

# 2013 Needs Assessment for DeKalb County

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## **Accomplishments**

The primary accomplishments for the past year have involved the expansion of services to children, youth and families through the DeKalb Youth Service Center. The program was established in 2009 under the Children's Policy Council and since that time has expanded to meet the unmet needs of "At Risk" children, youth and families in the County. The Youth Service Center program served 77 youth last school year through the respective school systems and the Juvenile Court. Of these youth only 2 required commitment to the Department of Youth Services. The auxiliary services of the program have been established based on identified need and include tele-psychiatry services and substance abuse assessment and out-patient treatment services. The tele-psychiatry services have served over 85 children and youth during the reporting period. The substance abuse services have served 95 plus youth through screenings and assessments and out-patient services. In both service aspects, these are children and youth that would not have been served otherwise. The program plans to add Parent Project services in the immediate future. This is a standardized program which is nationally recognized.

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## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Direct intervention with "At Risk" children, adolescents and families through assessment, treatment and a collaborated service approach. This involves "At Risk" situations from the behavioral, emotional, psychiatric, and substance aspects. The focus is to provide necessary assessments and treatment interventions in County and to have linkages with other expert providers when necessary. The program operates as an immediate and sustained behavioral intervention with the goal of providing interventions to prevent the youth from further penetration into the juvenile justice system. Interventions are provided based on assessed need and encompass academic, behavioral and emotional intervention as a standard. Psychiatric and substance abuse services are provided based on assessed need. Referrals for in-patient treatment or residential substance abuse treatment are covered through linkages with providers outside the County as a least restrictive resort.

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
<p>The DeKalb Youth Service Center was established in October, 2009 as a comprehensive youth service center licensed by the Department of Youth Services. The program was initiated by the DeKalb Juvenile Court in conjunction with the DeKalb County Board of Education and the Fort Payne City Board of Education. The program serves "At Risk" youth from the three systems through a coordinated effort. The focus is on accurate assessment and treatment interventions through a collaborated service approach. The program has been the main priority each of the following years and has become a primary intervention for "At Risk" youth and their respective family systems. The program has also sought out other services and partnerships to meet significant unmet needs for children, youth, and families.</p>	<p>At the present time, necessary resources have been secured through local funding, collaboration between agencies and contract providers and grant funding to manage the program and expand services.</p>

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

The primary action steps include: 1.) maintaining local funding sources, 2.) securing available grant funding to expand services, and 3.) actively seek out partnerships with local, state and other providers to meet unmet needs of children and youth.

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## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

The second priority involves a partnership between the University of Alabama School of Medicine and the DeKalb Youth Service Center to provide tele-psychiatry services to children and youth in DeKalb County. The partnership began July, 2010 and has been ongoing since that time. The service involves referrals from area providers, therapist, physicians, and school officials. Initial assessments are completed by licensed therapist with the Youth Service Center and the evaluation schedule is coordinated with the University. The psychiatric evaluation is conducted by a psychiatrist with the University via video conferencing equipment. The psychiatric evaluation is provided to the treating physician in the County for follow up and medication intervention as indicated. Reassessments are provided based on need or as requested by the psychiatrist. The need involves very limited mental health services for children and youth in DeKalb County

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
The partnership is a working partnership which has been in existence since 2010. The service has been refined and expanded with the current effort on securing grant funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission to enable increased therapist time to conduct initial evaluations and follow up treatment. The existing services are outlined above and the focused need is to increase availability of local therapist time to assess and coordinate the initial and follow up services.	the primary resource needed is funding to employ a licensed therapist to provide the services outlined above. This is in the process through ARC Grant process with provisional approval given at this time. Also key to this process, the University donated new tele-psychiatry equipment to the program to enhance the service delivery effort.

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

Action steps include: 1.) secure and properly manage ARC Grant funding to expand the service, 2.) utilize new equipment to expand the service delivery effort, 3.) begin process to become a Medicaid provider to stabilize funding source for the local service.

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## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

The third priority involves the need for child and adolescent services in DeKalb County. The services are currently coordinated through the DeKalb Youth Service Center. The services began in 2012 and are currently being refined. Prior to this substance abuse treatment services were extremely limited to non-existent. The program has partnered with local providers to offer a service array from screening, formal assessment, didactic groups, and intensive out-patient groups. Referral services are provided in cases involving need for in-patient treatment. All services are provided by State Certified providers. The need for substance abuse intervention for children and youth was a critical unmet need. The services are a work in progress and involve multiple County and are partnerships.

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Same as above- specifically DeKalb Youth Service Center, Recovery Services of North Alabama, The Bridge, Inc., DeKalb County Juvenile Court and area contract providers.	Funding for drug tests.

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

Action steps include: 1.) Maintain partnerships with providers to provide services, 2.) secure funding to provide for drug testing service.