

2014 Needs Assessment for Covington

Honorable Judge Frank "Trippy" McGuire
Covington County Courthouse
1K N Court Square, 2nd floor
Andalusia, AL 36420
(334) 428-2570

Carla Powell	Freda Barton	Jeannie Bryan	Mike Majors
Paul Adams	Walt Merrell	Grace Jeter	Shirley Trawick
Anna Courson	Dennis Meeks	Brooke Blair	Jimmy Holley
Diane Baugher	David Anderson	Mark Odom	Lesya Syler
Alane Brunson	Mike Jones R	Victoria Anderson	Jay Thomas
Carmen Cooper- Davis	Ronda Ricks	Lena Boswell	Stacie Brooks
Lori Godwin	Bill Godwin	Cynthia Taylor	Ginger Joiner
Ted Watson	Leroy Cole	Kaitlin Shipman	Donny Powell
Lance Price	Patricia Daniels	Janet Bryan	Shannon Driver
Tracy J. Von Hollen	Mandy Waters	Wanda Johnston	Executive Director: Susan Short
Sonja Hines	Owen Duke	Patty Singleton-Seay	Project Coordinator: Jessie Stephens
Michael Smithart	Sara Martha Miller	Michele Gerlach	
David Pearce	Denise Davis	Tina Edmonson	

Accomplishments

- The Covington County Children's Policy Council Coalition (CCCPC) is currently in the 5th year of a Drug Free Communities Grant, which provides the majority of our funding for area drug prevention projects and activities.
- In Fall 2013, the Pledge and Patch Program was given to youth participating in Andalusia and Opp sports and recreational programs. This program also included training of coaches and volunteers in the CCCPC's drug prevention efforts.
- The Religious Leader's Symposium (RLS) was held December 5, 2013, at the Covington County Courthouse providing area youth ministers and pastors with the latest Pride Survey results. The ministers are then able to take this information to their own congregations and helping the Coalition to make Covington County parents aware of youth substance abuse. It was a great turnout from local faith and community leaders, as well as the media.
- 150 Peer Helpers from all 6 high schools in Covington County participated in a 'Youth Leadership Conference.' The conference was held at the Hickory Ridge Lodge in Andalusia. Peer Helpers were trained and each group prepared for a presentation at the upcoming Town Hall Meeting.
- The Prescription Pill Take Back program was held in Fall 2013 at Walmart in Andalusia. The CPC partnered with the Drug Task Force, area hospitals and pharmacies, and the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.
- On April 2, 2014, a blue ribbon ceremony was held for the new Child Advocacy Center. Andalusia Regional Hospital has donated a facility for the center. The proposed open date is Fall 2014.
- Andalusia mayor, Earl Johnson, and Andalusia City Schools Superintendent, Ted Watson, have proposed a program similar to Big Brother, Big Sisters in the school system.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Juvenile Prevention

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant• Pledge and Patch Program where athletes voluntarily sign pledges to remain alcohol and drug free and also exhibit a healthy life-style to their peers.• Peer Helper Programs in all 6 high schools in our county whereby students are trained to be community advocates against substance abuse. These students present anti-substance abuse messages to their fellow high school peers and middle school students.• Continuing a 'Get Real' poster campaign within each high school. This is a counter-advertising campaign using current PRIDE Survey results to promote the message that not all students are using drugs.• Youth Town Hall Meeting for underage drinking• SPF-SIG (Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant) for underage drinking	<p>All resources needed on the 2013 Needs Assessment have been met by the SPF-SIG. Implementation of this grant should begin by Fall 2014.</p>

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

- Peer Helper led mentoring programs in all 6 high schools would help us meet our identified need.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Parental Involvement

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 3 school systems in Covington County take the Pride Survey every other year or every year. • Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant: • Providing substance abuse prevention billboards across Covington County to educate parents and families of the dangers of drug use. • Pledge and Patch Program 'parent portion' whereby parents are asked on a voluntary basis to sign pledges to not allow underage drinking in their homes, to lock up alcohol and prescription drugs in their homes, and to welcome other parents to call and question when entertaining youth in their homes. • Continuation of the Religious Leader's Symposium every fall whereby area pastors and youth leaders are given the latest PRIDE Survey results to take back to their congregations in order to make parents more aware of youth substance abuse in our county. • Prescription Pill Take-Back programs coordinated with the Covington County Drug Task Force, Andalusia Regional Hospital, and the Alabama Clean Water Program. • The CPC sponsors drug prevention programs to area parents and students on a regular basis. • The Andalusia High School Peer Helpers sponsored a "Monster Mash" for students which offered an alcohol and drug free activity. • 'The Parent Project,' offered through the Covington County Mental Health Department. • The DARE Program is offered to students in the 5th graders across our county by the Covington County Sheriff's Department. 	<p>Presentations and programs for parents in order for them to gain needed information concerning substance abuse among youth and recent PRIDE Survey results.</p>

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

- Religious Leaders Symposium promoted and attended by more of the churches and faith leaders in our county.
- Prescription Pill Take Back programs promoted in all 6 small incorporated cities/towns, three distinct rural school communities, and numerous church communities spread over Covington County.
- Coalition members participating in opportunities to speak at area programs and events promoting our mission of increasing parents awareness about youth substance abuse.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Early Learning

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagination Library Program- Year 4 • Promoting Zero-Five Parenting Kits from the Alabama Partnership for Children • Several Head Start programs throughout the county • Bright Beginnings program in Andalusia • "Pre-K Program" in Covington County: Red Level Preschool, Andalusia Elementary School Preschool, Opp Elementary Preschool, Toyland Daycare, offered through the State of Alabama's Office of School Readiness • Kids-N-Kin Programs throughout Covington County • Early Intervention: Birth-Three Program • Healthy Childcare Alabama targeting day cares, faith-based centers, family homes and group homes • The Covington County Extension Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagination Library program to be continued indefinitely beyond fourth year • To include the "Parenting Skills" video/CD narrated by Alabama's First Lady in all Partnership for Children parenting kits given out at Andalusia Regional Hospital Birthing Center

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

Continue promoting Imagination Library by the nursing staff to new parents at birth center as well as to all organizations and civic groups in Covington County