

# 2014 Needs Assessment for Monroe

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## Accomplishments

### Mission Statement

In partnership with serious Monroe County agencies, the Monroe County Children's Policy Council fully agrees to operate cooperatively to address the needs of our youth by providing an appropriate health-enhancing physical program that will also identify or determine the child's ability socially and psychologically.

### Goal and Objectives:

1. Maintain a strong working relationship with all the state holders.
2. Promote community base programs designed to stimulate the activity and psychological need of children and youth physically and mentally in which they can participate for the rest of their lives.
3. Maintain and provide a variety of learning experiences to emphasize the development of basic concepts, values, and behaviors associated with good decision making strategies.
4. Provide opportunity for the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in changing bad habits to good habits (pre marital sex, drugs, alcohol, truancy, etc.).
5. The Children's Policy Council has as its foundation a common core of preventive and learning experiences utilizing the wide divergence of agencies to provide each parent/child with the maximal opportunities to partake in the basic concepts of a healthy, mental, social, and physical body.

### 21st Century Leadership Club

The Club recognizes the need for young people throughout Monroe County who are at risk in developing academic skills, maintaining emotional maturity, wholesome physical and mental health, and responsible citizenship.

The young people are invited to join the B. Turner 21st Century Leadership Club. The joining is invitation only. If the students decide he/she wants to be apart/member of the club, it is with the understanding of all rules and procedures must be adhered to with emphasis placed upon obedience and responsibility toward the staff and fellow students.

As members of the club, the students engage in group or individual settings that facilitate understanding of self purpose, self direction, and self control. They learn to recognize logical consequences by making complex choices through role playing and in managing peer group pressures. Tutoring in all subjects is provided as needed by volunteers and college students. Throughout the year, students are taking on College and University tours. The University tour allows the students to develop an appreciation and understanding of the essentials of pre-college preparation. During the summer, the ninth through eleventh graders are enrolled at Alabama State University, Auburn University, and the University of South Alabama in a one week summer program to develop an awareness of living and studying on campus.

The 21st Century Club students must provide services to the community. Their annual task is to work the Relay for Life event and raise 1,000.00 for the Pilots for Christ organization. The Pilots for Christ is an organization that transports critical patients (which is free service) by airplane (airplane is owned by Lee Motor Company) to a highly qualified medical facility out of state. The fuel of the plane is provided through donations. Finally, all students in the club complete a career plan. We work with them in developing job seeking skills, preparing resumes, writing essays for scholarships, preparing applications for college. Once our students enter college their progress is tracked until graduation. We provide them with the understanding that education is a process that is continuous throughout life.

The clubs ultimate accomplishment is that we have students attending the University of South Alabama, Mobile College, Bishop State College, The University of Alabama, Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University, Troy State University, Alabama State University, and Auburn University in Montgomery. Our Accomplishments are continuous.

#### Community Partners

The Life Skills class (in partnership with the Monroe County Branch of the Community Action Agency of Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, and Monroe Counties) that is taught at the Turner Center has joined in partnership with the Child Policy Council of Monroe County.

At-Risk students (mostly truancy) are directed to attend the Life Skills classes at the Turner Center for six-weeks. If the student is on time, meet the requirements (class precipitation) and present for each class session, he/she will receive a incentive of \$100.00 at the end of the course. The incentive is provided by the Community Action Agency of the aforementioned counties.

The class provides a basic for students to actively participate in career exploration and ethical behavior by engaging in small groups (four to six students) to empower each other.

Realistic goals are emphasized for making transition from home to living independently; choices to stay in school and prepare for the life challenges. For example: student will learn how to fill out job applications, finding a job, finding an apartment, how to manage a budget (rent, food, planning meals, utilities, clothing, etc..) to sustain his/her livelihood.

The students will participate in mathematical, interpersonal, spatial, and kinesthetic skilled activities. For example, the student will cut pictures from magazines to select the home, career, furniture, job, car, family, etc., and build upon it while gaining a visual picture of how important getting an education (graduating from high school) will enhance and make the transition from living at home to living on his/her own.

#### Central Alabama Adolescent Treatment Source

Alternative programs for at-risk youth.

Central Alabama Adolescent Treatment Source designs its educational programs for the purpose of reducing the youth recidivism rate and preventing further penetration into the juvenile justice system. There are 4 programs that are offered:

1. Youth Opportunities- a behavior modification program
2. I am Worthy- a self esteem program designed for teen moms.
3. STOP- a program designed to reduce juvenile shoplifting and theft of property.
4. Who AM I- an anger management program for youth.

Although most participants come from the juvenile justice system, Central Alabama Adolescent Treatment Source does accept other referrals.

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## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Parental Involvement

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Department of Human Resources provide programs toward parenting skills. Parenting classes once a week at local churches. Life skills classes provided at the Turner Center. Southwest Alabama Mental Health provide counseling at each schools. HIPPIY Program for children and parents.	Establish family oriented activity centers. Increase PTO involvement at each schools in the county. Secure funding to provide parenting classes to children of incarcerated parents. Family Fun Day at each schools. Parent Involvement with Title I Program. Orientation before school starts for parents.

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

1. Use local newspaper to promote information on various parenting sessions and events.
2. Provide a community information session at all local churches with school officials involvement.
3. Introduce local ministers to PTO and provide skills training activities for their congregations.

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## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Job Readiness

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Alabama Career Center enhance education and training. Job fair promoted by our local community college and Chamber of Commerce. Monroe County High School-Career Resource Center provide rising technical career training and workforce development. Delta-GEMS Program which develop strong, confident and respectful young ladies and prepare them to take an active role in their success and society.	Seek funding for more job training programs. Promote on the job readiness training.

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

1. Strategies planning to bring more business into the county.
2. Seek small business loans for those interested in entrepreneurship.
3. Encourage entrepreneurship within the county.

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## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Mentoring

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Continued Organizations with the following: Sheriff's Department, Southwest Mental Health, Department of Public Health, Alabama Southern Upward Bound, Juvenile Probation Office, Community Churches, Parents, Department of Human Resources, Board of Education	Pursue the establishment of a Boys and Girls Club & Big Brother Big Sister.

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

1. Start a newspaper and radio campaign to address the perception high rate violence in the local community.
2. Develop more neighborhood awareness, education and cooperation.
3. Seek Alabama Southern Community College leadership students to volunteer each with to mentor the youth.