



Cherokee County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  
 Date: 10/2/24  
 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

**Welcome and Introductions**

Patti Leach (RAPC); Cecilia Estremera (Vaya); Jenni Irwin (Vaya); Monica Matthews (PAT); Lauren Lumsden (Healthy Blue); Lorrie Ross (Mountain Projects); Sarah Clark (Mountain Projects); Chrystal Nimbs (Catholica Charities); Jeshawra Gasper (DHHS); Lori Baker (Legal Aid); Donna Collins (Schools); Deanna Lyles (RAPC); and Jody Miller (RAPC)

**Presentations**

Jeshawra presented on the CYSHCN Helpline—800-737-3028 or email CYSHCN.Helpline@dhhs.nc.gov. Helps with finding resources and services for families of children with special health care needs. Help with Medicaid eligibility and coverage. CYSHCN Website has a lot of information—  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/whole-child-health-section/best-practices/children-and-youth-special-health-care-needs>.  
 Helpline website-- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/whole-child-health-section/best-practices/children-and-youth-special-health-care-needs/children-special-health-care-needs-help-line>. NC Medicaid brochure-- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/enghealthinsurancepdf/open>.

Monica and Patti provided an update on the Parents as Teachers program. The program is currently serving 19 families / 23 children. Have opening slots for 11 more families. There were 7 group connections held with one being at the Splash Pad and another doing a apple tasting. An upcoming group connection is a fall sensory activity. Monica and Patti shared some quotes provided by families being served.

Lorri provided a few resilience tips. One being present as we eat and drink. Savoring the sensation of the food or drink as it enters the mouth as it is swallowed. The second one was to limit media consumption about the disaster or any time there is bad news. Suggested is you normally watch / listen for 5 hours to cut it in half to 2.5 hours which may still be too much. And the last tip was to not increase any normal means of coping to calm down or not to start using a new substance.

**Upcoming Presentations**

- November—Vaya Health
- December—FNS Benefits-qualifying and applying for
- January—No meeting
- February—open
- March—Parents as Teachers
- April—open

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May—open</li> <li>• June—Planning for next fiscal year</li> </ul>
<b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b>	<p>The team is focusing on Children in households that are food insecure: 16.1% in 2021. A decrease from 22.1% in 2019. The team feels that there was a lot of food available during COVID and this still may not be a true number.</p> <p>The second data point the team wants to impact on is Children without health insurance: 8.3% in 2021. A slight increase from 8.2% in 2020.</p>
<b>LICC Strategic Plan</b>	Promote child find through events.
<b>Activities to Achieve Strategies</b>	<p>Collaborate with Legal Aid and the 3rd Annual Resource Fair—Promote Medicaid, healthcare marketplace, food resource list, early intervention and preschool services.</p> <p>Plan a drive through food distribution/resource fair in collaboration with Catholic Charities in the spring of 2025.</p>
<b>General Team Goals</b>	<p>Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024:</p> <p>Number of meetings/times review goals: 8 (1); Number of events: 2 (0); Number of team member / community presentations: 7 (0)</p>
<b>Old / New Business</b>	Cherokee/Clay Roll and Read—organizing a planning team. The planning team will occur after the Smart Start / LICC team meeting for Cherokee County. The first planning team meeting will occur on November 6, 2024 at 2 pm. If interested in being on the planning team, join either in person or virtually (using the same link as the team meeting).
<b>Planned Community Events</b>	Diaper drive/resource fair—November 19 <sup>th</sup> 4 to 7 pm N/A
<b>What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again</b>	<b>Our next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024.</b>