



Jackson County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  
 Date: 12/11/24  
 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tami Hicks (RAPC); Denise Rinke (Vaya); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Gretta Worley (HERE); Denise Bean (HERE); Paul Phillips (HERE); and Jody Miller (RAPC/FSN)

**Presentations**

Gretta provided basic information about the programs at HERE of Jackson County. The clients need to call themselves; an agency is not able to do this for them. She mentioned that the programs are available to residents in the seven western counties as well as Madison County. The only program only open to Jackson County residents is the shelter program. The shelter program kicks in on nights when the temperature drops to 32 degrees or lower according to the National Weather Service. It runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Individuals are housed at the Golden Eagle in Whittier while families are housed in the Economy Inn in Sylva. The length of the stay can be up to 28 days and can be expanded. Clients do need to leave if the temperature does up and then recall should they need shelter when the temperature drops again.

One staff member does street outreach making sure those unsheltered have all the necessities needed based on the time of the year such as sunscreen during the summer and lip balm during the winter. Special circumstances such as being elderly or having children can move someone into shelter above someone else.

Another program available is the rapid housing program. This provides paying rent for up to 24 months, paying security deposit as well as utility deposits. If someone has Section 8 housing only the security deposit is made as Sect. 8 will pay the rent. This program serves about 3 clients. It is to prevent homelessness.

Paul oversees a different rapid housing program. The client needs to get permanent housing authorization and then the search for housing starts. The program pays rent and utilities for up to 12 months. Employment or disability is worked on and any medical needs. Currently funding allows for about 54 clients with 42 currently enrolled.

**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.

<b>Upcoming Presentations</b>	January-Rolling Start February-Center for Domestic Peace March—Parents as Teachers April—open May—open June—Planning for next fiscal year
<b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b>	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.  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.  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.
<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>	•Organizing a Roll and Read event.
<b>General Team Goals</b>	Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024: Number of meetings/times review goals: 9 (5); Number of events: 1 (2); Number of team member / community presentations: 9 (5)
<b>Old / New Business</b>	First planning team meeting for the Jackson Roll and Read will be in January after the team meeting.
<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 January 8, 2025</b>

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