

2014 Needs Assessment for Houston

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Houston County Courthouse
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Judge Lori Collier Ingram
Lynn Ivey, Executive Director
Mary Paulk, Dept. of Human Resources
Linda O'Connell, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
Stanley Davis, Southeast Alabama Youth Services
Brian Simerly, Alabama State Troopers
Susan Loftin, Dothan City Schools
Ron Thomas, Houston County Schools
Angela Underwood, Juvenile Court System
Vickie Carter, Houston Co. Health Department
Vera Smith, Mayor of Gordon
Owen Duke, Department of Youth Services
Jerryneta Evans, Dothan City Schools Head Start Center
Collins Trott, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center/HIPPY
Steve Turkoski, Dothan Chamber of Commerce
Beth Ford, Dothan-Houston Co. Sub. Abuse Partnership
Ellen Williams, Healthy You/Just the Facts
Jason Williams, Healthy You/Just the Facts
Kimberly Faulkner, Houston Co. Health Department
Elizabeth Tiller, Parent Project, ASFSC
Douglas Valeska, Houston County District Attorney
Steve Clouse, State Representative
Harri Anne Smith, State Senator
Jimmy Holley State Senator
Betty Peters, Alabama Department. of Education
Kathy Flack, Vaughn-Blumberg Center
Phillip Gilley, Boys & Girls Club of Wiregrass
Barbara Alford, Wiregrass Foundation
Tami Culver, Dothan Education Foundation
Mary Hill, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
Sherryl Walker, Southeast AL Child Advocacy Center
Vicki Hunter, Mayor of Webb
Scott Applefield, Southeast AL Child Advocacy Center
Kristina Bennett, Dothan Area Career Center
Pamela Miles, Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention
Twyla Williams, Yes, We Can Dothan
David Duke, Wiregrass 2-1-1

Susan Trawick, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership
Lori Gilley, Family Guidance Center
Rosalind James, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Christina Johnson, Dothan City Schools
Michael Jackson, DuBois Institute
Lawrence Keener, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
Susie Kingry, Spectracare
Heath Carpenter, ABC Board
Erin GreyBull-Harrison, Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention
Mary Jane Oakley, Legal Services of Alabama
Julie Turner, Dothan City Schools
Belinda Mitchell, Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
Ebony Crews, Spectracare - Prevention
Jaime Lewis, Girls, Inc.
Powell Brewton, Southeast Alabama Youth Services
Daniel Churchfield, Southeast Alabama Youth
Vanessa Dickens, Wallace Community College
Altha Newman, Hawk-Houston Boys & Girls Club
Cynthia Hicks, Troy University-Dothan
Pam Wimbish, Troy University-Dothan
Ovetta Coleman, Spectracare - Prevention
Jake Colson, Boys & Girls Club of Wiregrass Services
Jeremiah Dalton, Wiregrass Hope Group
Molly Martin, Troy University
Odell Chambers, ASFSC
Ben Slingluff, Slingluff, Inc., Dothan Area Early Childhood Education Committee
Samuel Crawford, Juvenile Justice Committee, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Dell Godwin, Dothan City Schools Johnny Trawick, Police Athletic League
Jemmie Watford, Police Athletic League
Michael Coker, Police Athletic League
Jarrod Blumberg, District Attorney's Office
Jim Hartnett, CDY/Alfred Saliba Family Services Center

Accomplishments

The Houston County CPC hosted a Alabama Department of Children's Affairs" Every Child Matters" CPC Regional Workshop. The workshop covered topics on Child Abuse Safety and Cyberbullying, 52 people attended.

Early Education and Education

- Building Blocks Child Development Center and Kiddie Care Learning Center were awarded state First Class Pre-K grants for 2014-2015.
- HIPPY received accreditation and served 90 participants
- Kindergarten Readiness Event successful
- Family Guidance and WCC had sensational Saturday training workshop
- EHS completed a successful year
- Successful education summer; Troy's Project Pre-K/literacy program

Economic Security

- Camp Hire First Class graduated 11, 7 employed; 6 months second class graduated 13; 5 employed. Workforce Investment ACT (WIA)-Career Design for Youth (CDY) 10 students in programs; graduated High School 2014. Annual fanfair to continue and next one scheduled 10/14/2014. Youth Expo reached 800 students in Dothan City Schools and now expanding to County School System. Continue with need for safety available in Daycare services to enable individuals to continue employment.

Education

- The Houston County School System has created a central office position to coordinate anti-bullying programs in the schools, and also contracts with two retired administrators to investigate report of bullying incidents.

Health

- Alabama Cooperative Extension: Diabetics Cooking School for Seniors and Zumba in the Chair Classes, 150 attended. SNAPED Nutrition Program-Power of Choice-Youth/Daycare Center, 400 young people attended. Wiregrass Girls Rock Mother and Daughter Healthy Lifestyle Camp. Walmart sponsoring Healthy Living Program through 4K and Alabama Cooperative Extension. Dothan High School 4H and they reach students in 4H and they teach peers about healthy lifestyle and diet/exercise. All current case managers with Houston County Health Department(HCHD) now encourage graduation with patient first teens and also encourage clients, parents as well(adults), to focus on education. The HCHD has held several successful flu clinics and provided the flu vaccine at a decrease cost to the community. HCHD has held numerous rabies vaccination clinics at decrease cost to the community. HCHD has had a good participation in the HPV initiative and provided HPV vaccine free to those qualifying. HCHD has had good utilization of childhood immunizations to keep children healthy, as well as parent and family immunizations and this supports healthy outcomes for children and increases school attendance, thus decreasing absenteeism and dropout rate. We have had several community wide Health Fairs with a good representation of services/resources for children and families and good participation/show rate from families and children. There is now an Out Stationed Case Manager/Social Worker at Dothan Pediatrics to assist with clients/children that have health conditions that need close monitoring and parent/family education to ensure healthy children.

Safety

- Bullying-Established UP Teens program(peer to peer mentoring program) at Northview High School and Dothan High School. UP Teens has expanded to some of the county schools. Anti-Bullying rally was held in April. Anti-Bullying program established at Girl's Inc., Laurel Oaks and various churches throughout the county. Truancy-offered truancy diversion to more than 400 families; added Elementary Truancy Diversion Program. Jr. Police Academy established 2 sessions this summer. Representatives from Houston County CPC will be attending the National League of Cities-Juvenile Justice Institute in Washington, DC, June 2014. S4 program established in Dothan City Schools. CPC formed an Anti-Bullying committee. Southeast Alabama Iverson Center is still a resource. SpectraCare received a grant to develop a strategic plan to address underage drinking throughout the county.

Parental Involvement and Skills

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

- Strengthening Families PDF Handout for families develop by H. Wallace Goddard, Extension Family and Child Development Specialist, Associate Professor, Family and Child Development, Auburn University. Available for free download on the ACES web site.
- Nutrition and cooking classes for children and parents.

Alabama Pre-and Post- Adoption Connection

- is a statewide program designed to empower adoptive families facing adoption challenges and to facilitate stronger bonds and interaction within all adoptive families.

Alfred Saliba Family Services Center

- Positive Actions for Teens and Parent Project using the "Why Try" program. ASFSC reported 80% deterrent in infractions for children who completed Postie Action for 2012 and 80 rate of completion.

Dothan City School Counselors

- Provide support for students and guidance for parents on issues related to children.
- Serve as referral source for additional community resources.

Dothan Education Foundation

- Collaborated with the CPC on the Kindergarten Readiness brochure.
- Assisted with distributing the Kindergarten Readiness brochure to children and parents.

Exchange Center for Child

- Basic Parenting classes(accepting self-referrals, as well as referrals from partnering agencies, DHR, and the courts)
- 1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for children ages 2-12(available to the community, partnering agencies, DHR and the courts)
- Co-parenting through Divorce(available to the community, partnering agencies, DHR and the courts)
- Support group for parents of teens(available to the community)
- Parent Aide program served 10 families with in-home support services(12 parents and 35 children) to improve parenting.
- Provided 1543 Adults with professional prevention education services through 43 trainings.
- Provided 488 children with prevention education services through 24 classes.
- Provided over 600 survivors of child abuse or domestic violence with counseling/support services to break the cycle of abuse.
- Provided 165 parents with Anger Management classes to teach emotion regulation to break the cycle of child abuse and family violence.
- Provided 136 parents with Parenting Classes to improve parenting skills and reduce parental stressors.
- Provided 72 Group Therapy Sessions to survivors of family violence to break the cycle of family violence.
- Provided 13 Community Awareness events.
- Provided bi-monthly training to Therapeutic Foster parents on topics related to managing behaviors and impacts of abuse.
- Hosted a Superhero Run to Prevent Child Abuse with over 350 attended and received information on parenting and community resources.
- Hosted a Domestic Violence Vigil in partnership with local DV shelter, to raise awareness to impacts of DV on kids.
- Received Triple A Accreditation status through the National Exchange Child Abuse Prevention Network(highest rating)
- Recorded 3 TV video vignettes on parenting that are airing on WTVY's Mom's Everyday
- Ran PSA's on TV and on billboards throughout the year to raise awareness to child abuse prevention issues.
- Provided prevention education to over 2000 community members(professionals, parents, and children)

Healthy You Inc.,

- Offered programs that encouraged peer mediation so students can work together to stop bullying
- Provided Bullying Prevention Education to parents and students.
- Provided the UPTEEN program to empower teens to be the solution to their own problems through relationship and leadership training.
- Fatherhood Buzz program to increase awareness around responsible fatherhood and parenting- implemented 4 times this year.

Houston County Children's Policy Council

- Serves as a liaison between agencies to connect agencies with information , resources, and support.
- Assisted in development and distribution of the Kindergarten Readiness brochure.
- Participated in Dothan Police Departments National Night Out-a community event to connect parents with community resources.
- Coordinated resources with our local Wiregrass 2-1-1 to increase connection and collaboration between agencies who serves families.

Houston County School Counselors

- Provide support for students and guidance for parents on issues related to children.

- Serve as referral source for additional community resources.

Juvenile Court System

- Works with struggling teens, juvenile delinquents, and parents. Refers parents to community resources that will reduce parental stressors, and increase parenting skills.
- Had two contract attorney's complete parent attorney training successfully.
- CANI conference on 10/7-10/14 was attended by Judge Ingram and resulted in forming the Judicial Child Welfare Collaboration.

Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center

- Provided forensic interviews and on-going counseling to victims of sexual abuse and their non-offending family members.
- Provided training to the Dothan Police Department on working with children who have been victims of trauma and DV.
- Conducted 6 hour training for parents at Dothan City Schools Head Start called 1-2-3-4 Parents
- Provided school-based prevention programs in Dothan City and Houston County schools.
- Launched a " Blue Ribbon" Campaign for the month of April to raise awareness to the issue of child abuse.

Spectracare

- S4 Program to provide counseling and support to students who have mental health issues, and their parents.
- Find Team-provides in-home services to children who have mental health issues and their parents.
- Active Parenting classes for parents of elementary age children involved in truancy court.

Wiregrass Hope Center

- Provided boot camp for new dads.
- Provided child birth education classes.
- Provided nutrition classes for new moms and dads.
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2014 Needs Assessment for Houston

First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>Truancy Diversion Program Parent Project/Positive Action counseling programs Accelerated Credit Recovery Programs Anti-bullying/anti-hazing program through Dothan/Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership Wiregrass Foundation supported activities Saturday Schools (remediation and discipline) District Attorney's office resources Communication materials including billboards, electronic signs, television and radio PSA's focused on the negative consequences of dropping out of high school CPC member agencies assisting with focus on "Graduation for All" Just the Facts provides Healthy Choices training Dothan City Schools offers Summer Bridge Transition programs for 6th and 9th grades Core Essentials Program as funded by Chick-Fil-A Seedlings Program by Just the Facts/Healthy You Dothan Career Center Dothan Montessori School Kindergarten Readiness brochure Early Warning program Electronic monitoring Weekend at SAYLA Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Pathways SAYLA Behavior programs Substance Abuse programs SPAN</p>	<p>A solid, stable formula provided by the State for the consistent determination of the graduation rate Equitable funding for schools to compete on a fair playing field Funding to continue "Wiregrass Girls Rock Conference" Resources to allow for all schools to employ full-time parent involvement specialists Funding for Pre-K programs Utilize Behavior Aides in identifying bullies and bullying behavior</p>

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

1. Continue to develop "Graduation for All" programs and continue to apply anti-dropout efforts to city and county schools
2. Continue Truancy Diversion program and add Truancy Diversion Town Hall Meeting for all involved stakeholders
3. District Attorney involvement to include press conferences/releases/letters/prosecution
4. Hold Youth Career Summits and other various events and include graduates who come back and talk to students about the importance of graduating
5. Hold Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event to improve communication between Kindergarten teachers and preschool providers
6. Hold Youth Entrepreneur Program/Jump Start for Business (ages 12-19)
7. Hold 4-H Healthy Choice program - train teens to teach elementary students/middle school students how to maintain a healthy lifestyle
8. Recruit for UpTeen Mentoring and Leadership program pilot
9. Continue Career Designs for Youth at Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
10. Continue ITA at Dothan Career Center
11. Continue Dothan Career Center partnership with Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
12. Continue dual-enrollment program

2014 Needs Assessment for Houston

Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>Alabama Cooperative Extension System Alabama Pre-and Post-Adoption Connection Alfred Saliba Family Services Center Dothan City School Counselors Dothan Education Foundation Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention Healthy You, Inc. Houston County Health Department Houston County School Counselors Juvenile Court System Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center Spectracare Wiregrass Hope Center Wiregrass 2-1-1</p>	<p>Funding for supervised visitation Funding for CASA program</p>

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

1. Strengthen relationships between CPC service agencies and religious organizations through reaching out to grow our CPC.
2. Encourage high utilization of existing resources by providing in-services to partnering entities and encouraging referrals.
3. Continue to promote existing resources and raising awareness to issues related to parents and children and to existing resources via PSA's and other forms of advertisement. Social media is a free way to promote programs and solicit support.
4. Address issues with drugs and alcohol in our community.
5. Address issues related to child-obesity in our community.

2014 Needs Assessment for Houston

Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>Kindergarten Readiness Brochures in English and Spanish HIPPY - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Alabama's Pre-K program Dothan City Schools Head Start Early Head Start (Alfred Saliba Family Services Center) Family Guidance Center (FGC) - subsidized child care Family Guidance Center Resource Center Sensational Saturdays - Family Guidance Center and Wallace Community College Department of Human Resources "Yes We Can! Dothan" PSA's - "Have you read to your child today?" Summer Bridge Program for Pre-K Four year olds - Dothan City Schools Early Childhood Initiative - "Yes, We Can! Dothan" and business involvement Houston County Resource Directory (provided through Wiregrass United Way 2-1-1) Wallace Community College Childcare Worker Certification programs Kiddie Care Learning Center offers expanded non-traditional hours Troy University Summer Spectacular Parent awareness of Pre-K skills</p>	<p>More centers/opportunities for child care services (early childhood education) during non- traditional hours</p>

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

1. Coordinate a Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event to facilitate improved communication between child care providers and kindergarten teachers about skills necessary for school success
2. Develop opportunities for follow-up communication after Kindergarten Readiness Networking Event
3. Expand HIPPY groups to Troy University-Dothan
4. Explore articulation agreement with Wallace Community College CHD and Troy University ECE programs
5. Continue communicate available resources and early childhood education skills needed for success in school through PSA's, training, checklists, display booths at community events, etc.
6. Deliver programs in home and in at-risk communities: (HIPPY program provides home-based services and is seeking funding for "Fostering Early Education" expansion grant; Early Head Start provides home-based program component)