

2014 Needs Assessment for Escambia

Honorable J. David Jordan
Escambia County Courthouse
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|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
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| Carlton Malone | Lynn Barnes | Candace Hardin | |
| Ruth Harrell | Fran Taylor | Robert Agerton | |
| David Stokes | Dr. RoseMary Watkins | Michealine Deese | |

Accomplishments

- The Children's Policy Council and Juvenile Court System were awarded funds three consecutive years through a for the fourth year.
- The Number of DYS Commitments for Escambia County has decreased by 80% since implementing Project Turn Around. Project Turn Around is a diversion program used to target high-risk youth and develop treatment plans based on the individual needs.
- Family Drug Court continues to thrive with the purpose of monitoring, providing counseling and treatment to participants.
- Hope Place Family Resource Center provided life skills, home visitation, teen parenting classes and access to a learning center to approximately 1100 individuals. Seven individual ages 16-21 successfully obtained a GED through the Family Hope Place GED program.
- Coalition for Healthier Escambia County launched a collaborative effort with the Escambia County Lions Clubs; school system, law enforcement and judicial system to increase the level of public awareness on drug use through the Drugs Erase Dreams Initiative.
- Alabama State University held the Little Hornets Kids Cultural Summer Camp at the ASU Southern Normal Campus (ASUSN). Southern Norman employed high school students as mentors for Little Hornets Summer Camp.
- Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Systems collaborated with the Escambia County School Board and City Board to provide school based mental health services. They provided two therapist and two case managers located at the schools to provide mental health services.
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians hosted a conference on 'The Law, Domestic Violence and Concurring Disorders'.
- Freemanville Head Start was awarded funding to implement a Pre-K classroom in Atmore. There are now a total of two Pre-K classrooms within Escambia County.
- Atmore Ivy League provided mentorship to girls age 5-18. The Ivy League continues to promote education and community service in a creative manner.
- Brent Cosby from Laurel Oaks Behavioral Health Center provided a Bully Awareness speech to high school students during our Anti Bully Campaign.
- Hope Place Family Resource Center conducted Books, Balls and Blocks event to promote and stimulate childhood development for ages birth to five.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Substance Abuse

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Drug Court• Partnerships such as Hope Place, Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Center, Dept of Human Resources, Jefferson Davis Community College, Fatherhood Initiative, ASU Southern Normal, ABC, Health Department• Faith based community for substance abuse support groups• Coalition for Healthier Escambia County: Drugs Erase Dreams Initiative | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substance Abuse Program for Juveniles• Mentor Programs• Socioeconomic Awareness• Community Awareness (brochures, community event, fliers, posters, etc...)• Funding to continue to promote substance abuse, treatment and awareness. |

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

1. Establish a Community Awareness Initiative.
2. Seek grant funding.
3. Develop and implement a juvenile drug and alcohol abuse, treatment and awareness program.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Quality Education

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIPPY programs countywide• After school tutoring and summer programs countywide• Credit Recovery at County and City Schools• Hope Place Family Resource Center: life skills, home visitation, teen parenting, learning center• 16-21 and Adult Education (GED) programs countywide• Little Hornets Summer Academy, Adult Training Classes, and various College Degrees are offered through Alabama State University, Southern Normal Campus• Coalition for a Healthier Escambia County: Community Action Team that addresses the Infant Mortality in this county | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding for parents to teacher program (birth to age five)• Early Head Start programs countywide: Pregnancy to age three.• System to identify emerging homeless population• Increase abstinence and teenage pregnancy prevention classes in school and throughout the community.• Funding to develop and support Early Educational Programs |

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

1. Continue to support pre-school HIPPY and Early Head Start programs, after-school programs, tutoring programs, summer programs, and any continued educational classes throughout the entire county.
2. Seek funding for to support Early Education.
3. Continue to support the Healthy Community Initiative.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Juvenile Diversion

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dropout Prevention Specialist• Child Advocacy Center: 'Taking it Too Far'• Juvenile Court Diversion Programs: Project Turn Around• County School System: Truancy Diversion Program.• City School System: 'Talk About It' tip line.• Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health: The Compass School• Mentor Program: Ivy League for girls. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyber bullying prevention program• Continued funding for Project Turn Around• System to identify emerging homeless within the youth population.• Countywide clothing resources for youth in need.• Funding for additional Mentor Programs• At-Risk Programs for young males.• Funding to continue to develop and support programs that enhance the success and safety of children |

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

1. Seek funding through grant writing process to aid in supporting programs.
2. Continue to develop and implement programs to enhance the safety and success of children.
3. Continue to support the all programs that serve At-Risk youth.