



**Cherokee Children's Coalition Meeting Minutes
(Qualla Boundary Smart Start/ LICC Team)
9/25/24**

Lunch served at 11:30 am

Meeting from 12:00- 1:00 pm

In-person meeting at the HOPE Center

Welcome and Introductions:

- Michele gave an update on the HOPE Ctr. Program-
 - We have just finished up with the screenings of all the new children at DRC (45 day timeline)
 - We have 60 children enrolled in Pre K
 - 32 children enrolled in our special education program
 - 32 FACE families... and we are recruiting children for FACE
 - We are gearing up for Fair Week and Halloween activities
- Jody mentioned that VAYA Health will be presenting in January
- Dwayne Jackson, from the Wolf Town Community Center, shared they are willing to volunteer/ help with events
- Info. from DRC -
 - Still at 50% but will open 2 new rooms in October (for 3-4 year olds)... please tell families to apply
 - Shared Autism Support Group Mtg. schedule (see attachment)
 - Food pantry is stocked if you have a family in need
 - WOYC discussed... April 10, 2025 is the date for the Children's Fair
 - Autism Event- April 24, 2025
 - Getting vendors for the Halloween event on 10/29 (set up at 8:00) -Contact Sarah Beck
 - Other... staff are contacting families, planning events such as upcoming Thanksgiving dinner for families on 11/19, Christy thanked HOPE Ctr staff for all the screenings they've completed, and Emily shared that they had a fine motor parent activity last night and it went well.

- Crystal, from Catholic Charities, shared that you do not have to be Catholic to receive assistance... they offer assistance with essential needs, mental health counseling, etc. and her office is in Murphy
- WIC- perinatal loss awareness month is October... 10/15 is light a candle event
- Sarah Turner shared that they are planning a community baby shower
- Brooklyn Ledford shared that she sees children privately and accepts BCBS (sliding fee)
- Rebecca Ensley, from Job Corps, talked about how her program can assist with projects and events- some students have helped the Pre K program with building garden boxes, painting tricycles, visiting to read (Dr. Suess), etc.

Coalition Business:

- Treasurer's Report
Balance is \$2585.95

Old / New Business:

- Children's Fair date is set- 4/10

Team/ Community Presentations:

Michael LePage from the Autism Society of NC presented on Autism... Thank you Michael... Michael shared his number (if you would like to speak with him about presenting for you organization), contact him at 828-302-6427

Upcoming Presentations:

CYSHCN (Children & Youth Special Health Care Needs) is presenting on 10/23

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct 23, 2024
at the HOPE Ctr./ lunch @ 11:30 am/ mtg. 12-1:00 pm