

2014 Needs Assessment for Morgan

Charles B. Langham
Morgan County District/Juvenile Judge
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Hon. Shelly Waters	Dee Farr	Chiriga King	Ray Long
Alli Clark	Donna Ayers	Gayle Monk	Ron Puckett
Amy Hudson	Dr. Samuel King	Joy Watkins	Ross Hudson
Angela Henderson	Dr. Ed Nichols	Karen Blackwood	Dr. Sara Bruce-Hall
Hon. Brent Craig	Ed Taylor	Karen Chenault	Hon. Scott Anderson
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Ben Head	George Pollitt	Marcus Garner	Sonya Tinsley
Bill Giguere	Hilary Blakely	Cindy Moses	Stephanie McGrew
Bill LaPradd	Jackaline Bowman	Marie Hood	Sue Brantley
Bill Hopkins	Jackie Kinney	Mayor Don Hall	Susan Goggins
Brad Eades	Jamael Johnson	Mayor Don Kyle	Susan Roberts
Brenda Caudle	Jeff Simmons	Melissa Ross	Taylor Simmons
Bruce Jones	John Seymour	Mike Landrum	Rep. Terri Collins
Cataya Scott	Kathy Coleman	Mayor Melvin Duran	Tim Bolding
Chip Miller	Kay Woller	Mechelle Henderson	Tyrone Phillips
Cindy Anderson	Keana Williams	Missey Nichols	Dr. Vic Wilson
Cliff Booth	Kim Gully	Murphy Brown	Victor Tucker
Connie Kane	Dr. Larry Little	Senator Arthur Orr	Wanda Manosky
Dan Williams	LaToya Brown	Pam Bolding	Taynetta Byrd O'Neal
David Varner	Laurie Lincoln	Dr. Pat Kuby	
Dee Ard	Marie Hood	Dr. Larry Collier	

Accomplishments

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR MORGAN COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL

2013-2014

By Organization:

Alabama Department of Public Health - Provide immunization shots to children throughout the county; went to the schools and several events throughout the county to speak with parents and children about the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke; helped children in need of health insurance to get on Medicaid or AllKids; helped families with children get on the WIC program (extra food).

Athens State University - Early Childhood Education: We continue to graduate early childhood trained teachers - certified and non-certified.

Community Action Partnership - Served 324 Head Start children, ages 0-5; Part of the Starting Strong Pre-K Initiative; added two OSR Pre-K classrooms; 45 foster grandparent program in Decatur City Schools, Morgan County Schools and Hartselle City Schools.

Crisis Services of North Alabama (Hope Place) - 189 domestic violence victims/survivors provided court advocacy services; safe shelter provided to 108 women and 54 children for a total of 3250 bed nights; started domestic violence discussion group at East Acres (public housing development) in 2013 as part of outreach; Did Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes to raise awareness of domestic violence in Morgan County; Operate 211 for North Alabama and entire State on holidays and weekends.

Decatur City Schools: Pre-K expansion at Frances Nungester and Chestnut Grove Elementary Schools; Attorney General Safe School Award for Eastwood Elementary; Advanced Accreditation 'Commendation in School Climate/Safety'; Title I Elementary Schools implemented after school program to support academic needs; Career Tech opportunities expanded for middle school and high school students.

Decatur Morgan County Chamber of Commerce - Hosted inaugural Endless Opportunities hands-on career fair for eight graders; implemented Equip Student Leadership Program in 2013. The program is a career and leadership development program for 30-35 eight graders to prepare them for entering the workforce; Starting

Strong Pre-K - assisted in securing seven (7) additional Pre-K classrooms across Morgan County; Hosted additional SWeETy (Summer Welding and Electrical Technology) camp for 9th -12th grade girls. Decatur Morgan Hospital West Campus - Volunteer Hospital Association (VHA) leading practice blueprint conducted with 360 West Creative Writing program as the program received national recognition last year being named a 'Bright Idea' by the Volunteer Hospital Association (VHA). Robert Stofel, Education Coordinator and a developer of the 360 West Creative Writing program has started 'Create Your Scholarship.org', an online crowding funding community where teens come together to create, discover and share new reading and writing.

Decatur Youth Services - Decatur Youth Services has updated it's tracking system. Our date on the client we serve is updated. With our partnership with the Juvenile Court system, we have implemented our gang community service program and we have begun our community service for the drug court participants through the Juvenile Court System. We call this our entrepreneur program because we have the kids build bird houses and dog houses and we plan to sell them.

Launch Program - Recruited 75-125 young adults (16-21) to participate in the Launch Program; conducted (3) indoor/outdoor ROPES events teaching leadership skills, teamwork, life skills and development of social skills; mock job interviews

Lil Kidz Day School, Inc. - Early education for new Pre-K; CDA certification for 3 teachers; new OCR Classes.

Mental Health Association - 1) Child Safety Conference, 2) Red Ribbon Youth march, 3) Given the Opportunity Youth Grant web site 4) ADHD Summer Camp for 20 elementary aged children, 5) 'I'm Thumbody' self-esteem program, 6) 'Safe Dates' curriculum in middle & high schools, 6) Morgan County Youth Resource Guide interactive web site had 2,274 visits in 2013. 7) Youth Violence Through Social Media Prevention presentations were attended by 1,586 students, teachers and parents.

Mental Health Center for NC -: Provided outpatient psychiatric and mental health services for 891 children in FY 2012-2013; provided over 2,000 units of drug and alcohol prevention services for adolescents; provided on-site mental health treatment at numerous Decatur City and Morgan County Schools.

Morgan County Child Advocacy Center - Provides services to children and adolescents suspected of experiencing abuse; provided 108 forensic interviews FY 2012-2013; provided four (4) extended forensic interviews; the victim advocate provided services to 120 care givers and 240 contacts with these care givers; therapists provided 512 therapy sessions;

Morgan County Juvenile Drug Court: Agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Enrichment Center for children in drug court to receive substance abuse counseling; agreed on Memorandum of Understanding with Decatur Youth Services for children in drug court to do community service projects; Decatur Youth Services and Decatur Police Department will pay for a Police Officer to do community service projects for all children under the Court's jurisdiction; our office has a substance abuse counselor from the Mental Health Association in Morgan County two or three days a week.

Morgan County Schools: Added Pre-school classes at 3 schools; Implemented OCAP (Ongoing Assessment Program) for math in grades K-12; Strengthened all Title and EL programs in the county; Strengthened advisory programs and continued Leader in Me process in all schools; Credit Alternatives and Credit Recovery Education (CARE); ongoing training for CCRS.

Morgan County System of Services - Life Skills curriculum expanded to include art and resiliency education; 17 students returned to public school, 15 of whom had been expelled; 5 students earned a G.E.D.; 5 former students will receive a high school diploma in May; 3 students enlisted in Job Corps with 2 additional students in progress; 3 students assisted in successful referrals to Launch; SOS students participated in 2 holiday service projects with local non-profit organizations; 6 clients successfully completed mentoring program, with 100% demonstrating improvement in academic performance and decision making; 5 students successfully hired at local restaurants after receiving job application assistance and interview coaching; 56 parents completed parenting education, all reporting improvements in parenting skills and a decrease in their child's negative behaviors.

Neighborhood Christian Center: CAPS - College Assistance Program (2013 - 3 participants); Arts and Work Program - Summer work program in where at-risk teens serve as 'urban missionaries' participating in community service, performing arts and receiving relationship, job training and financial education. (2013 Summer program - 8 participants serving more than 562 local children); Christmas Pairing (2013 sponsored 48 families, serving 138 children). Christmas Toy Store (2013 served 555 children, giving away more than 11,500 toys).

Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) - Delivered safety programs to over 6,000 students in 1, 3, 7 and 10th grades in Morgan County; Delivered new born packets of information to over 800 mothers and support people delivering babies at Decatur Morgan Hospital; provided Family Assistance through Community Ties (FACT)

services at 7 schools; Healthy Marriages and Relationship Classes to more than 200 individuals; Operate parenting classes and prenatal classes for over 100 people; added 3 Parents as Teachers home visitor positions through our First Teachers Grant award.

2014 Needs Assessment for Morgan

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>Community Action: School Based Mentoring; Early Head Start/Head Start/Foster Grandparents/Family Literacy; Decatur, Hartselle & Morgan County Schools: Credit Recovery Program; Volunteer Center of Morgan County; PAT (Parents as Teachers), FACT (Family Assistance through Community Ties); Boys/Girls Club: Education/Career/Character Development/Leadership;</p> <p>The GAME Plan mentoring partnership SOS/Volunteer Center; King James School GED/tutoring/advocate for children; Morgan Decatur Chamber of Commerce Pre-K initiative; Decatur City Schools One to One program laptops for 5/6 grades; Reading through Rotary; Foster Grandparents tutoring in school systems; DSC Title 1 schools receiving tutoring; Athens State established non-certification early childhood program for Headstart teacher who need degrees; Decatur Youth Services: Adult classes for GED and tutoring; Calhoun Community College; SOS complete comprehensive education, GED and tutoring services; DCS restructuring classes for graduation; DCS partnering with Calhoun Community College for career/tech classes; JU Court began truancy court for parent & child; MD Minority Leaders supporting the pre-k initiative; Pre-K Initiative grant administered by United Way; Pre-K info at www.morganstartingstrong.com</p>	<p>Development and implementation of programs to provide nutritional meals to youth involved in out-of-school activities such as tutoring, GED preparation and summer camps; Money to support improvement in quality early care; funding for tutoring, training for program leaders, pre-k and early education, programs to fill in the gap for families that do not meet the Federal Poverty guidelines for All Kids; additional classroom computers; more parent educators for parenting teens; additional funding to provide additional FACT programs in County schools; the educational system and mental health providers; additional public transportation service routes and funding for CDL drivers; transportation for all agencies; awareness of the public of CPC programs (media coverage); involve Center for Developmentally Disabled (ages 0-3); coordinate businesses for job shadowing/employment/meetings with students; school counselor on the CPC (contact has been made with 2 school counselors); petition for variety of graduation tracks for the non-college bound student; qualified volunteers for mentoring; assess the effect of Obama Care on all kids; need WIFI throughout all school systems; increase teaching level for GED classes; increase the use of 211</p>

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

1. Coordinate linking resources from state, county and city resources/agencies to accomplish the same goals.
2. Identify businesses that will provide on the job training, job shadowing, speaking at group meetings about the skills needed for employment.
3. Increase safety/security measures for schools.
4. Survey local and regional school systems to investigate alternatives available locally as well as regionally for non-traditional graduation options.

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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>Decatur Launch: GED and job search, pay for 2 years of college expenses, budgeting classes; Volunteer Center: Summer Youth Volunteer expose teenagers to non-profits to experience different types of employment that might be available to them; Neighborhood Christian Center: Life Skills and Life Healing Choices classes in jails and prison, free field trips to local business and budget classes; Morgan County Juvenile Court Parent Project and drug testing; Morgan County Sheriff and Community Corrections formed work release program; Big Brothers/Big Sisters match children with good role models to expose the child to good examples (can come up to age 15 without being assigned mentor); Community Action provides utility assistance both winter and summer; Decatur Youth Services teaches GED classes; Calhoun Community College - English as Second Language classes; Career Center matching 17-21 year olds with local company and supplementing the wages of the child in hopes the child will be hired permanently; PACT classes on relationship development; Athens State University established non-certification program for Head Start teachers who need degrees; Decatur Youth Services: Tutoring for adults and teenagers, free school supplies; Decatur C of C job listing site; NCC to begin Life Skill classes for JU Court; SMART MOVES alcohol, drug & tobacco program for youth; Chamber of Commerce acquired \$100,000 per year award from the local legislative delegation for Pre-K Initiative</p>	<p>Programs for training of youth with criminal records for job training and readiness; Transportation or money for gas vouchers; Childcare so parents can attend classes and work; More male role models for young men; Central site for notification of job opening and opportunities; More business contacts for employment; Continue funding for child support services from DHR; To provide GED or high school graduates with scholarship information, grants, certification programs and alternatives available; Additional English as Second Language classes; Legislative delegation participation.</p>

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

1. Obtain a list of the Chamber of Commerce Members (Morgan/Decatur and Hartselle) for the purpose of engaging more employers for job training.
2. Create one internet site with all job listings by asking local employment agencies and state employment offices for the information.
3. Encourage our local legislative delegation to attend CPC meetings for the purpose of exchanging information and ideas on economic developments in the area and the impact of the same on the local work force.

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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>MHA: Annual Child Safety Conference, ADHD summer camp; SOS/Juvenile Court: Trauma Prevention class, JU Drug Court, mental health and substance abuse screening; PACT: healthy relationship classes, BabyTalk; Child Advocacy Center: accepting referrals from the community and continue working with victims of abuse through the court system; Decatur Youth Services: provides recreational opportunities for low-income children; DHR: partner with JU Court to start Family Drug Court; ADPH: disseminated materials on tobacco use and 2nd hand smoke, spoke to schools and conducted tobacco survey, Hartselle City Schools: Mental Health counselor for at risk students K-12, drug testing; Decatur City Schools: adding 7 grade for fy13 of Life Skills class; bullying, drug testing at middle school/high school levels; King James School: drug counseling/find employment; MHCNCA: partner with JU court, provide counselors at school systems, provide child psychologists, PEACE Project (DV); Crisis Services Center: DV training to students, DV training for PACT classes, housing for women and children of DV, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes awareness; Hospice of the Valley: grief support, Camp Hope, Survivors of Suicide, counseling to tornado victims; AGAPE of North Alabama making adoption a viable alternative; Partnership between Decatur Youth Services, DPD and JU Court to focus on gang activity.</p>	<p>Development of multi-media presentations to highlight the issues associated with bullying; Funding for sexual harassment and bullying program; larger facility for Decatur Youth Services; let the community know what is available from the different agencies; resources to expand drug treatment services; more community awareness of the affect DV has on children; better awareness of street/synthetic drugs and their effects; continuation of the Morgan County Substance Abuse Network (MCSAN)</p>

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

1. Identify funding for the above resources needed.
2. In conjunction with Priority 1 to access the effect of Obama Care on the available medical coverage for children.
3. Expansion of mental health awareness and substance abuse prevention services for children and adolescents.