

# Volusia County Community Needs Assessments

Below is a list of efforts recorded with the purpose of assessing the community needs within the health and human services field in Volusia County over the last 30 years. This list is an ongoing effort and updates will be added as necessary.

One Voice for Volusia compiled this information under the auspices of its Community Needs and System Capacity Objective of the 2007 Strategic Plan. **The strategy:** *to develop an historic timeline outlining previous and current efforts to study community needs in order to better analyze strengths, gaps and barriers.*

This process involved interviewing key community leaders, reviewing several published reports and conducting an exercise with the One Voice for Volusia membership and is therefore anecdotal in its nature. **All efforts that are still in place/underway are identified by the red title.** A timeline of the below efforts is found on page 8.

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## **ADM Planning Council**

**Date(s):** 1980's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Created in Florida Statute, headed by Department of Children and Families (formerly HRS)

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:**

**Pros:** Engaged the community leaders and provided development plans for a continuum of care with substance abuse and mental health. Regarded as highly effective group and helped achieve an equitable distribution of funds.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** Equitable level of funds allocated. Disbanded when the Community Alliance was formed.

## **Behavioral Health Consortium**

**Date(s):** 2003

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Healthy Communities

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Provides a forum for discussion, data collection, information sharing and products directed at improving outcomes for area behavioral healthcare services.

**Pros:** Excellent forum for collaboration among area providers.

**Cons:** Lack of funding for support staff

**Outcomes:** Meets on a monthly basis to identify issues affecting services and develop strategies to improve substance abuse & mental health services delivery.

## **Children and Families Advisory Board (formerly known as Children's Framework)**

**Date(s):** 1990

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** County of Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To establish a process to review and evaluate children services in Volusia County. Current mission: to promote healthy children and develop strong families, which contribute to their communities.

**Pros:** Provided tool for evaluating programs and services. Establishes funding criteria.

**Cons:** Children and community needs must exceed funding availability.

**Outcomes:** Changed the process of local grant review and funding allocation (The United Way, Department of Children and Families, County of Volusia). Led to the Children's Services Council, now known as the Children and Families Advisory Council.

### **Children's Mental Health Workgroup/SEDNetwork Planning Council**

**Date(s):** 1996

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Department of Children and Families, Volusia County Schools SEDNet

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Provides an ongoing meeting forum for Volusia and Flagler mental health agencies and systems to network and discuss the current status of children's mental health services through sharing of information and data about waiting lists, program changes, and system changes

**Pros:** Provides mechanism for communication among providers.

**Cons:** Varying staff attend meetings.

**Outcomes:** This is an active group which meets on a quarterly basis.

### **Community Agenda**

**Date(s):** 2006

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** One Voice for Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Engage the community by examining data and establishing priorities to improve local health and human services.

**Pros:** The indicators will be updated and reviewed from year to year, adding new indicators of priority to the community, providing a "blueprint" of health and human services in Volusia and Flagler counties.

**Cons:** There is limited data under the elderly and disabled populations as well as the community response to disaster.

**Outcomes:** The Community Agenda Snapshot Reports (2006 & 2007) were published.

### **Community Alliance**

**Date(s):** Late 1990's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Department of Children and Families

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To support a comprehensive continuum of services to strengthen children and families through advocacy, education, assessment and forging community collaboration with organizations and individuals.

**Pros:** Identified in purpose.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** The Alliance meets on a monthly basis.

### **Comprehensive Volusia/Flagler Community Needs Assessment**

**Date(s):** 1999-2000

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Human Services Coordinating Council and The United Way of Volusia/Flagler

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To assess the current and future community resources and human service needs.

**Pros:** Needs assessment was accomplished using the Compass strategy, designed for use in United Way agencies

**Cons:** Methodology of data collection was not credible.

**Outcomes:** None.

## **Connecting Coalitions Initiative**

**Date(s):** 2004

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** One Voice for Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Inventory of coalitions, task forces, initiatives addressing children and families in Volusia County.

**Pros:** Varied and comprehensive collection of community efforts; Exploratory efforts taken to better work together; Collaborate

**Cons:** Print version quickly outdated; need measurable direction for the future.

**Outcomes:** The Community Agenda was created.

## **Directions 21**

**Date(s):** 1990

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Halifax/Greater Daytona Chamber of Commerce, City of Daytona Beach, The United Way

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Identified approximately 20 community topics

**Pros:** Collaborative efforts resulted in the identification of 20-25 issues to address in the greater Halifax area; 10-12 major community organizations were involved.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** Active committees met over the span of a year, for several years. Group no longer meets, but the Chamber conducts periodic surveys to the same targeted area.

## **Discharge Committee**

**Date(s):** 2000

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia and Flagler Coalition for the Homeless

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Planned discharge for those leaving prisons & hospitals to avoid "dumping" to homelessness.

**Pros:** Getting representatives from all sectors involved to come to the table recognizing there is a problem and work on improving situation rather than point fingers and laying blame.

**Cons:** Not enough beds to be able to discharge homeless people from hospitals and prisons to a bed.

**Outcomes:** Getting all partners to table to work to improve discharge planning for homeless persons.

## **Family Preservation & Support**

**Date(s):** 1994

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Department of Children and Families, Promoting Safe and Stable Families with The House Next Door & Community Partnership for Children

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To develop a pro-family orientation to services in Volusia and Flagler Counties incorporating ongoing community involvement.

**Pros:** Comprehensive

**Cons:** Reduced financial support led to reduce participation

**Outcomes:** This group transitioned to the Community Partnership for Children's structured programs

## **Healthy Start Coalition Service Delivery Plan, 1st Plan in 1995**

**Date(s):** 1980's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler/Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Determine gaps and resources in maternal/child health; Identify trends in birth outcomes and risk/health indicators; Assist in decision-making for the allocation of resources

**Pros:** Data assists in decision-making; Programs and services can be targeted based on need; Brings key stakeholders together; Identified needs for Board and Coalition leadership

**Cons:** Data cannot always be aligned and accuracy of some data can be limited (based on size, etc.); Self-reported information has significant limitations

**Outcomes:** 5-year plan has data driven goals and objectives; Allocation decisions; New model for planning and implementation

## Healthy Volusia

**Date(s):** 2001

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia County Health Department

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To protect and improve the county's long-term health and vitality of its citizens; to improve outcomes for individuals & families as well as improvements in neighborhood conditions by working comprehensively across social and economic, and physical sectors; to develop a core set of indicators for Volusia County, including but not limited to disease/illness, injury, behavior/lifestyle, environment, medical care, mortality, and youth. Other indicators may include demographic, housing, economic, education, disaster, safety and recreation/culture concerns.

**Pros:** Brought social service, health and government agencies together to look at health-specific issues.

**Cons:** There has not been a consistent theme and several periods of inactivity.

**Outcomes:** Healthy Volusia is currently inactive.

## HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Profile

**Date(s):** 1990

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Outreach, Volusia County Health Department, Flagler County Health Department, Health Planning Council

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Identify cases of HIV and other co-morbidities; Target resources (Ryan White Care Act); Determine LEVEL of funding from the state

**Pros:** Helps target resources; Identified needs; Identifies trends; Helps with strategic planning

**Cons:** Under-reporting; Unknown cases; Self-reported information

**Outcomes:** Utilized for statewide plan and application of federal resources; established target populations for prevention activities; had positive impact on efforts to reduce perinatal transmission of HIV.

## One Voice for Volusia

**Date(s):** 1998

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Department of Juvenile Justice (originally), now independently supported

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Through collaboration One Voice for Volusia mobilizes all sectors of the community by strengthening our organized capacity to meet human needs.

**Pros:** One Voice for Volusia has extended its original mission to more broadly covering, researching and informing the community of the latest trends, data and information concerning the health and human services field.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** One Voice for Volusia is highly regarded as an active convener of health and human services issues, providing research and local data that many area agencies neither have the time, staff and/or funding to collect and track.

## Prevent Child Abuse Committee

**Date(s):** Late 1990's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Promoting Safe and Stable Families/The House Next Door & Community Partnership for Children

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To coordinate efforts of community groups to maximize education projects surrounding child abuse prevention, including an annual appreciation luncheon.

**Pros:** Collaboration and educational resources are developed among partners.

**Cons:** This Committee has changed names and leading agencies several times of the past several years.

**Outcomes:** Coordinator of annual Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention luncheon. Recently developed and distributed educational calendar.

## **Real Choice Partnership Project**

**Date(s):** 2004-06

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Governor's ADA Working Group

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To create first data set for Florida Finance Corporation in order to show real need for accessible and affordable housing need for people with disabilities (includes Volusia County household data characteristics)

**Pros:** Surveyed all public housing authorities on the methods they use to serve people with disabilities. Study showed household characteristics of persons with disabilities in every county.

**Cons:** None known to date on this project. Always need more research on persons with disabilities.

**Outcomes:** Publishing of Shimberg study on affordable housing: household characteristics of people with disabilities reflecting real accountable need. Florida Housing Finance Corporation has implemented two initiatives in housing targeted towards people with disabilities.

## **Transit Development Plan**

**Date(s):** 1970

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Votran

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Capital and operating plan for transit expansion, bus replacement, etc.

**Pros:** Helps spotlight transition needs and puts plans in place to meet those needs.

**Cons:** Needs are not always funded, one identified

**Outcomes:** Helps establish our capital improvement program and service development plan for the next 10 years.

## **Volusia 2003**

**Date(s):** 1977

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** County of Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To establish a vision/plan for the future.

**Pros:** Diverse participation

**Cons:** Limited/no follow up

**Outcomes:**

## **Volusia Association of Health and Human Services**

**Date(s):** 1977

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Department of Children and Families (when known as Health & Human Services)

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** Held an informal lunch meeting comprised of nonprofit agency representatives and HHS employees to network.

**Pros:** Kept lines of communication open; lasted about five years

**Cons:** Group disbanded.

**Outcomes:** Disbanded because HHS employees were not permitted to attend and have part of their work day.

### **Volusia County Citizen Corps**

**Date(s):** 2005

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia County Emergency Management and The United Way of Volusia/Flagler

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To coordinate volunteer groups working with emergency responders.

**Pros:** Identify volunteer groups working in community; Identify their mission and numbers; Enhance their programs through outreach and 211/Volunteer staff

**Cons:** Unwillingness of coordinators to participate; constantly changing information/outdated; Get community leaders involved to promote volunteerism

**Outcomes:** Understanding all the programs, their missions and strengths.

### **Volusia County Comprehensive Consolidated Plan**

**Date(s):** 1990's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** County of Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** The Volusia County Comprehensive Plan consists of maps, text, data and support documents which form the foundation of the County's planning program.

### **Volusia Health Alliance**

**Date(s):** 1998

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Healthy Communities

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** A working alliance of the Halifax, Southeast Volusia and West Volusia Hospital Districts, the Volusia County Health Department and the West Volusia Division of Adventists Health Systems.

**Pros:** Developed county-wide charity care.

**Cons:** Interlocal agreements disbanded.

**Outcomes:** Has been inactive since 2002-03.

### **Volusia/Flagler Community Transition Team**

**Date(s):** Late 1980's

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia County Schools, SEDNet

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To facilitate a forum for communication, cooperation and collaboration among multidisciplinary agencies serving youth and adults with disabilities.

**Pros:** Formal agreements are established among providers caring for youth with disabilities.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** Sponsors the transition fairs and is an excellent networking opportunity to develop programs and collaborative efforts.

### **Volusia/Flagler Continuum of Care**

**Date(s):** 2000

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia and Flagler Coalition for the Homeless

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To provide a continuum of services taking homeless persons from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

**Pros:** Maximizing the use of our limited resource; identifying gaps in services

**Cons:** Funding; Recipients have a vehicle to share ideas and plans; Limited resources for this population minimizes our ability to meet identified pags.

**Outcomes:** \$1 million in HUD funding renewals; Creation of Discharge Committee

## **Volusia/Flagler Counties' Promise**

**Date(s):** 1998

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Healthy Communities

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To increase the number of youth living in Volusia and Flagler counties who have access to the Five Promises: Caring Adults; Safe Places; Healthy Start and Future; Marketable Skills; and, Opportunities for Youth to Serve.

**Pros:** Community agencies rallied around the goals of the initiative and submitted and tracked goals and outcomes for several years and served as a catalyst for community collaboration.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** The local initiative informally disbanded in 2003.

## **Volusia/Flagler County Mentoring Network**

**Date(s):** 1999

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** One Voice for Volusia

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To combine efforts to recruit, train and support mentors at a variety of agencies.

**Pros:** Regular meetings brought agencies together initially; complimented the Volusia/Flagler Counties' Promise initiative.

**Cons:** Momentum/interest declined.

**Outcomes:** Efforts disbanded in the early 2000's.

## **Volusia/Flagler Safe Kids Coalition**

**Date(s):** 1996

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Healthy Communities

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To prevent unintentional injury among children.

**Pros:** Collaboration of public and private entities

**Cons:** Limited funding

**Outcomes:** This groups meets on a monthly basis; tracks local data/trends.

## **Youth Congress Report**

**Date(s):** 1995

**Coordinating Agency (or Agencies):** Volusia County Schools worked with Stewart-Marchman Center

**Purpose/Goal of Effort:** To provide a structured opportunity for youthful offenders, who are "expert-by-experience" to answer the following key questions: What are the causes of delinquency? What are effective practices for prevention and intervention? How can services be improved?

**Pros:** Excellent anecdotal information obtained; highly organized.

**Cons:**

**Outcomes:** Juvenile Justice, Family and Community, and Education Recommendations were made as a result of the process.

*If you have information you would like added to this resource, please email [deborah@ovfv.org](mailto:deborah@ovfv.org).*

# Timeline of Community Needs Assessments Conducted in Volusia County Over the Last 30 Years: *Efforts involving multi-sector groups of professionals and/or citizens tasked with reviewing, studying, and/or researching social services, needs assessments, planning and/or policy in Volusia County.*

