

Macon County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting

Minutes

Date: 6/26/25

Minutes completed by Jody Miller

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Denise Rinke (Vaya); Felicia Roberts (MPP); Lorrie Ross (Mtn Projects); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Lori Baker (LANC); Mary Krekeler (CDSA); Desiree Durning (AmeriHealth); and Jody Miller (RAPC / FSN)

## **Presentations**

Janice 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; advocate to people who need to know; and share what's going on in your world with your agency. A few possible thoughts were discussed. Personal outreach to Macon County residents to see what areas they feel need to be addressed through a 'Town Hall' meeting; covering several issues by sharing information at such meeting; providing some type of incentive to get the community to come to a meeting; reaching out and presenting to the Macon County Behavioral Health Task Force; and, recreating a "Sesame Street" event in order to educate the community on the issues as well as on the resources available.

In reviewing the data, attendees indicated a positive area being high school students graduating on time may have decreased from 95% down to 93.4% as it is still higher than the state at 86.5%.

One area of concern is the increase in children in households that are food in secure, 14.8% to 19.0%. Attendees mentioned this is probably going to increase even more as the HOP services end on 7/1/15 as food delivery boxes will stop. There is hope that the budget will get passed with some funding put back into this program. Another area of concern is children without health insurance increasing from 11.7% to 12.3% with the thought this might be even higher depending on how things change with Medicaid.

The delinquency rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 -17 was mentioned as well. There was a question about what is reported to provide this datapoint as it went from 21.52% to 50.5%. Jody will check into the details.

## **Upcoming Presentations**

N/A

Vision: To build a community, in which, all families are heathy, empowered and productive.

**Mission**: A team of community agencies, organizations and parents who work together to identify community strengths, create opportunities for growth and education and to advocate for services.

Smart Start Strategic Plan	Last fiscal year, the team's focus was on children in households that are food insecure—14.8% in 2021 from 20.2% in 2019. The team feels that during COVID more opportunities were available for food that are not available now so this number may not be accurate.
	The second data point the team wants to impact on is children without health insurance at 11.7% in 2021 which is up from 9.9% in 2020 which increased from 9.2% in 2019.
LICC Strategic Plan	Last fiscal year, the team focused on promoting child find through events.
Activities to Achieve Strategies	No decisions made at this time. Will visit more in depth at August team meeting.
General Team Goals	Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024: Number of meetings/times review goals: 7 (9); Number of events: 1 (3); Number of team member / community presentations: 7 (9).
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 28, 2025.