

FOCUS on Children's Policy Councils

The Alabama Children's Policy Council (CPC) system originated from the Alabama Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils and is designed to support providers of children's services as they work collaboratively in developing community service plans to address the needs of children ages 0-19 and their families. By creating a CPC in each county, the unique needs of each community can be addressed. At the state level, these local needs become the driving force for children's policies.

By creating six sub-committees, a county CPC takes a comprehensive approach to helping its families:

- Economic Security
- Health
- Safety
- Education
- Parental Involvement and Skills
- Early Care and Education

Throughout the year, CPC members review the needs of children and families in their community then report their results in a Needs Assessment. This Needs Assessment serves as a blueprint for the counties, state, and legislators to assign priorities to needs and implement programs and services to provide for the needs.

FOCUS is an active partner with the CPC system in the counties throughout the state by supporting efforts and activities in the respective needs of each community regarding health, safety, and education of our children and youth in respect to risk behaviors that impact learning and their future. Every county and community is different, the needs are different, and the intervention and prevention activities that undergird these needs are different. With the involvement of FOCUS in the middle and high schools, these students are empowered to help "Make A Difference" on their respective campuses.

FOCUS Staff attend the CPC meetings statewide to learn more about the needs of each county and community in hopes to provide those resources and speakers that could be used. This partnership not only impacts lives but also provides opportunities for the FOCUS students to build leadership skills and a heart for community service.

For more information on the Children's Policy Councils of Alabama visit their website:

<http://www.alcpc.org/>

For more information on FOCUS visit our website:

<https://www.thefocusprogram.com/>