

# 2014 Needs Assessment for St. Clair

Judge Robert L. Minor/ District Judge and Chairman

Judge Alan Furr/ District Judge

Judge Phil Seay/ Circuit Judge

Cheryl Fagan/ Executive Director Carrie Leland

Senator Del Marsh Glenn Magargee

Representative Mack Butler Peggy Mann

Representative Jim McClendon Marie Manning

Representative Randy Wood Julie Mariott

Connie Allen Aisha Martin

Michael Barber Amber McKinstry

Stan Batemon Richard Minor

Samantha Bridgewater Pam Mobley

Christa Bryant Billy Murray

Mitzi Carden Latoya Orr

Terry Davis Cherri Pilkington

Wendy Davis Carol Potter

Debbie Dukes John Rea

Tammy Gibbs Jenny Seals

Jane Glass Melinda Splawn

David Gray Dionne Stevens

Cyndy Henderson Myrus Strong

Suzette Harrison Terry Surles

Susan Hood Angela Taylor

Patsy Isbell Amber Uptain

Liletta Jenkins

## Accomplishments

The St. Clair Children's Policy Council had a great 2013! We continue to have bi-monthly meetings, alternating sometimes between our two county seats, Ashville and Pell City. Our speakers for each meeting have been informative and inspirational. Don Smith, Executive Director of the St. Clair County Economic Development Council spoke to us about the 5-year strategic plan that will continue through 2019. In November our guest was Shorty Goodwin, a veteran and POW during World War II. Judge Jim Hill, the first chair of our CPC spoke to us in January, 2014 about how far our organization has come over the years. In March, Carol Potter with Tri-County CASA spoke to us about the progress of this group in our county, Talladega and Calhoun Counties. Susie McClanahan from Lakeside Hospice spoke to us in May. Susie facilitates an excellent program in our area entitled "Good Grief", which addresses death and loss and the effects on children.

During the summer of 2013, our CPC participated in the Pell City Block Party by giving away "Have A Safe Summer" coloring books that were provided by our local Civitan group. We also helped collect and distribute school supplies to individual families with a need, plus delivered boxes of supplies to all of the schools in Pell City and St. Clair County. We greatly appreciated the help we received from Refuge Ministries, Hands on Birmingham and many local churches.

Our CPC was active during the fall. Many of our members participated in an Anti-Bullying Town Hall meeting sponsored by the St. Clair County Extension Office. We began a "Kids Can" food drive with the schools in Pell City collecting food to be distributed to the food banks in our area. They collected and delivered over 2400 food items for the 6 local food banks. The CPC also worked with Refuge Ministries and purchased coats for all of the 214 children attending St. Clair County Head Start.

The Safe School Initiative through JBS is still going great in the St. Clair County School System. The Mustard Seed Society continues to promote and expand their equine therapy and suicide prevention programs. The County Extension Office now has a Veteran's Services office to help our military families with education, employment and physical/emotional health. Our CPC Executive Director attended the "Doing What Matters for Alabama's Children" workshop in Tuscaloosa on January 29, stayed for an hour, started driving home in the unexpected snow storm and ended up spending the night in her car on I20! Many lessons were learned that day! January 2014 gave us even more opportunities to help the children and families in our county.

St. Clair County Head Start had a wonderful year! They received one of the grants for a Pre-K classroom through the DCA. They also received a grant for a Pharmacy Technician program for 16 of their single moms. This was a 12 week program and all 16 of these smart ladies finished and graduated along with the Head Start students at their graduation celebration in May. Head Start received another grant for the same program that will begin with another group in the fall. The Pell City campus of Jeff State and First United Methodist Church provided much needed support and meals for these ladies.

Our CPC supported our Children's Advocacy Center by purchasing a table for their annual Abuse Prevention/Awareness luncheon held in April. Over \$9000 was raised. This money will help facilitate their abuse prevention programs in the county.

We are excited about 2 things that are coming up this summer. The St. Clair Children's Policy Council will be hosting one of the DCA's Regional Workshops on the Jeff State campus in Pell City on Friday, August 22. We are also working with Head Start to bring a Books, Balls and Blocks event to their campus on Tuesday, July 15. We also plan to hold our school supply drive during the month of July. The St. Clair CPC is also proud of our Executive Director, Cheryl Fagan, who was awarded the Billy J. McCain, Sr. Excellence in Community Service award from the Alabama Head Start Association in October, 2013 and from the Region IV Head Start Association in February, 2014.

# 2014 Needs Assessment for St. Clair

## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Child Safety

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Safe Schools initiative in St. Clair County Schools through JBS Age appropriate abuse prevention programs in grades K - 8 through the Children's Advocacy Center Cyberbullying and Internet Safety programs through the St. Clair District Attorney's office Mustard Seed Society/ Suicide Prevention Mental health providers School Counselors Security Resource Officers DAY Program Continuing education for school personnel "First Aid" for non-professional school personnel through JBS Early Warning	Funding for materials needed for school-based abuse prevention programs More available mental health professionals on campus Big Brothers/ Big Sisters

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

Request help to purchase materials from civic organizations

Provide quarterly information to parents about important issues dealing with safety in schools

# 2014 Needs Assessment for St. Clair

## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Healthy Living

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Boys and Girls Club Juvenile Drug Court Early Warning JPO/ Pell City and Ashville Ann's New Life Center Children's Advocacy Center Mental health facilities DHR St. Clair County Sheriff's office Mustard Seed Society Parents as Teachers CASA School Nurses School Counselors Health Department	Summer programs for elementary/ middle school children Extended Day at several elementary schools Parent Project Scholarships so that children who want to participate in sports can do so Court ordered Anger Management/Life Skills through JBS and St. Clair County Courts

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

Approach County Commission and City Councils about sports scholarships possibilities. Also Civic groups and Parks and Recreation in each community

Start Extended Day program in 2 elementary schools

Funding for the Abstinence Program for 6th graders in the city and county schools

# 2014 Needs Assessment for St. Clair

## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Family Safety

<b>Existing resources available to help meet this need include:</b>	<b>Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:</b>
Head Start Parents as Teachers Domestic Violence prevention through YWCA shelter JBS Mental Health facilities DHR/ Protective Services Gateway/ Domestic Violence Intervention Program Sheriff's office Lakeside Hospice/ "Good Grief" Pre-K Classrooms Early Intervention UAB Early Head Start Transitions divorce classes through Children's Advocacy Center Active PTOs and PTAs in all schools	Parenting classes when children are from birth - 5 Additional resources for family counseling

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

Work closely with schools. Get important developmental information into the hands of parents

Free website information on child development and expectations