



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

**May 28, 2025**

Lunch served at 11:30 am

Meeting from 12:00- 1:00 pm

In-person meeting at the HOPE Center

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

- Michele Galloway gave an update on the HOPE Ctr. Program-
  - Our Pre K program is fully enrolled and we have a waiting list
  - Our school campus is going to be going through a building project (water issues) for the next 3 to 5 years. Our building (Bldg. A) is going to be under construction in August so all HOPE Ctr. staff with offices in Building A and 2 of our Pre K classrooms will be moving to another building... This means that we are searching for a new location for our Children's Coalition/ICC meetings for the upcoming school year. Michele will speak with DRC staff about possibly using their facility... Chris offered that they may have an available conference room at Agelink, if needed... Jessica mentioned a classroom at the Cooperative Extension Office...
- Jessica Huskey (Cooperative Extension) shared that they have been hatching baby chickens... in the Pre K classrooms, a 2nd grade classroom, and one classroom at Kituwah. They recently teamed up with Tribal Foods and offered cooking classes and went on a sochan picking trip... They will be helping with summer schools and camps, and have an event at the library coming up.
- Rose James (Tribal Food Distribution) shared information about her program- she handed out a survey (see attached) and asked that everyone please take the time to fill out the survey, it's lengthy but helps direct the program (it's only done every 5 years). If you know anyone suffering from food insecurity, please reach out to their program... They serve enrolled members (regardless of where they live) and all individuals who live on the boundary. They do not count Per Capita/ GenWell when calculating family income and can adjust income so families should apply for assistance. Tribal Foods gives away meat such as bison and fish and fresh foods and vegetables.

MANNA distributions are on the 3rd Thursday of the month. An upcoming project is making 18 20 minute documentaries... so they are looking for good storytellers, farmers...

A big part of their funding comes from the USDA... as funding may be changing in the future, please be on the lookout for increased food insecurities. Check out

[food.ebci-nsn.gov](http://food.ebci-nsn.gov) for lots of recipes, coloring sheets, etc.

### **Coalition Business:**

- Treasurer's Report  
Balance is \$4406.68

### **Old/new Business:**

Planning-

We will continue to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month... but we need a new location...

Tentative dates: Children's Fair- 4/9/26... Celebrating Autism Event: 4/23/26 (Spring Break is April 13-17... CCS will also be closed on 4/3 & 4/6 for the Easter Holiday)

### **Team/ Community Presentations:**

We discussed some ideas of who we might ask to present/topics...

Pediatric dept.

Tribal Foods

Information on family friendly events/activities... Sunny Parks shared that the Swain County Chamber of Commerce has some good information on their website

Please let Jody know if you have any suggestions on presentations

### **Upcoming Events:**

Out of Darkness/ Suicide Prevention sometime in Sept.

Next MANNA event- Jun 19, 2025 at the Wolfetown Gym... come early and bring your own bags (people come 2 hrs early)

### **Upcoming Presentations:**

Nothing is scheduled yet... we will most likely meet again in August... We will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month but the location of the meeting will be determined at a later date.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025**

**@ 11:30 am/ mtg. 12-1:00 pm**