

2014 Needs Assessment for Cleburne

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Accomplishments

1. Remediation and Tutoring continue to be provided at the Cleburne County High School. Students that are at-risk to drop out are enabled to graduate sooner by using a computer based programs. The Cleburne Mental Health Center Provides Counseling in the school setting which has impacted behavior. The Early Warning Truancy Program continues through the Juvenile Court.
2. Heflin Parks and Recreation continues to be a strong resource in providing programs at a reasonable cost to families.
3. The Empty Stocking Gala supported by the Department of Human Resources in Calhoun and Cleburne Counties continues to be successful in raising money to fund Christmas for foster children in both counties.
4. The Reality Check Program continues to be provided by the Cleburne County Extension System to the schools. County Extension provides support services to the Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership program led by Leadership Cleburne County alumni. Be Extreme continues to take place each summer.
5. The County Nutrition and Health Council updated their pocket card listing health and human services resources for our county. These cards are available at the County Extension Office. The Nutrition and Health Council is also the entity that created the summer community calendar for use by families.
6. The Pre-K programs continue including Head Start.
7. HEARTS remains a Family Service Center and continues to provide needed resources for the people of Cleburne County. Churches have worked with HEARTS to provide the Backpack Buddy Weekend Food Program for children in the Ranburne School District. The program has expanded to include Heflin, Fruithurst, and Pleasant Grove area schools. HEARTS administers the Cancer Relief Services Program for local cancer patients to provide emergency financial assistance to and fro treatment, special purchases, utilities, housing assistance and special diet/medical needs resulting from a patient's current cancer diagnosis. See the attached HEARTS annual report for other services provided.
8. The Mental Health Center continues to offer school based mental health services. A case manager also visits the child in the home. Project Find is available and is an intensive counseling program that provides counseling to families in their home. Adult services continue including a Substance Abuse Program on Fridays. Adolescents are also provided with substance abuse counseling. A sixteen bed facility is opening in Alexandria, Alabama and will help Probate Judges with commitments of adults.
9. Medicaid's computer system continues to be able to talk with DHR's computer system resulting in less reviews. If someone is signed up for food stamps, the information can transfer to the Medicaid System automatically and have children signed up quickly for Medicaid.
10. Children's Rehabilitation Services continues to provide services to children including the free hearing screenings that can take place in the home or at school. Hearing assessments are available to all and are not based on income.
11. A new program was presented to the Council that is now available to Cleburne County families. Parents as Teachers is a free program that provides trained professionals who visit with families in the home offering parenting support and information.
12. The Cleburne County Health Department also provides a program called Patient First that provides in-home services.
13. DHR has entered into a border agreement with the State of Georgia. The purpose is to enable DHR to place children more quickly when there is appropriate family living in Georgia. A Safety Plan is used preventing children from entering foster care. This agreement goes into effect May 1, 2014.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Job Readiness

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>GED Program three days a week Career Technical School-adding new programs Annual Career and Health Fairs Reality Check Program-expanded to include both high schools in Cleburne County Community Arts Program Vocational Rehabilitation Services Cleburne Co Middle School Career Education Be Extreme Inside and Out Program Career Round Robin is offered as part of the Be Extreme Inside and Out Program Youth Leadership Cleburne County includes career exploration Forte' Power Systems and Honda volunteers are both available now Career/College Ready Coach for graduates to be hired Acceleration Program for students at-risk of dropping out of high school JSU Field Schools are now at the Mountain Center Career Center in Anniston, Alabama</p>	<p>Expand career education programs to all the schools, starting at kindergarten Increase knowledge about non-traditional careers such as Plumbing, Railroad Construction, Forestry and Oil Fields Adult Career Education & Computer skills After School Tutoring of Math and Science at the Middle School Mentoring Programs and Job Shadowing Summer Work Programs</p>

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Do an Elementary School Career Day. Support the hiring of a college/career ready coach.
2. Increase the presence of non-traditional careers at middle and high school health and career days such as Forestry, Plumbing, Oil Fields.
3. Explore possibilities for an adult vocational program.
4. Explore Grants and partnerships with Industries to add Vocational Programs.
5. Make know to the public that less expensive car repair is available at the Career Tech School.
6. Make sure children are signed up for all available programs.
7. Promote education for jobs where employment is taking place.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Healthy Living

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>Health Department Quality of Life-an array of services for a sliding scale fee General Practitioners Optometrist Community Calendar-available events C.N.P County Extension Nutrition Program Heflin Parks and Recreation Celebrate Recovery Alethia House Drug/Alcohol Counseling Calhoun/Cleburne Mental Health Center Cheaha Dental Children's Rehabilitation Services Dr. Mohon-Vision Screening Parents as Teachers-In-Home Services Back Pack Buddies during school Med-Net for Medicaid patients</p>	<p>Transportation to out -of-town Doctor's appointments Revitalize the TARWARS and JumpStart Programs School Social Workers and Counselors Transportation to get clients to available Drug Courts Cleburne Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to restart Summer Feeding Program Higher-pay for school nurses to prevent higher turnover. Back Pack Buddies during the summer</p>

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Support affordable activities that will promote healthy living and prevent obesity.
2. Expand the Celebrate Recovery Program to city of Heflin, to the community and to the Jail.
3. Reactivate substance abuse prevention programs in the schools via the Cleburne Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and reactivate the TARWARS Programs.
4. Promote education. Inform Parents about Children's Rehabilitation Services.
5. Improve screening and sign up for Medicaid through school registration and a Children's Health Fair.
6. Promote the Patient First Program provided by the Health Department.
7. Promote the Parents as Teachers Program.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Transportation

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Family and Friends Senior Bus-Heflin City limits only Mental Health Bus Gas vouchers from HEARTS KIDS One Med-Net gas vouchers-Medicaid clients Rural Transport-Kurt Adair-256-463-2271 In-school Counseling provided by Cleburne Mental Health Head Start-bus for medical appointments DHR- vouchers for clients only	Transportation to Jobs Public Transportation Transportation to Recreation Transportation for Head Start- Children whose parents have no transportation have to drop out.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Explore Grant Opportunities.
2. Find ways to make other agencies and the public aware of transportation needs. Find ways to make the public aware of the availability of any local transportation. HEARTS could possibly serve as a hub for the needed information. The newspaper could be an information resource.
3. Involve churches to help with transportation as an outreach opportunity.