



**Cherokee Children's Coalition Meeting Minutes
(Qualla Boundary Smart Start/ LICC Team)
4/23/25**

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 are taking Pre K application through next Friday (May 2 is the deadline)
 - Our current Pre K students just visited Kindergarten
 - We are working tomorrow at the Autism Celebration... the location is now at the Birdtown Gym... hours are 4-7
 - We have several things coming up: transition meetings (our special needs students who are transitioning to Kindergarten), Kindergarten registration is next week, our end of the year celebration coming up in May, Pre K graduation in May...
- Amanda (DRC) shared that they have only 2 more Autism meetings and a few more parent meetings...

Coalition Business:

- Treasurer's Report
Balance is \$3406.68

Old/new Business:

- Candy thanked everyone for their participation in the Children's Fair... and gave a big thank you to the to Job Corp students who were a tremendous help
- Discussed the Autism Celebration tomorrow- due to weather, the location is moved to Birdtown Gym... there are table and chairs available there

Team/ Community Presentations:

Hope4NC:

Rose Freshcorn from Hope4NC presented information today... PowerPoint is attached

Hope4NC assist individuals and communities who are recovering from the effects of disasters (need such as propane, food...) and they have crisis counselors to talk with individuals about how they are coping, sleeping, dealing with stress...

Circles of Jackson County:

Dawn Netherly and Rachel Byrd from Circles of Jackson County presented information today... Circles handout is attached

Circles helps individuals improve their lives (set and achieve goals, build healthy relationships, create financial stability...)

They meet weekly in Sylva at the Presbyterian Church (more details on handout)

The program helps individuals of all ages and in different circumstances- college students, single moms, etc.

A few examples: a recently widowed lady whose husband did everything for her, a man needing to get his driver's license and a vehicle....

They can serve individuals who live in other counties but would like to see it expand- a local program or Tribal Council setting up a Circle program here in Cherokee

Websites to check out:

<https://www.circlesusa.org/>

<https://www.circlesofjacksoncounty.com/>

Upcoming Events:

Autism Awareness Celebration- April 24, 2025 (location is Birdtown Gym)

Upcoming Presentations:

May- Open

June- Probably will not meet... will resume meetings in August

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2025
at the HOPE Ctr./ lunch @ 11:30 am/ mtg. 12-1:00 pm**