The Department of Children's Affairs

April 2010
Volume 4, Issue 2

The CPC Review

2010 NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORMS ONLINE

The 2010 Needs Assessment will be a familiar process to many CPC members, with one exception. This year's Needs Assessment can be completed and submitted online.

The Needs Assessment information can be downloaded at www.children.alabama.gov under the News section or can be found under the Programs and Divisions page under Downloads in the Children's Policy Council Section. After completing the Needs Assessment online you will also be able to save a copy for your records.

The 2010 Needs Assessment will be an update to last year's Needs Assessment and will be based on the work begun in 2008. Each CPC is requested to provide current data, action plan accomplishments from 2009, and action plan ideas for 2010.

If you have any questions about your Needs Assessment or Annual Report, please call our office and speak to your Field Coordinator. You can contact our office at (334)353-2700

Please remember that Needs Assessments and Annual Reports are due to the Department of Children's Affairs by **July 1, 2010**.

Working Together to Improve the Lives of Alabama's Children

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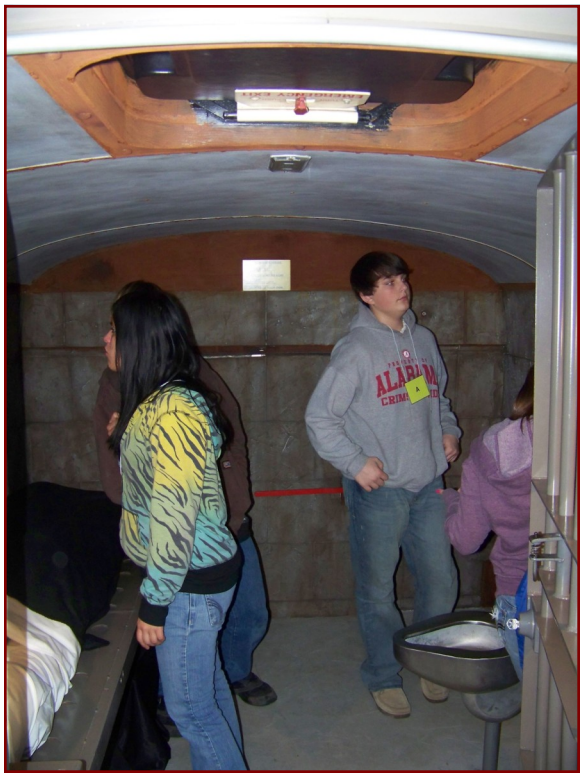
" Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate."

- Anonymous

CHEROKEE CPC WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

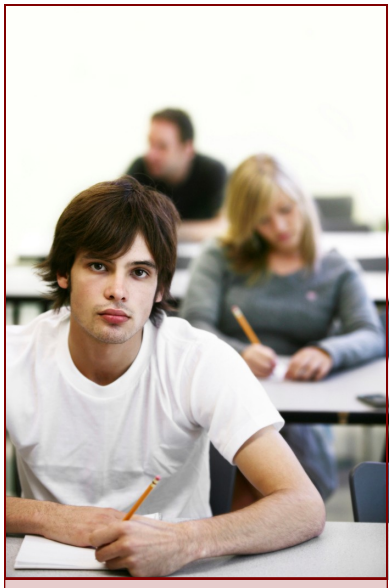
The Cherokee County Children's Policy Council, through their 2009 Need Assessment, identified the need to reduce the number of children who drop out of school. In an effort to raise awareness about how crucial education is, the CPC helped to host the CHOICE bus program for Cherokee County Schools. The CPC along with other community agencies collaborated to bring "It's your C.H.O.I.C.E. choose wisely", a three day program, to 2,300 students grades 7 thru 12. The students attended sessions on Drop Out prevention (Choice Bus), Impaired Driving Experience, Celebrate Recovery, Drug Prevention (Cherokee County Drug Task Force), Suicide Prevention (Cherokee County Mental Health), STD Prevention, Crystal Meth (District Attorney), Alcohol (MADD), and Making Good Choices.

All of the students had the opportunity to board the C.H.O.I.C.E bus (The bus is half bus and half simulated prison cell). While on the bus, they watched a video that featured a real life prisoner's story, providing a reality check that gave the students an inside look at the consequences they could face if they quit school. They were introduced to a prison cell, complete with bars, cinder walls and a mannequin inmate lying on a prison cot. Most students who participated in this program walked away with a better understanding of the importance of staying in school. The impact was so great that the Cherokee CPC and partners



REALITY CHECK IN GENEVA COUNTY

April was a very busy month for the Geneva County Children's Policy Council. With the assistance of Wil Golden from the Cooperative Extension, *Reality Check* was conducted in four locations in Geneva County. On April 8th, the program was presented to the 8th graders in Slocomb and the following day, Geneva's 8th grade experienced *Reality Check*. On April 15th, Samson's 10th graders participated and on April 16th, Hartford's 8th grade completed the program. Utilizing community volunteers at each location, *Reality Check* allows the students to experience a month in the life of a working adult who must provide for a family on an income commensurate with education levels ranging from high school to post graduate degrees. Students gain an understanding of the connection between education and income potential as well as a glimpse of the real world responsibilities that come with adulthood.



GOT ANY BIG IDEAS?

Let's say that you could spend a lunch meeting and pick the keynote speaker yourself. Who would you want to hear? What issues would you like to have addressed? What interests you most right now? Who would you want to hear that would help you better meet the needs of the children in your community? If you have any ideas, please let us know. Just answer these questions:

- If, for the benefit of county Children's Policy Councils, the Department of Children's Affairs could bring a nationally known speaker to a single location in the state for a luncheon, who would that speaker be?
- If you don't know of a speaker – what would the topic be?
- Would you be willing to pay for the cost of the meal in order to hear the speaker?

Think about it . . . then email your responses to amy.floyd@dca.alabama.gov

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."
- Benjamin Franklin

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN HAITI RELIEF

The Children's Policy Council in Sumter County not only serves the children of the county, but they also expect the children to be involved as well. In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, students in Sumter County collected durable medical equipment to donate to the survivors. Out of concern for the victims, students collected a variety of equipment totaling over one hundred pieces. The donation will be sent on May 4th from the students of Sumter County to the citizens of Haiti.

Thank you CPCs

The Department of Children's Affairs would like to express our sincere thanks to the Children's Policy Councils that hosted a conference. This year's conferences would not have been achievable without all of your hard work and support. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the children of Alabama.

2010 Conference Hosts

Escambia County CPC

Barbour County CPC

Lee County CPC

Perry County CPC

Walker County CPC

Marshall County CPC

2010 CPC CONFERENCES DRAW A CROWD

The Alabama Department of Children's Affairs held is 9th annual Children's Policy Council Conference. As in years past, the conference was located regionally across the state to bring the conference to more people who otherwise may not have been able to attend.

This year's conference was largely based on feedback received from last year's conference participants and the issues they wanted to know more about. Participants were given the opportunity to learn about various topics that affect Alabama's children.

The conference began with Dr. Susan McKim, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs, reviewing the information for the 2010 Needs Assessment.

Next, conference participants learned skills of a great leader from Dr. Marquita Davis, Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs. Dr. Davis discussed and demonstrated her expertise and knowledge of leadership concepts that she has learned over the years.

Linda Tilly, Executive Director of VOICES, and Melanie Bridgeforth, Policy Analyst/Kids Count Director, discussed Kids Count data and how to break it down on the county level. This session also helped participants understand how to use the data from Kids Count to make decisions on issues involving children.

In the afternoon, participants learned about Sexting from Jamie Keith with the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Mrs. Keith pointed out alarming facts and data about this growing trend.

Steve Lafreniere, Children's Division Director for the Department of Mental Health, presented information on mental health resources for children and collaborating with others to improve services.

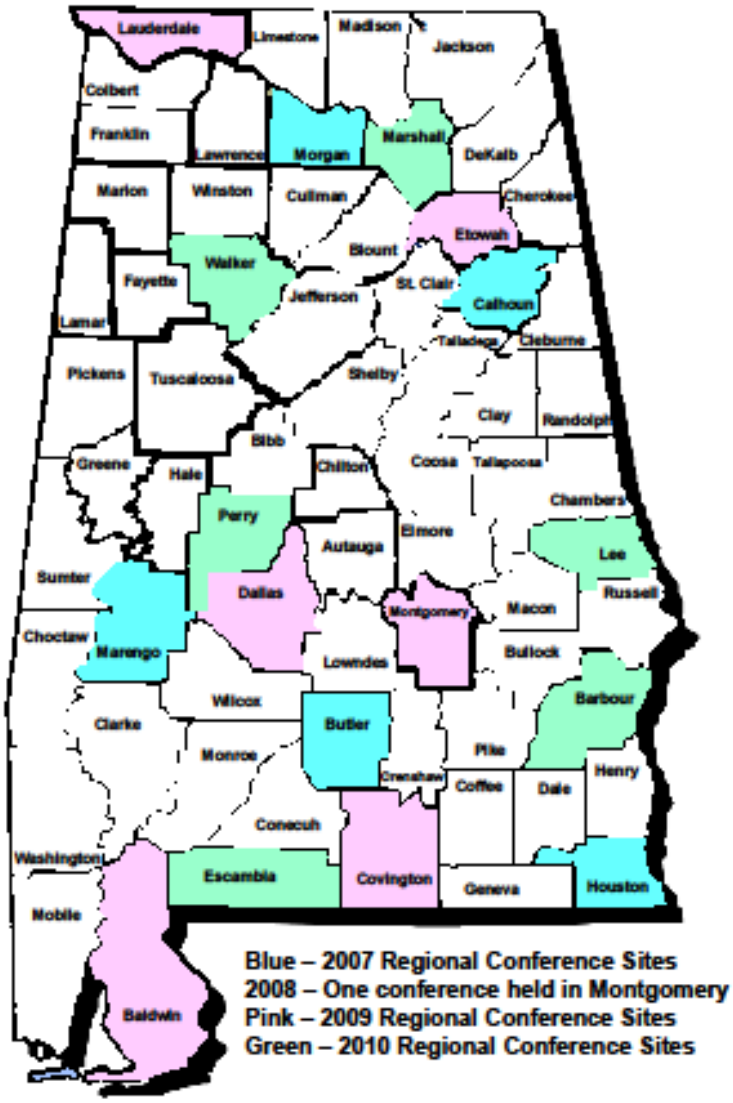
The conference ended with a session about working with the media. In this session presenters discussed the different techniques for dealing with all forms of media to ensure that events are publicized. Best practices for contacting, presenting ideas, having pictures published, having media coverage at an event, and many more topics were discussed. For this topic, local media professionals in each county presented the information. Presenters are as follows:

Atmore Conference - Adam Prestridge, *Atmore Advance*
Eufaula Conference - Patrick Johnston, *The Eufaula Tribune*
Opelika Conference - Melanie Beasley, Family Sunshine Center
Marion Conference - Judge Don McMillan
Jasper Conference - Nicole Zema, *Corridor Messenger*
Albertville Conference - Carl Lowe, CAJA of Marshall County

The Department of Children's Affairs we would like to thank all our presenters for taking the time out of their busy schedules. This conference would not have been possible without you!

Interested in Hosting a 2011 Regional Conference?

If your county Children's Policy Council would like to host a regional conference next year, please let us know. Fill out the information at the bottom of this form and give it to anyone from the Department of Children's Affairs. The map indicates training sites utilized in past years.



Facility Requirements:

- Room to seat 100 with tables and chairs
- Allows food
- Supplies or has room for projector and screen
- Registration table
- Place available to serve lunch (tables set up with our food)
- Ice available
- Kitchen available
- Coffee maker available that we can use
- Microphone available

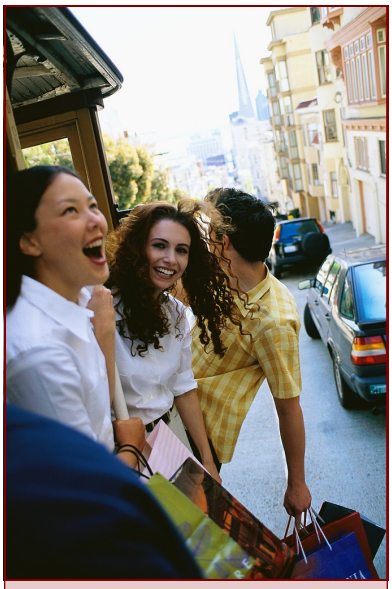
Yes, we are interested in hosting a CPC Regional Conference next year!

Contact person:_____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

County:_____



BULLOCK COUNTY - PROM PROMISE

Judge Teresa Daniel takes her responsibility of chairing the Bullock County Children's Policy Council seriously. Under her leadership, the Bullock County CPC hosted a Prom Promise event on April 16, 2010 at the Bullock County High School Football Field. With Sgt. Murray coordinating the event, students were able to experience a DUI simulation using fatal vision goggles and to witness a rollover demonstration. The dangers of both driving under the influence and not wearing seatbelts are quite real, and the Bullock County CPC planned the program to coincide with the local prom. Hoping that awareness of the danger would bring about more responsible decision making for the teens, the event was designed to help students think before making poor choices that could have dire consequences.

"Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another; it is the only means."

- Albert Einstein

WILCOX CPC SPONSORS BALLOON RELEASE

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Wilcox County Children's Policy Council jointly sponsored a Balloon Release with BAMA Kids, Inc. and Wilcox County DHR. On Friday, April 24, the balloon release was held at 10:30 a.m. at Wilcox Central High School in Camden. This event was held in conjunction with the CPC Annual Family Summit.

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCILS

The Department of Children's Affairs is pleased to announce the availability of funds to benefit the county Children's Policy Councils. The Request for Proposal (RFP), which can be found at www.children.alabama.gov, includes the guidelines that must be followed to access these funds. A maximum of ten grants will be awarded, not to exceed $7,500 per grant. Our hope is that this will offer you some assistance at the local level to make a difference in the lives of the children in your county.

This is a competitive award process; therefore, it is important that you read and understand the instructions provided in the RFP. We have tried to make the process a relatively simple one, but we know that it will still require time and effort on the part of your local Children's Policy Council. **The deadline for submission of proposals is May 17, 2010.** Do not hesitate to contact Dr. Susan McKim if you have questions regarding this process at susan.mckim@dca.alabama.gov or by phone at 334-353-2709. Good luck in preparing your proposals!

DCA WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK

The Department of Children's affairs is pleased to reveal our new website. The new website has many exciting features. Please visit our website at www.children.alabama.gov and check out it out today! There is a new feature on the homepage that allows you to sign up to receive electronic copies of any of the DCA newsletters.

DCA MISSION:

The mission of the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs is to provide state leadership that identifies, promotes, and coordinates services for children, their families, and communities.

DCA VISION:

The vision of the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs is a well coordinated and high quality system of services for all Alabama's Children and their families.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like share any information about what your CPC is doing please contact amy.floyd@dca.alabama.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

WE HAVE MOVED!

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

In February of this year, the Department of Children's Affairs relocated to a new home. We moved from the Business Center of Alabama to The Alabama Center for Postsecondary Education Building. We have adjusted well to our new home and would like to remind everyone of our new address.

Our NEW Mailing Address is:
Alabama Department of Children's Affairs
P.O. Box 302755
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2755
www.children.alabama.gov

Our NEW Physical Address is:
Alabama Department of Children's Affairs
135 S. Union Street, Suite 215
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Phone Numbers

DCA	334-353-2700	334-353-2701 (Fax)
Susan McKim	334-353-2709	334-652-8344 (cell)
Liletta Jenkins	334-353-2710	334-328-2562 (cell)
Amy Floyd	334-353-2708	334-414-4900 (cell)
Tammy Coates	334-353-2707	334-590-3549 (cell)