



Jackson County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes
 Date: 3/12/25
 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

Welcome and Introductions

Tami Hicks (RAPC); Denise Rinke (Vaya); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Desiree Durning (AmeriHealth); Angie Parker (NFP); Jamie Bryant (Legal Aid); Barbara Jefferys (NC PreK); Mark Pilon (Mtn Projects); Lori Baker (LANC); Tammy Quinn (NFP); and Jody Miller (RAPC/FSN)

Presentations

Barbara provided the group with information on NC PreK. The application is in the process of being translated to Spanish as soon as it is ready will be up on the website. Free program to qualified children in all counties. It is a 6.5 or more hour per day program, 5 days a week through 10 months. Gets the children ready for kindergarten. A family needs to go to the provider where they would like to enroll the child and complete the NC PreK application and enrollment paperwork. Need a birth certificate and a way to verify income such as a W2, tax return, or pay stubs. If you receive any type of public assistance, complete page 5 and no other income verification is needed. There are other ways to qualify if over income such as the child having an IEP, homeless, medical condition, or military family. Besides being income eligible, the child needs to be 4 by 8/31 of the year. Sites have their own requirements in which the lead teacher needs to have a bachelors degree in Birth through K, be a 4 or 5 star site, a 5.0 or higher on the ECERS, and use an approved curriculum. As of February, currently serving 67 children in Jackson County and 568 throughout the region. Any questions please reach out to Barbara, NC Pre-K Coordinator, 828-226-6445, bjefferys@rapc.org. www.rapc.org/ncprek.

Angie provided information about Nurse Family Partnership. A free in-home program for individuals who are pregnant for the first time prior to 28 weeks. If after 28 weeks, approval needs to be received to enter the program. In-home is ideal, however can meet at other places. Referral can be received from anyone. Assessments are completed as well developmental screenings of the children. A nurse stays with the mom until the child turns 2. The focus is on increasing positive outcomes, improving child's health and development, and helping the individual become economically self-sufficient. Currently serving 83 clients with 125 being full capacity. Looking at serving at least 100 with a new hired nurse for

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	the farther west counties.
Upcoming Presentations	April—UNC Community Hub May—open June—Planning for next fiscal year
Smart Start Strategic Plan	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.
LICC Strategic Plan	Child find activity to encourage family participation and bring awareness and education to the families.
Activities to Achieve Strategies	•Organizing a Roll and Read event. Next planning meeting is in April following the team meeting.
General Team Goals	Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024: Number of meetings/times review goals: 9 (8); Number of events: 1 (2); Number of team member / community presentations: 9 (11)
Old / New Business	Jackson Roll and Read Planning Team will meet after the team meetings.
Planned Community Events	N/A
What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again	Our next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025

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