



Clay County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  
 Date: 4/3/25  
 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jamie Bryant (LANC); Hanna Miller (Community for Students); Jesse Boeckerman (Catholic Charities); Patti Leach (PAT); Angie Adams (Four Square); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Jamie Bryant (LANC); Angie Parker (NFP); Dawn Neatherly (Circles of Jackson); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Amanda Abernathy (Youth Villages) and Jody Miller (RAPC)

**Presentations**

Jesse provided attendees with an overview of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte. One does not need to be catholic in order to receiving assistance. Catholic Charities helps with the following areas: Adoption and Pregnancy Support; Burial Assistance; Case Management; Disaster Relief; Elder Ministries; Food Assistance; Housing Permanency Services; Infant Clothing Closets; Legal Immigration Services; Mental Health Counseling; Refugee Services; Social Concerns and Advocacy; Stay the Course; Supportive Services for Veteran Families; Transition Out of Poverty; and Youth Empowerment Opportunity Program. The Murphy office which serves Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain Counties as well as the Qualla Boundary offers direct assistance in helping with food, baby supplies, disaster relief, case management, help with utility, rent and housing; food and diaper hygiene ministry with diapers of various sizes; elder assistance which could just be sitting and talking for a few minutes; low case of case management; and, burial assistance. Assistance of other services may be available through the Asheville office. For questions or assistance reach out to Chrystal Mimbs, Case Coordinator, Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte, 27 Hatchett Street, Murphy NC 28906, Phone: 828-270-3067, Fax: 828-835-9794 or CLMimbs@ccdcc.org.

Angie provided information about Nurse Family Partnership. A free in-home program for individuals who are pregnant for the first time prior to 28 weeks. If after 28 weeks, approval needs to be received to enter the program. In-home is ideal, however we can meet at other places. Referral can be received from anyone. Assessments are completed as well developmental screenings of the children. A nurse stays with the mom until the child turns 2. The focus is on increasing positive outcomes, improving child's health and development, and helping the individual become economically self-sufficient. Currently serving 83

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|   | <p>clients with 125 being full capacity. Looking at serving at least 100 with a new hired nurse for the farther west counties. Introduced Amber as the new nurse for this county.</p> <p>Dawn explained that Circles of Jackson is not bound by Jackson County. The program helps families get sustainability. The program teaches, supports, and mentors to self-sufficiency. To be eligible a client needs to have some type of housing (not living in a car), be aware of income source such as disability (not necessarily from working), and want to make a change in their life. Dawn talked about the cliff effect where someone tries to get out of poverty and when things are going well, they lose a lot of the supports they have such as food stamps which then drops them off the cliff and back where they were. The staff understands where those thresholds of the programs are and help the client work within and knows what will happen if they make 2 dollars more. It takes about 2 years to get to a living wage. Anyone willing to drive to Jackson County is welcome to participate.</p> |
| <b>Upcoming Presentations</b>           | <p>May—Open<br/>June—planning for next fiscal year</p>  |
| <b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b>       | <p>The team is focusing on Children in households that are food insecure: 13.4% in 2021. It is showing a decrease from 20.6% in 2019. There was concern that this may not be an accurate number as there were a lot of food resources available during COVID.</p> <p>The second data point the team wants to impact on Drug and medicine overdose rate as shown on the 2023 Roadmap of Need County Profile being 71.06%. It was mentioned that this can relate back to the food insecurity.</p>   |
| <b>LICC Strategic Plan</b>              | Promote child find through events   |
| <b>Activities to Achieve Strategies</b> | <p>Educate families at events the team organizes (children’s fair and cookies with Santa events) on foodbanks, income guidelines for eligibility, having the HOP coordinator at the events, and list of foodbanks.</p> <p>Educate on medicine by providing information on disposal, storage and use at events along with lock boxes and disposal kits.</p> <p>Partner with Catholic Charities to organize a drive thru food distribution / resource fair (possibly at First Free Will Church) in spring of 2025.</p> <p>Organize children’s fair and cookies with Santa.--complete</p>  |
| <b>General Team Goals</b>               | <p>Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024:<br/>Number of meetings/times review goals: 8 (7); Number of events: 2 (3); Number of team member / community presentations: 6 (13)</p>  |
| <b>Old / New Business</b>               | N/A   |

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| <b>Planned Community Events</b>  | Cherokee/Clay Roll and Read—May 17, 2025 at TCCC from 9:30 to 12:30.<br>Cookies with Santa—December 4, 2024 |
| <b>What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again</b> | <b>Our next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2025.</b>   |

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