

2014 Needs Assessment for Russell

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Accomplishments

In Family/Juvenile Drug Court

- 4 parents graduated from Family Dependency Court
- 1 Juvenile completed Juvenile Drug Court
- 1 parent/1 juvenile passed GED
- 8 parents entered, assessed and placed in substance abuse and GED programs
- 7 juveniles entered, assessed and placed in substance abuse programs
- 4 parents now employed as a result of drug court
- All current drug court participants are active in GED or attending school
- Most juveniles have tested drug free with only one positive drug screen on a new juvenile in June out of 7 juveniles
- Only one parent tested positive in May and one new individual tested positive in June out of 9 parents

Phenix City Head Start

- Served a total of 227 children
- 5 AL State First-Class Pre-K classrooms
- 213 children had continuous dental care
- 214 children met the 45 day requirement regarding dental/hearing and vision screenings
- 214 families were assisted in the following areas: housing, employment, obtaining clothes, counseling and mental health, health services and dental services
- 8 parent workshops were held to encourage parent participation

Russell County DHR

- 2 successful adoptions
- Food Stamp program became DSNAP and applicants can now access services / apply by telephone
- DHR partnered with Heart Gallery for an adoption awareness event in February 2014
- American Legion sponsored the first Annual Foster Parent Banquet in April
- Food Assistance and TANF Programs are required to address the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 with each applicant.

Children's Policy Council

- Sponsored a community event, 'Balls, Blocks and Buildings' with EAMH and Children's Dept. of Affairs in September

Children and Family Connections accomplishments since October 1, 2013 to the present date :

The Family Advocacy Program has served: 190 Adults and 152 children with Food Assistance

72 Adults with job searches

18 Families with Housing Assistance

216 Families with Referrals for Utility and Electric Assistance

27 Families with Budgeting

1 Family with In-home Intervention

The Fatherhood Program has served: 140 non-custodial fathers through fatherhood classes, employment assistance, case management, court advocacy, continuing education and relationship development with their children

Professional Counseling Program has served: 52 Adults

9 Children

6 Divorcing Parent Seminars

2 Couples with Marital Counseling

2 Participations in Court on behalf of families being served

1 Family Counseling

Legal Aide has served: 325 individuals with limited income with various legal concerns

'Be An Angel' Clothing Bank has served: 108 Families with clothing

The Affordable Care Act: Assisted 75 Families with acquiring insurance

Prescription Assistance: 25 Families were assisted in acquiring medication.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Truancy

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
School system and early warning program Attendance Officers	Identifying the causes of truancy may be a result of underlying issues such as transportation, parent's work schedule, substance abuse, etc.

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

1. Develop criteria for schools to utilize in determining when CHINS petitions should be brought and/or action initiated against the parents.
2. Insure early reporting of truancy problems and therefore early addressing of those problems, at least within 10-15 days.
3. Identify the causes of the truancy.
4. Determine which agencies and programs would be appropriate.
5. Developed and refer children to appropriate programs such as 'Success in School" through East Alabama Mental Health, Debra Love.
6. Have Success Academy offer full day (not half day) school and Saturday School.

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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:
Caring and concerned Policy Council Members and Service Providers in Russell County.	A better understanding of what each agency does and the criteria for services; location and hours and provision for the indigent.

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

1. Increase the lines of communication and interpersonal relationships between policy council members and services providers.
 2. Create a resource directory with includes the information listed below.
 3. Define the expectations on each program including:
 - a. The referral process which must be followed
 - b. Normal time frame for completion of the program
 - c. How the provider will report progress and completion to the court and other members of the CPC
 4. Have a designated liaison from either Mental Health, DHR or any other agency who would be present at court at designated times to meet with children and recommend to the court possible services the child would benefit from.
- A working

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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>Transportation, scheduling conflicts, unknown resources in the community, unknown information about resources available for assistance whether through court or not all lead to families and children in need in Russell County but unable to benefit from the wide variety of services available. A one-stop center for delivery of services would allow families/children to access resources at one time for all needs, potentially, whether centrally located in Phenix City or also located in the county to serve those residents further out.</p>	<p>A building for the one stop delivery of services Hours of operation for the one stop delivery of services Willingness of service providers to come together and agree on the cost to agencies/hours of operation/days of service/etc. Web site cost may be something out of reach unless through the county commission/city council web sites.</p>

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

1. Identify which providers would be willing to partner in such a location.
2. Identify what financial resources each such agency is currently devoting to their present location.
3. Determine appropriate times of operation for such a center (days per week)
4. Determine hours of operation
5. Determine needed staffing levels
6. Determine whether there should be satellite locations.
7. Develop a website to direct public to various service providers.
8. United Way 211 connect (low cost).