

2014 Needs Assessment for Madison

Alison S. Austin

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Accomplishments

Our Early Care and Education Committee completed development of a trifold brochure, To My Parents, in 2012. Our brochures were so well received; we went through our 1st and 2nd printing and distribution quickly. Our 3rd printing was funded by United Way of Madison County.

Approximately 4000 brochures have been distributed to the community through various agencies, which includes National Children's Advocacy Center, United Way of Madison County, United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville & TN Valley, Early Intervention, Kids and Kin classes, Redstone Arsenal and Premier Preschools this year. Brochures were placed in nearly 50 contact points/ locations for organizations working with families who have children ages 0-5 years. All three hospitals in Madison County are including these brochures in their baby take-home kits.

We also met our goal of being present at four (4) community outreach events during the year and surpassed that goal. Committee members distributed brochures at the United Way Campaign Kickoff, Kite Festival, SOS Children's Safety Fair, El's Sprouting for Success Conference, Alabama Kindergarten Conference, and Super Heroes 5K.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Child Literacy

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Madison County Children's Policy Council Parent brochure2. United Way of Madison County's Success by Six3. Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)4. Early Head Start Programs5. Child Care Centers/Preschools6. Kindergarten Readiness Checklist7. Early Intervention8. Head Start Classrooms9. Community partners that serve young children and their families	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased funding to support the community partners addressing developmental milestones2. Funding for high quality programs for children birth to five3. Greater coordination to support minority (Hispanic and Asian) and poverty populations4. Additional "into the hands of parents" resources (such as bilingual and culturally sensitive books and materials)5. Transportation to high quality child care facilities6. Child care subsidies

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

1. Raise public awareness of school readiness and 0-5 development milestones through brochures, PSA's, radio interviews, posters, and other outreach opportunities to the community.
2. Support current public awareness campaign from the AL Partnership for Children "Don't Be in the Dark about Child Care", addressing dangers and inequalities of "unregulated" child care.
3. Contact, schedule, and present at four (4) community outreach meetings during the year.
4. Translate the "To My Parents" brochure into Spanish.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Job Opportunities for Teens

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
1. Boys and Girls Club 2. Junior Achievement	1. Location for program 2. Transportation 3. Facilitators 4. Funding

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

1. Increase job preparation through education, counseling, classes, and mentoring.
2. Seek community involvement from local businesses and organizations.
3. Expand classes from small select population to the community as program continues to grow.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Strengthen Families

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Relationship Smarts Plus Classes are held at the Neaves Davis Center for Children, Harris Home for Children, and Academy for Science and Foreign Language.2. Huntsville Housing Authority/Oscar Mason Recreation Center provides classes on divorce.3. Churches in the community offer marriage seminars throughout the year.4. Tony Hawks program "Fatherhood Initiative".5. NCAC provides "Partnership for Parenting" and "Just for Dads"6. Family Services Center provides family/children counseling for divorce7. Our Father's Mad8. Madison County Coalition for Healthy Marriages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Therapeutic mediation services for those with custody issues.2. Transportation

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

1. Increase premarital preparation through counseling, classes, and mentoring.
2. Increase mentoring enhancement classes.
3. Youth programs for healthy relationships.
4. Financial literacy prior to marriage.