

Graham County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team **Meeting Minutes**

Date: 6/12/25

Minutes completed by Jody Miller

Cecilia Estremera (Vaya); Sunny Pringle (Schools): Jenni Irwin (Vaya); Lori Baker (LANC); Mark Pilon (Mtn Projects); Latesha Wiggins (Schools); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Murat Yazan (RAPC); and Jody Miller (RAPC/FSN)

Presentations

Murat provided attendees with an overview of the Region A Partnership for Children's strategic plan and review of NC Child Data Card. Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council team members can help by: referring to programs such as Parents as Teachers and Family Support Network; participate in events such as Roll and Read; advocate to people who need to know; and share what's going on in your world with your agency.

A positive connection is a link between the strategic plan and the elements of the new elementary school being built. There is some training happening to help provide more mental health services to the students. The school is running a girls group throughout the summer for those who want to attend and get caregivers permission. Two data points that are positive is women who receive early prenatal care increasing from 78% to 83.9% and 3rd grade students scoring proficient in reading increasing from 36.5% to 40.9%.

Areas of concern in this community are reflected in children in households that are food insecure increasing from 15.5% to 17.2%. With HOP services stopping on 7/1/25, fear is this will only increase. Another area of concern is the increase of children without health insurance from 7.9% to 14.6%. Medicaid expansion being stopped may have a great impact on this.

Upcoming Presentations Smart Start Strategic Plan

N/A

A focus for the team is on children in households that are food insecure: 15.5% in 2021 from 22.2% in 2019. The concern is that the number may have dropped, however is still high.

A second focus area is teen pregnancy at 40.8 according to the Roadmap of Need County Profile.

A third focus area is children without health insurance: 7.9% in 2021 from 6/2% in 2020. A slight increase.

Vision: Healthy and safe families who are able to reach their full potential.

Mission: Advocating for families to be healthy, safe and educated, and successful.

LICC Strategic Plan	Child find event
Activities to Achieve	Child Find Event
Strategies	Share food resource list at events
General Team Goals	Desired outputs for 2024 - 2025: Number of meetings/times review goals: 8 (9); Number of events: 1 (2); Number of team member / community presentations: 7 (10).
Old / New Business	N/A
Planned Community Events	N/A
What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again	Our next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2025

Vision: Healthy and safe families who are able to reach their full potential. **Mission**: Advocating for families to be healthy, safe and educated, and successful.