



**Cherokee Children's Coalition Meeting Minutes
(Qualla Boundary Smart Start/ LICC Team)
2/26/25**

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 have a child find activity tomorrow- 2/27/25 1:00-6:00 pm (dental, hearing, vision, developmental...)
 - We are accepting Pre K applications
- Info. from DRC
 - Sky shared that they are working on eligibility requirements, summer schedule, hiring process (hiring teachers now), and cultural curriculum
 - Candy shared that the WOYC committee has met, we have dates set, and more information will be shared later
- Rebecca Ensley, from Job Corps, brought children's socks for programs to take and share with their classrooms/families
- Pediatric Dept- shared that they have the Kindergarten Kick Off coming up (April 2nd)... they will have scheduled visits and see about 60 children (will share info. flyer via email later)
- Kituwah/Tavish shared that their program uses the Lillio curriculum/app... they are getting ready to start taking children's applications for Fall. They only have 10 slots open in the baby (one yr. old) room and 2 slots open in the toddler (2 yr. old) room.

Coalition Business:

- Treasurer's Report
Balance is \$2585.95

Team/ Community Presentations:

Barbara Jeffries shared information about NC Pre K:

Have 12 providers in this region/serving 566 children as of January, 2025

Children have to be 4 on or before 8/31/25

Programs can have younger children enrolled but won't receive funding for those children

Enrollment in program is also dependent on income but if a family/child gets public assistance such as WIC, Medicaid, housing..., the child is automatically eligible

(a flyer is attached/ if questions, contact Barbara at 828-226-6445)

Sam McCarson presented information on Youth Villages:

A private, nonprofit organization (started in 2005) that helps children with emotional and behavioral problems and their families live successfully. (Program is Medicaid funded)

Intercept (for children 4-21) is an intensive, in-home program... counselor spends 5-5/12 hours per week with the family (all in the household are part of the plan/solution)

This program typically lasts 4-6 months but can be extended if a request is made.

All services are voluntary (but the program lets the family know the consequences of not participating, if they are involved with DSS or the court system, for example)

High Fidelity Wraparound (HiFi) -not therapy... but provides the family with a caseworker who helps them navigate services... helps the family understand and meet their goals (typically lasts 9 mos- 1 year)

LifeSet- for 17-21 yr. olds- assist with independent living/ life skills (typically lasts 9 mos- 1 year)

(the program's one page referral form is attached in the email... anyone can make a referral)

Upcoming Events:

WOYC Children's Fair- April 10, 2025

Autism Awareness Celebration- April 24, 2025

Upcoming Presentations:

March- Catholic Charities

April- Hope4NC

May- Open

June- Planning for next fiscal year

Next meeting: Wednesday, Mar 26, 2025

at the HOPE Ctr./ lunch @ 11:30 am/ mtg. 12-1:00 pm