

2014 Needs Assessment for Dallas

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Dr. Larry DiChiara
Hattie Shelton
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Senator Hank Sanders
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Rep. David Colston
Sheriff Harris Huffman
Judge Kim Ballard
Chief William Riley

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LaTanya Norris
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Jennifer Reese
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Nancy Travis
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Jeff Cothran
Lauri Cochran

Steve Welch
Leith Wilson
Sarah Wagne
Kellee Waters
Donna Long
Miah Jackson
Gwendolyn Haywood
Greg Dreveny
Barbara Wesley-Pettwa
Sonya S. Taylor
Myesha Tolbert
Gloria Simmons

Accomplishments

Starting a Blackbelt Regional CASA Program
Will start a Circles of Transformation Program
Opening Hope Academy-a new alternative school collaborative w/CPC
Starting a Truancy Intervention Program
Starting a weekend Diversion Program in re: gangs and truancy
Established, opened and operating the Dallas County Family Resource Center
Established Dallas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)
Operating Compass Academy
Collaborating with Child Advocacy Center
Dallas County Detention Center
Juvenile Drug Court
Family Drug Court
Adult Drug Court
Mediation Program
Teen Court
Safe School Challenge
Youth Opportunities Program
Community Service Program
Started Workforce Investment Act Program
JISP (Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program)
Dallas County Fatherhood Initiative
Veteran Court
Mental Health Court
Created the ABOVE Program

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

School Success

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Family Resource Center Wallace Community College Selma/Dallas Public Library Career Link Excellent School Challenge HIPPY Program SPAN Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Tutoring programs School system (credit recovery) Compass Evening Program Juvenile Drug Court	Need more funding for local schools Need to establish a connection between all resources available for students

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

1. Will open Hope Academy-a collaborative program which combines the Alternative School with programs to provide needed services and opportunities for the students
2. Starting a new Truancy Initiative to reduce truancy
3. Created an Excellent School competition among the schools to reduce fighting, truancy, and delinquency
4. Expanding the WIA program to include kids in school, as well as out of school kids

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
JISP- intensive supervision GREAT-Selma Police Department Gang Intervention Weekend Program Credit Recovery Program RE-entry plan through Juvenile Probation Office Vision Network-system of services for juvenile intervention Sav-A-Life Hope Academy Youth Opportunities SPAN	Need more funding for programs

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

1. Hope Academy (new alternative school) will incorporate training and intervention with these issues
2. Gang Intervention Weekend Program-a court ordered weekend program to address destructiveness of gangs
3. More presentations to students about problems caused by gangs and teenage pregnancy

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Third 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:
Career Link Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Ready to Work Program-Wallace Community College Selma DHR Jobs Program Fatherhood Initiative	A clearing house and network for jobs is needed to help people that are ready to work get employment Jobs training program that does not require GED or high school diploma

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

1. Expand WIA to include in school children; not just drop outs
2. Use Hope Academy, Compass, and SPAN to help kids find track to employment.
3. Expand job network through Fatherhood Initiative.