



Jackson County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  
 Date: 1/08/25  
 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tami Hicks (RAPC); Denise Rinke (Vaya); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Cliff Faull (Rolling Start); Dawn Neatherly (Circles); Mary Krekeler (CDSA); Deanna Lyles (RAPC); Melissa Lacy (Ombudsman); Lori Baker (Legal Aid); and Jody Miller (RAPC/FSN)

**Presentations**

Cliff shared information about Rolling Start. The program has donated 25 cars in 2024 and 99 since nonprofit started to individuals in need. Program is run by volunteers except for a part time program coordinator and a mechanic where both work 15 hours a week. There is a preliminary interview to get on the waitlist, must reside in Jackson County or on the Qualla Boundary and have a current driver's license. The waitlist currently is 40 and it about 9 months wait. Usually lose about 10 to 15 from the list for various reasons. Any car can be donated. If not suitable for donating it will be scrapped, parts are sold, or sold. There is a committee of 10 people who decide on the recipients of the vehicles. Help is provided for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6ths with repairs and then cost shared for the next 6 months. The recipient needs to be at least 18 years old. There is a full application a couple months before receiving a vehicle with a background check, and a narrative as to why they need a vehicle.

Dawn explained that Circles of Jackson is not bound by Jackson County. The program helps families get sustainability. The program teaches, supports, and mentors to self-sufficiency. To be eligible a client needs to have some type of housing (not living in a car), be aware of income source such as disability (not necessarily from working), and want to make a change in their life. Dawn talked about the cliff effect where someone tries to get out of poverty and when things are going well, they lose a lot of the supports they have such as food stamps which then drops them off the cliff and back where they were. The staff understands where those thresholds of the programs are and help the client work within and knows what will happen if they make 2 dollars more. It takes about 2 years to get to a living wage.

**Upcoming Presentations**

February-Center for Domestic Peace / Parents as Teachers

**Vision:** To create opportunities for all children and families to participate in the community with the supports they need

**Mission:** A team of parents, agencies, and service providers working together to identify strengths, inform, train, and look for solutions and resources when needed.

	<p>March—NC PreK</p> <p>April—open</p> <p>May—open</p> <p>June—Planning for next fiscal year</p>
<b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b>	<p>The team is focusing on Women who receive early prenatal care—76.7% in 2021 from 80.6% in 2020. Even though there was a slight decrease it is still a concern.</p> <p>The team is focusing on Children in households that are food insecure: 16.0% in 2021 from 19.7% in 2019. Even though it is going down, the team felt this was still a concern and a data point to target.</p> <p>The last data point the team wants to impact on is children 3rd grade students scoring proficient in reading—43.2% in 2020-2021 which increase from 36.3% in 2020-2021.</p>
<b>LICC Strategic Plan</b>	Child find activity to encourage family participation and bring awareness and education to the families.
<b>Activities to Achieve Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Organizing a Roll and Read event.</li> </ul>
<b>General Team Goals</b>	<p>Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024:</p> <p>Number of meetings/times review goals: 9 (6); Number of events: 1 (2); Number of team member / community presentations: 9 (7)</p>
<b>Old / New Business</b>	Jackson Roll and Read Planning Team will meet after the team meetings.
<b>Planned Community Events</b>	N/A
<b>What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again</b>	<b>Our next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2025</b>

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