

MCCPC Accomplishments

The MCCPC Strategic Plan is used to guide our action throughout the year.

We specifically addressed our top three priorities: Children are Successful in School; Children are Healthy; and Children and Families are Strong and Stable.

Mentored Madison County CPC in council development

- **Community Action Partnership – Head Start – advocate for age appropriate interaction, education and expectations for children ages 0-5 within the family system.**
- **Mentoring – Volunteer Center, Boys to Men, Girls to Women, Foster Grandparents,**

- **Sean Miller Boot Camp – Research curriculum for healthy eating and advocate for all families in the community for healthy eating (childhood obesity)**
- **In order to address childhood obesity, MCCPC agency members have collaborated together to start a community garden – West Gate Garden. Decatur Youth Services, Community Action, Volunteer Center of Morgan County, Boys and Girls Clubs, City of Decatur, Decatur General Hospital, Alabama Cooperative Extension. The garden is located near public housing in northwest Decatur. The garden provides an opportunity for senior citizens and youth to learn from another. They will work side by side to man the garden. Classes on nutrition and gardening will be taught this summer to neighborhood children. The senior citizens and youth will be the recipients of the harvest. The garden is helping to revitalize the community.**

- **Lori Derrick – PACT – Teen Pregnancy Prevention – “disseminate information of current research trends regarding teen pregnancy and its prevention”**

- **“Be Ready Morgan County” – Jessica Payne – The Volunteer Center of Morgan County - disseminate information to the council about how to “be ready” for an emergency situation**

- **Members of the MCCPC worked with Mental Health Association to put on the Child Safety Conference – an**

- **Youth Resource Directory – Members of the MCCPC provided information**

THE MCCPC coordinated a workshop “How to Maximize Your Chances of Securing Grant Funding” for members of the community. The purpose of workshop was for individuals and organizations of gain a better understanding of the steps necessary to complete funding applications; learn what to do in preparation for a grant application; learn where to look for grant monies and learn how to research potential funders. Bill Giguere, a MCCPC, member was the presenter. 33 people attended

Children are Healthy and Strong – Cindy coordinated with Bruce Jones from Decatur Youth Services, a MCCPC, member to speak at the Regional Conference. They spoke on current trends in drugs, gangs, bullying (social media).

We added 21 new members

On average had 27 in attendance

: Decatur General West Behavioral Health Center

Accomplishments

Treated over 300 children and adolescents for acute psychiatric care.

Decatur Career Center

Accomplishments

Met with out of school youth to familiarize them with the services available through the Career Center. Those services include: Workforce Investment Act Scholarships for up to two years of career training in specific fields recognized as high income and high employment. Those qualifying for this program then receive various assessments and counseling to match their interest and abilities with career opportunities through advanced training. The monitoring of progress continues though the training period and for an additional year to determine effectiveness of program. The Center also provides help enrolling with the Alabama Career Center System's JobLink online database program to access job listings throughout the state; and providing additional help with presentation of their skills and experience to prospective employers by resume and personal interview. Center administers programs to assess workers in identifying their skill levels associated with the WorkKeys assessment (Career Ready Certificate) and to increase those skill level scores.

In Morgan County our top priority is Children are Successful in School. We know that children can only be successful if they are safe in school. That is why we are so very proud that several schools in our have been recipients of the Attorney General's Safe School Award for exhibiting extraordinary efforts toward providing a safe learning environment - most recently, Brookhaven Middle School, Cedar Ridge Middle School, and Chestnut Grove Elementary School.

Many MCCPC Member Agencies were instrumental in accomplishing our 2009 Action Plan. Below is a list of a few of these agencies:

Morgan County Juvenile Court – Excessive truancy component continues on the Parent Docket to monitor parents' involvement to insure their children attend school.

Parents are made a party and placed on two years probation in an effort to reduce truancy in the school system.

Juvenile Probation Office applied to DYS for electronic monitoring to cut down on commitments to DYS. Only 28 juveniles had been committed to DYS on average for the past three years when an average of 100 per year was committed for the ten years before.

Morgan County System of Services - Students prepare for the GED exam with certified teachers using the computer assisted PACE program and individualized academic instruction. SOS also provides instruction for students expelled from public school but who are expected to return. The HANDS home, an 8-bed residential facility for girls, age 10 - 18, who are abused, truant, ungovernable, homeless or runaway has proven to be successful in filling a gap in services for reaching girls before they enter the juvenile justice or social services system

PACT – Parents and Children Together (PACT) - Student Awareness is a series of school programs presented in grades one, three, seven and ten to students in all Decatur City Schools, Hartselle City Schools, Morgan County Schools and private schools upon request. The age appropriate programs are designed to make children knowledgeable of abusive and neglectful situations, to teach them how to respond to these situations and to understand the feelings and emotions which might be associated with these situations. These programs involve teachers, counselors and parents. Elementary Student Awareness Programs - Tricky People and Better Safe than Sorry; Middle School -Ridin' the Roller Coaster; High School -The Parenting Profession. Additional information about these programs can be found at <http://www.pactfamily.org>.

Chamber of Commerce – The Leader in Me - The Leader in Me program is a public-private partnership between the Chamber, Decatur City Elementary Schools, local government and business entities and the Franklin Covey Company. The program, which is the first The Leader in Me pilot project in the United States, implements the principals of the 7 Habits for Highly Effective People into the schools. The program is designed to teach students and faculty to become proactive, results-oriented and to understand the value and synergy of working together as a team.

Partners in Education- The Partners-In-Education program links area businesses and industries with schools in Decatur, Hartselle and Morgan County to provide educational opportunities for the students and increase the awareness of area businesses and industries.

Additional programs include Edge Student Leadership, and Companies in the Classroom, Senior Surveys and Educational Enhancement.

Mental Health Association of Morgan County- Bully Proofing the School - A prevention program designed to help students and adults work together to create a safe

and caring school community where teachers can teach and students can learn, The program utilizes a team approach involving administrators, teachers, support staff, students and the community to change the climate in the school.

Decatur City Schools – Diploma Program Horizon High School follows the Alabama State Course of Study and uses the textbooks adopted by Decatur City Schools. The Diploma Program follows the curriculum used at Austin High School and Decatur High School. The method of presentation differs greatly from methods traditionally used. Material presented is individually paced, allowing students to complete the semester in the traditional eighteen weeks. The Horizon High School Diploma Program is small enough to allow individualized presentation of education material. Three week progress reports and six weeks report cards are mailed to the student's home. Parental involvement is encouraged and important to a student's academic success.

9th Grade Academy - The 9th Grade Academy program was established in 2005. The program is designed to assist students who are retained in the 8th grade recover his/her academic standing. The 9th Grade Academy also follows the Alabama Course of Study and uses the textbooks adopted by Decatur City Schools. The 9th Grade Academy follows the curriculum used at Austin High School and Decatur High School. The traditional methodology of instruction is used when presenting the curriculum. The small setting allows for more individualized instruction which impacts the student's ability to understand the material. Students attending the 9th Grade Academy have the opportunity to earn 9th grade credit. Upon successful completion of the academic year, the students return to their assigned high schools as 10th graders

Night/Guest Program - Senior students who attend Decatur City Schools and need credit(s) to graduate, may take up to two additional semester core courses during the afternoon/evening at Horizon. The four core subjects are offered Monday through Thursday. The Night/Guest program uses the instructional methodology and curriculum units as the Diploma program. Students attending the Night/Guest program must pay tuition.

Summer School Program. The Horizon Summer School program is open to students who regularly attend Horizon High School or the Center for Alternatives to Expulsion. Austin High School and Decatur High School students may be admitted under extenuating circumstances. The four core subjects are offered during the Summer School program. Students may take a maximum of three semester courses. The Summer School program uses the instructional methodology and curriculum units as the Diploma program. Students attending the Summer School program must pay tuition.

Pregnancy Homebound Program - The Pregnancy Homebound program offers a pregnant student the opportunity to enroll at Horizon High School for the length of the pregnancy. The student attends classes at Horizon High School until the delivery of the baby or the doctor orders her to go on homebound. At that time, the student is given the work to complete at home. Following the birth of the baby, the student may continue at Horizon or return to her home school.

The DCS Credit Recovery Program has recovered over 600 course credits of struggling high school students since beginning during the summer of 2009.

DCS employs a transition coordinator and a job coach to ease completing special needs graduates into their chosen career fields.

Austin and Decatur High Schools have active Business and Marketing Cooperative Education programs that combine business and marketing instruction with on-the-job training for junior and senior students.

DCS partners with the Chamber of Commerce each February to host a Career Expo for area students.

The Chamber of Commerce provides Career Coaches to schools to discuss job and career options with students.

DCS partners with Junior Achievement to promote Groundhog Day Job Shadowing for students each year.

Hartselle City Schools

Credit recovery is a new program that was launched this past year. It is a before school (and summer) program whereby students who failed to master coursework in a particular class will be able to take remedial work on line, show mastery of all the course concepts, and receive credit for the course. There were 20 credit hours recovered during the 2009-2010 school year.

Additionally, there were 30 students involved in job shadowing.

Morgan County Schools - Morgan County Learning Center – Mom’s program - Within 2 years of its initiation – the drop out rate of percentage of pregnant students attending the program has gone from 28% to 0%.

PACE Technology Labs; ACCESS programs (Distance Learning); AHSGE (Alabama High School Graduation Exam); Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and Mobile Maysville Mathematics Initiative (MMI) are all statistically proven programs used within the school systems to help increase the graduation rates.

Mentoring Programs

Volunteer Center of Morgan County- Friend 2 Friend Mentoring Program. This is a one-to-one mentoring service that pairs an adult volunteer with a child in need of

additional time, support and attention. Volunteer mentors commit to spend one hour per week or three hours per month with their student for at least one school year. Mentors can choose their mentee's age group (K-12) or specific school to visit. All mentoring visits are held during the school day on school property. The day and time is set around the mentor's schedule. Mentors are currently in schools in Decatur and Hartselle.

GED Classes

Decatur Youth Services offers GED classes every Tuesday and Thursday in June from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Ages 16 years and older

Tutorial Program - Provides homework assistance and educational enhancement to middle and high school students Monday thru Thursday 3:00 – 6:00 PM.

Decatur Dream Center English as a Second Language (ESL) classes provide instruction for adults whose native language is not English. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes are offered. Classes taught weekly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Decatur Dream Center. Classes are available as a result of a cooperative effort between the Dream Center, Calhoun Community College and local volunteers; educational training - educational training is offered to anyone 16 years of age or older who is not enrolled in school. Training designed to assist those individuals who are working toward their GED (GED prep) that have not yet reached the 6th grade level. Classes are offered weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Decatur Dream Center counseling, and children's activities. Approximately 250 families per month receive services at the Decatur Dream Center.

Department of Rehabilitation Services - Counseling at high schools and counseling to young adults ages 14-23 by helping them prepare for jobs and/or college.

Community Action Partnership – Head Start Programs - Added four regular HS classrooms in Morgan County in January; added 48 slots (five early HS Classrooms and one Home Based Option in May); added dozens of new employees; had our triennial review, responded to the two non-compliances with a Program improvement Plan and have completed the re-review; had dozens of employees participate in several different high-quality training opportunities; upgraded our computer presence in every classroom; worked to accomplish meaningful outcomes for parents and families; maintained full enrollment and achieved an 85.5% attendance rate overall; built great partnerships across our 12 county service area; added 4 Special Needs Aides and added two Education Resource Specialists.

TMI (Teens Making Impact) was taught to Austin High School students by Marcus Garner, Urban Regional Extension Agent I, 4-H and Youth Development and **SERT (Student Emergency Response Training)** was taught by Marsha Hill of the Volunteer Center of Morgan County. Student Emergency Response Training (SERT) Program educates middle school and high school students, ages 12-17, about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical

operations. TMI classes prepare teens to adopt healthier lifestyles, make career decisions and to better understand government issues and their role as productive citizens. A series of five lessons include: health and physical fitness; life choices; etiquette; career focus and civic education.

The Enrichment Center -Children in the Middle program provides counseling for children of families going through a divorce. The class remains full.

The Mental Health Association of Morgan County under the leadership of Sue Brantley offers a summer camp for children in grades 1-5 who have been medically diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or other emotional disorders.

Community Action Partnership of North Alabama – Youth Development – offers an academic enrichment program. Jump into Action Summer Day Camp which is designed for *low income families* with students entering 9th grade living in the Hartselle area (but open with special consideration) who are struggling with math and science. The program focuses on enrichment classes to jump-start the transition from junior high to high school. Activities will cover Public Speaking, Leadership, Character Development, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Language Arts and so many others. Breakfast and lunch is being provided. The program has room for 25 students and is free of charge.

Children are Healthy - Percentage of High School Youth Reporting Past 30-day use of any illicit drug

MCSAN (Morgan County Substance Abuse Network)

The Morgan County Substance Abuse Network is a substance abuse prevention community coalition serving Morgan County, Alabama. Its primary mission is to reduce and eliminate the causes and impact of substance abuse among youth. Its dual goals are to prevent and reduce substance abuse by youth and strengthen community collaboration among community-based, private and governmental entities to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse. For example, each year MCSAN hosts a Child Safety Conference wherein the MCCPC members collaborate with various other agencies in an effort to educate the community. The emphasis this year was on underage drinking; school safety in response to on-campus shooters; technology's impact on teens and pornography addiction; recent research on how brain imaging can identify adolescent behavior to help reduce risk factors; infectious diseases that affect children and current legal and illegal youth trends and how to view the trends. The conference is always very well attended by educators, nurses, social workers and parents.

ABC Board - Responsible Vendor Training - The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Morgan County District Attorney's Office and the Morgan County Substance Abuse Network sponsored Responsible Vendor Trainings in September 2009. The trainings were focused on front-line workers - cashiers and managers - to teach

proactive ways of avoiding violations and decreasing the current percentage of successful buys of alcohol and tobacco by minors.

Mental Health Association –Project ID - The goal of Project ID is to reward students who make the decision not to use drugs. Based on reward, not punishment, Project ID is simply positive reinforcement of a drug free lifestyle. This is a voluntary drug testing program in which students may participate. The total number of student participants in 2009 was 2,134 with 99% testing drug free. This year Hartselle City Schools also participated in Project I. D. In addition, athletes and club members are also randomly drug tested. If they test positive, they can receive free counseling and a mental health counselor comes to the school once a week.

A Parent Handbook - “What You Need to Know” was distributed to every child enrolled in school in Morgan County, Decatur City and Hartselle City. More than 7,000 copies were distributed.

Red Ribbon March – More than 1,000 individuals participated in the 18th Annual Red Ribbon Youth March on October 3, 2009. This Drug Free Parade consisted of school age children in Morgan County.

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most – MSCAN and Channel 31, ABC affiliate co-sponsored the Parents Who Host Campaign and was supported by Quest Recovery Center. This public awareness campaign was developed by the Ohio Drug-Free Action Alliance in 2000. The campaign objectives are to educate parents about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen house parties and to increase awareness of and compliance with underage drinking laws.

The Decatur City Schools (DCS) Resource Officer Program expanded with a new officer, Maddie, a drug dog who is devoted to the DCS during the school year. She is supervised by SRO Mike Landrum. She is the only school system assigned drug dog in the state and is paid for by a partnership with the Decatur Police Department and community donations.

Families are Strong and Stable – Single Parent Families with Children

Morgan County has a multitude of well supported after school and summer activities. Member agencies work together throughout the year to devise programs to suit the needs of a diverse population of youth. These programs address a variety of needs within the community.

Decatur Youth Services saw an increase in the number of youth applying for Summer Youth Service. More than 1,237 children were served throughout the year. DYS anticipates even larger numbers this summer in their Summer Youth Employment Work Training Program which places youth ages 14-15 at non-profit sites to work 4 hours each day, 5 days week for a total of 120 hours. If they complete the program they get a stipend of \$375.00. Additionally, DYS offers a Summer Day Camp for kids ages 6 through 13, 5

days a week, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The camp focuses on reading and math, arts and crafts, Girls Scouts, Decatur Youth Symphony, Extension System and other community agencies.

DYS also offers a Summer Lunch Program wherein they feed approximately 1600 hundred kids 18 and under each day lunch and breakfast. DYS ends the summer fun with a Back to School Jam, where they give over one thousand student book bags and school supplies.

The Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC) is a faith based center that offers Summer Youth Arts/Work Program. Teens from the community they serve are trained to go out and share with other kids at the Boys & Girls Club, Carrie Matthews, and other low-income areas. They perform skits, dances, dramas, play games, and do crafts with the children encouraging them to be the best that they can be. These teens also take the Jobs for Life course and financial budgeting (investing 70% of their weekly stipend in a savings account that they can use when the program is over, through this they learn delayed gratification in the area of finances). They also work to create 2 hour play reflective of their life style and go on tour at the end of the summer (this year to Memphis and St. Louis) performing the play to more than 1200 people.

The Volunteer Center of Morgan County offers Summer Youth Volunteering Programs for the summer for kids from ages 10-18 years of age. The Volunteer Center offers two different programs. KIVS (Kids in Volunteer Service) is a program for 10-12 years olds. The program is designed to give these kids experience in volunteering at a variety of non-profits and community centers. This year the KIVS program has seen an increase in participants from 5 to 70. Another program is for kids ages 13-18. These kids select a volunteer “job” online at www.vcomc.org and schedule an appointment to interview for the “job”. The students are then placed in one of the 55 positions available.

Mental Health Center - Summer Camp – A two week camp for children that have been medically diagnosed with emotional conflicts or attention deficit disorders.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Morgan County - Power Hour: Making Minutes Count and Project Learn -both of these programs focus on assisting youth with skills necessary to excel in school.

Decatur Youth Services – Employment - Youth Employment Program. The purpose of this program is to aid and assist teens age 14 and up in finding employment year round, with a special summer program. Monthly teen jobs and careers workshop provides informative presentations from businesses in the surrounding areas. Weekly teen job listings available each week. Summer youth employment application for ages 14 and 15 years of age are available in the month of March.

Free Summer Lunch Program - This is to ensure that children age 18 and under get a healthy meal everyday throughout the summer months. Lunches are provided throughout the City of Decatur at 22 sites. Over 1,700 children under the age of 18 are fed daily.

Parent Project - This program offers parenting tips to parents of strong willed children. This is a very successful program. The classes are 10 sessions.

PACT (Parents and Children Together) - Baby Talk - Baby Talk is a series of 8 prenatal classes for expecting parents or other caregivers. All classes are free and are offered at the PACT office. These classes offer support and training in all vital areas of childbirth and infant care. . Bebe Hablano is the Spanish version of Baby Talk and is offered throughout the year with a Spanish interpreter translating for these classes.

Healthy Relationships 101: "Healthy Marriages Matter" -Goals are to promote healthy and stable marriages, to create viable statewide healthy relationship initiatives, and to significantly reduce risk for children and adults. Key word is "Healthy," and does not encourage dangerous or highly conflicted relationships.

PACT is working closely in partnership with the Neighborhood Christian Center and Victory Hope Family Center to ensure a successful outcome for these programs. **Kids and You** - The Kids & You parenting series provides the only free parenting classes available in the community. Many families who contact PACT are distressed by lack of parenting support. These classes offer that support. Topics covered include:

Newborn Program -The newborn program offers a packet of literature to all new mothers who deliver in the two hospitals in Morgan County: Trained volunteers deliver these packets to each hospital room. The educational packets include the following information: normal child growth and development; immunizations; shaken baby syndrome; child passenger safety; safe sleeping habits for baby; expectations for new fathers; parent resource phone book. **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** – All parents benefit from this parent education program that provides month-by-month guidelines on what to expect as your child grows and develops. This helps parents give their children the best possible start in life. PACT offers PAT to the community, as well as to Decatur City high school students.

Resource Directory of Activities for Children/Youth – A resource directory of activities for children/youth is being developed by the Volunteer Center of Morgan County, Morgan County Children's Policy Council and Mental Health Center of Morgan County. An on-line guide for the community will be established using funding from the drug-free community grant. The guide will have the ability to be updated on-line by MCCPC agencies due to the seasonal nature of youth programs. The target date for the guide is the Spring of 2011.

Decatur City Schools also began system-wide bus transportation during the 2008-2009 school year. Currently DCS daily serves more than twice the number of anticipated students from initial projections. DCS has more than doubled the number of buses transporting students to school each day from two years ago.

Additional Accomplishments

In addition to developing and maintaining programs to accomplish the items listed in our 2009 action plan, we had on average 21 members present at every meeting and we also added 10 new members. Each committee member has worked diligently toward reaching the goals in our Strategic Plan which is updated annually. We educate our members by bringing in guest speakers to address topics of concern.

Donna McKinley, Executive Director/Real Talk Youth Summit. Mrs. McKinley told the MCCPC that the Web site <http://realtalkyouthsummit.com> provides information for teenagers and adults about relevant issues of the youth culture. Individuals can research topics, read personal stories and contribute information. It is also set up to educate adults, reach schools and provide a place for teenagers to talk freely. Through a confidential on-line conversation with counselors at Real Talk, teenagers have the opportunity to talk with an anonymous person. Teenagers really just want grown-ups to hear them and not judge them.

Donna encouraged parents and other adults to spend more time with the teenagers in their lives. The average parent only spends 4.5% of their time or barely more than one hour with their teens. The remaining time, the teens spend with their peers.

Mrs. McKinley stated that Real Talk offers programs for parents to help teach their teenagers coping skills. Talking with teenagers about their actions and the potential consequences so they can make informed decisions is one of Real Talk's objectives. Educating adults is as important as educating teenagers. Parents, school personnel and concerned citizens can use the website to become more aware of what is out there in the community and stay abreast of new drugs, etc. Donna stated that she and Mike Dunlap, the father of a 16 year old girl from Decatur, Alabama who committed suicide, would like to see Real Talk go statewide and reach teens across all of Alabama.

Joy Rhodes-Watkins, Tobacco Prevention and Control Coordinator, addressed the MCCPC about candy flavored cigarettes. Tobacco companies have been adding flavors such as chocolate, lime, pineapple, toffee, coconut, vanilla, berry, watermelon and apple flavors to cigarettes in an effort to addict kids and subject them to a lifetime addiction which could lead to possibly premature death. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act recently passed and gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate tobacco products. Tobacco companies can no longer prey on America's kids with deceitful advertising and candy flavored cigarettes.

She encouraged the MCCPC to help make sure the FDA acts promptly to ensure compliance with the deadline banning candy flavored cigarettes by submitting comments in support of the implementation of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. Some tobacco companies may try to claim that some flavored cigarettes are not covered by the law.

The Volunteer Center of Morgan County distributed SEX, Q&A Kids' Questions-Parents' Answers to MCCPC members. This handbook is published by Alabama Department of Public Health.

Marsha Hill, SERT (Student Emergency Response Training)/CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Training) coordinator from the Volunteer Center of Morgan County, presented "I'm Ready, Are You?" training for MCCPC members. Additional information was given to each member including an "Are You Ready?" handbook an in-depth guide to citizen preparedness published by FEMA. Alarming, this year alone, we have been faced with disasters including tornados and oil spills. It is becoming more necessary for citizens to become emergency ready in order to lend a hand.

Launch – Workforce Investment Act Initiative. Launch offers GED prep and financial assistance for post secondary training, including professional and career guidance provided by professional counseling staff. The program targets out of school youth between the ages of 16-21.

Lesley Shelton of Youth Villages informed the MCCPC about Youth Villages and who their programs serve, including children with behavioral problems, DHR preservation cases and multi-needs children and children in need of intensive in-home services targeting child behavior and parent/child interaction.