

Janine Hunt-Hilliard

Title of Judge

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

Presiding Judge, Jefferson County Family Court

Address

Please provide the street address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

120 2nd Court North

Address Line 2

City

Birmingham

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35204

Country

United States

CPC Members

CPC Member

Jean Hernandez, AIDS AL

Joan Wright, Childcare Resources

Elaine Stephens, CPA

Helen Smith, FBI

Marcus Carson, Growing Kings

George Casey, IMPACT Family Counseling

CPC Member

Cathy Nichols, AL Medicaid

Gayle Watts, Children's Aid Society

Francine Fenderson, DHR

Barbara Fowler, Fowler/Davis LLC

Tina Thornton, Helping Families Initiative

Danny Carr, Jefferson County District Attorney

CPC Member

Tiffany Armstrong, APTV

Deb Schnieder, Children's CHIPS

Becky Greenway Mitchell, EastSide Mental Health

Julie Pearce, Gaines, Gault & Hendrix

Angelica Melendez, HICA

Dr. Mark Wilson, Jefferson County Department of Health

Natasha Shumpert, Jefferson County Department of Health	Carrie Buntain, Jefferson County Family Resource Center	Judge Janine Hunt-Hilliard, Jefferson County Family Court Presiding Judge
Adrienne Marshall, Literacy Council of Central Alabama	Amanda Keller, Magic City Acceptance Center	Nadia Richardson, No More Martyrs
Greg Townsend, Public Health Consultant	Andrew Smith, Tarrant City Schools	Stacy Hopkins, Exchange Club CAP Center
Beth Cardwell, Trussville City Schools	Dr. Morissa Ladinsky, UAB Pediatrics	Kim Braasch, United Ability
Ladye Franklin, United Way of Central Alabama	Terri Harvill, YMCA	Meesha Emmett, YouthServe
A Babcock, UAB MC	Ana Arvelo, JCCDC	Andrea Miller, AlaQuest
Anna Kate Prum, Homewood City Schools	Beth Johns, UAB School of Public Health	Gwendolyn Brown, UAB
Brock Sellers, Children's Aid Society	Catrice Pruitt, ChildCare Resources	Dr. C Causey, UAB Professor
Shalnda Cheatham, Helping Families Initiative	Dr. Cindy Shackelford, Jefferson State Community College	Delyne Hicks, James Rushton Center
Willie Glass, Social Worker	Anna Gaston, Mental Health Coordinator, Vestavia Hills City Schools	Ev Gunn, Mental Health Coordinator, Tarrant City Schools
Jan Bell, retired CPC Exec Dir	Jane Duer, ADMH	Tynesha Miller, JL Miller ELC
Jo Davis, Children's CHIPS	Shajuane Jones, SAFE Care	Krislyn Allison, Exchange Club CAP Center
Kelly Klehm, One Place Birmingham	Lella Hamiter, Preschool Partners	L'Tanya Green, Associate Prevention Instructor, ADATC
Dr. LaRhonda Magras, CEO YWCA	Dr. Martha Barber, Principal, New Hope Christian	Melissa Murrell, AshaKiran
Mary Florian, Help Me Grow	Meredith Poe, Child Care Resources	Ryan Parker, UWCA
Rebecca Winslett, Nurse UAB Medicine	Kristin Schlenker, Jefferson County Family Court	Valerie Delgado, Case Manager SAFE Care
Georgia Brennan, Jefferson County Family Court	Lindsay Gray, Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank	

Does your CPC currently have 501(c)3 status? *

- Yes
 No

Name of CPC Coordinator

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

Shelly N. Mize

CPC Coordinator Email

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

mizes@jccal.org

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. If your CPC would like to rank five or more needs, please feel free to do so. You are welcome to answer as many questions as you would like on this survey, but we ask that you please answer at least all of the questions under your top three ranked 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)

Most Urgent Needs

Please choose your three most urgent needs.

- 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

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.

Number of children in foster care

782

Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?

- Yes
- No

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Mental Health

Mental Health is important at every stage of life, from childhood, adolescence to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have their mental health conditions identified early so that they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient services that meet their needs.

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for children?

137

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults?

337

Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county?

18 to 54 years old

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Poverty

Poverty has many faces, unemployment, poor living standards and the working poor not having enough money to provide the basic needs for their children.

What is the unemployment rate in your county?

3.1

What is the rate of children in poverty in your county?

22.8

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Accomplishments

For your existing programs and accomplishments from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, please provide who benefited from the accomplishment, the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Please provide at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

Accomplishment 1

Please describe this accomplishment.

SAFE CARE PROGRAM FOR SUBSTANCE INVOLVED MOTHERS AND INFANTS:

The purpose of the SAFE CARE Program is to address the emerging substance use crisis and its impact on infants and children, ensure plans of safe care are implemented for both prenatally exposed infants and their mothers with SUD. Services include care coordination for recovery, mental health, medical, early intervention, parenting and in-home education. The SAFE CARE Program is designed to help build and retain intact families affected by substance use disorders, to ensure effective safety plans are in place for substance-affected infants and that community resources are utilized to meet the needs of their mothers and families.

Due to the success of CPC Jeff Cty's SAFE Care program as one of 15 national Substance-Exposed Infant Initiative demonstration sites, ADMH is partnering with Jefferson County CPC (SAFE Care) to expand our model into additional counties in Alabama over a four year period of time. This past year (beginning Nov 2021) was our first year under the new grant. The grant is a 2 million dollar expansion grant over 4 years. The plan will be to phase in expansion sites in order to ensure that expansion sites are successful.

As referral rates and referral sources have continued to increase, Jef Co CPC had to strengthen and increase the SAFE Care program in Jefferson County before we could begin expansion work in Alabama. It was also determined that CPC needed assistance with Case Management so that we could focus on Education, Advocacy, and Systems Change. Potential partners were vetted and an agreement was made between CPC and the Jefferson County Family Resource Center to assume case management in Jefferson County, including expansion into the Bessemer division.

With the goals listed below, CPC began reviewing data to determine the counties with the infrastructure, CPC support, Mental Health, hospital and DHR support to start a SAFE Care program in their county.

Goal 1: Engage with pregnant and post-partum women in substance abuse treatment.

Goal 2: Rebuild and retain intact families for infants delivered to substance- involved parents.

Goal 3: Reduce the length of time for out-of-home placement for children birth to three years old.

Goal 4: Increase the collaborative capacity of the community to meet the needs of the target population.

Goal 5: Engage in evaluation and performance measurement.

While CPC was narrowing down potential expansion sites, creating a data collection program and building an expansion plan, Jef County was still working in case management in Jefferson County. After months of vetting partners and negotiations with JCFRC, JCFRC officially became the SAFE Care case manager in June 2022, which enabled CPC to begin meetings with Calhoun County.

Who benefited from accomplishment 1

CASE MANAGEMENT: Benefiting are Pregnant and Postpartum Substance Involved Women and their Infants age birth to 3 years of age In Jefferson County.

EXPANSION: We have just begun to expand our footprint outside of Jefferson County into Calhoun County.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 1

251,043.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 1

Jefferson County Department of Health through the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham; The Daniel Foundation; ADMH

Accomplishment 2

Please describe this accomplishment.

Campaign for 3rd Grade Reading:

The Jefferson County Children's Policy Cooperative implemented a new literacy project to re-launch of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading in Jefferson County (CGLR). This project is aimed at improving access to services for English Language Learners and their parents. Jefferson County boasts many community partners who come alongside our 12 school systems to offer early childhood education, child care, afterschool care, and summer programs to support reading. Despite these efforts, 80% of ELL students are not reading on grade level. Our assessment and prioritization tool revealed that most agencies do not have a language access plan nor consistently reach out to and enroll ELL students. So, the students most in need of support from birth to age eight are missing out on opportunities. Therefore, we have designed a literacy project to improve the capacity of existing agencies.

From June 2021 to December 2022, CPC partnered with AshaKiran to lead a new effort of our local CGLR to support the great work begun by existing agencies to improve literacy. The CPC conducted outreach to providers identified during the assessment phase and then raised awareness in the community at-large during fall 2021 First Friday Forums. CPC hosted a webinar on the importance of a language access plan and the connection to grade level reading for ELL students. During this event, a technical assistance grant opportunity will be announced. Interested applicants were required to submitted a brief technical assistance request. Eight partner organizations requested technical assistance. The organizations were narrowed down to four based on their ability to impact children and families in our community. One organization has been slow beginning the process but three have made progress.

Our consultant is working with three of the four selected community organizations that serve children: City of Homewood, YWCA of Central Alabama, and United Way of Central Alabama. All three entities have completed a needs assessment, including an evaluation of their current capacity to serve the limited English proficient population and the gaps that exist in their service. The assessment showed that, for all of the organizations, there is indeed a need for improved language access when providing services.

The City of Homewood committee, which includes representatives from the library system, parks and recreation, and several other departments, now has a final draft of their language access plan. In addition, a line item has been added to the annual city budget for provision of language services, which indicates a commitment on the part of the Mayor and the City Council to improve language access in the city.

The YWCA of Central Alabama has drafted an initial language access plan and has already started improving language services in their domestic violence program, which works with women and children. The United Way of Central Alabama is integrating questions about preferred language and country of origin into their intake forms and has completed a first draft of a plan to cover multiple departments in a six-county area. They are also beginning a discussion on how to encourage their partner organizations to improve language access in their own agencies. This project has made a significant difference already, and we anticipate that each organization will have a final language access plan by December of 2022.

Funds will be reserved to purchase age-appropriate books and materials in the needed languages for agencies who complete the program. CPC has access to discounts to these materials from First Book.

Who benefited from accomplishment 2

ELL students up to 8 years of age who are reading below grade level in Jefferson County. Schools/agencies serving ELL through TA with language access plans. Organizations targeted for LAP development are: the City of Homewood, United Way of Central Alabama, YWCA, and Children's Aid Society.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 2

\$20,000.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 2

Campaign for 3rd Grade Reading, AL Dept of Early Care and Education

Accomplishment 3

Please describe this accomplishment.

Community Engagement and Building Partnerships:

- First Friday Forums on issues affecting children
- Early Care and Education Work Group: monthly convening, programming and advocacy initiatives focused upon early care and education providers and professionals
- Training and Education: Mental Health First Aid; Advocacy 101; Child Trafficking
- Information Sharing: CPC List-serve & FB Go-to source for information about child-serving organizations and community services
- Rapid Response Solutions: CPC coordinates, collaborates and convenes rapid response to unexpected, unanticipated, emerging needs identified by community partners

FFF and Community Education Programs: 533 Attendees July 2021 through July 2022

June/July 2021: Summer Opportunities for Children & Annual State of the Child in Jefferson County Needs Assessment

August 2021: Educating Families (Drug Prevention, Access, and Impact of New Laws)

October 2021: State of the Child in Jefferson County Report and Introduction of New CPC Executive Director

November 2021: The Importance of Language Access Plans

December 2021: Vicarious Trauma: Self Care in Helping Professions During Stressful/Traumatic Times

February 2022: COVID19 Update for Schools and Businesses

March 2022: Cultural Humility

April 2022: The impact of Trauma on Children and how Providers can Support Children and Caregivers

May 2022: Youth and Adolescent Mental Health

Early Care and Education Workgroup and Programming: 198 participants. July 2021 - July 2022

August 2021: New Guidelines for DHR (COVID)

September 2021: Parenting Matters w/ Family Guidance Center

October 2021 Office of Early Childhood presented new Guidelines for AL Quality STARS

November 2021: Strategies for Handling Stress (Stress & Burnout Prevention)

February 2022: Child Health and COVID19 update and Recommendations for Daycare Facilities

March 2022: First Teachers Program & APT literary resources

April 2022: McWane Center - Early Childhood Programs

May 2022: Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants

CPC FACEBOOK, LIST-SERVE, Web-Site

CPC FB has 1,749 followers. CPC List-Serve has 446 emails representing wide spectrum of child-serving professionals. While this number is significantly lower than reported in previous years, CPC worked diligently to delete multiple email accounts as well as culled defunct email accounts. CPC built a new Website during spring 2022 that offers community resource access, connection with CPC programs and services as well as community agencies. Since the new website launch at the end of May 2022, the website has had 391 visitors of which 302 were considered separate or unique visitors.

Essentials Closet

The CPC maintains an Essentials Closet at Family Court of Jefferson County with essential items such as feminine products, personal hygiene products, diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, pacifiers, socks, underwear, backpacks, shoes, laundry detergent, toothbrush/toothpaste, snacks, juice boxes to have available for families and children coming through the doors of Family Court who are in crisis, without and needing basic necessities.

Creation of Scorecard:

CPC created a scorecard to keep track of priority areas and activities under each priority area. This guide was used and referenced at every Board Meeting to keep CPC on track with it's vision.

Who benefited from accomplishment 3

Child serving professionals/agencies including educators; mental health/ health care; law enforcement; DHR, juvenile justice; social service, ECE, and ultimately children and families served by and through our CPC partnerships and collaborations.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 3

\$75,000.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 3

Jefferson County of Alabama, NUCOR Steel donation, individual donations.

Accomplishment 4

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 4

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 4

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 4

Accomplishment 5

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 5

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 5

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 5

Accomplishment 6

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 6

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 6

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 6

Accomplishment 7

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 7

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 7

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 7

Accomplishment 8

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 8

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 8

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 8

Accomplishment 9

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 9

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 9

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 9

Accomplishment 10

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited 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 complete the questions below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

Level I CPC

Please select all that apply.

- Mandate 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
- CPS 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

Please 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

Please select all committees which have been established.

- Early Care and Education
- Economic Security
- Education
- Health
- Parent Involvement and Skills
- Safety

Level III CPC

Please 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

Please upload a CPC membership list with contact information.

CPC of Jefferson County Partner Contact List.pdf	399.77KB
CPC Board with Terms.pdf	112.56KB

CPC Meeting Minutes

Please upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

Bd minutes July 2021 June 2022.pdf	9.91MB
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CPC Sign-In Sheets

Please upload all CPC Meeting Sign-In sheets from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

CPC Jef Co FFF flyers ECE mtgs and participant registrations.pdf	1.17MB
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Conclusion*

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

NA