



Haywood County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes
 Date: 1/15/24 5 Minutes completed by Jody Miller

Welcome and Introductions

Christy Yazan (CDSA); Sylvella Symonds (Maximus); Julie Davis (Vaya); Randi Braun (RAPC); Jennifer Smith (PAT); Laura Passmore (Mtn Projects); Jessica Winkel (Vaya); Anne Velez (Mtn Projects); Megan Hauser (HHHS); Maggie Leftwich (Mtn Projects); Eunice Ledford (Schools); Sherre Dean (PAT); Melissa Lacy (Ombudsman); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); and Desiree Durning (AmeriHealth)

Presentations

Maggie and Ann presented on the programs that Mountain Projects provides to help with housing. Section 8 is aimed at families who are currently paying more than 30% of their adjusted gross, monthly income for rent and utilities, and for those who need rental assistance in order to live in “safe, decent and sanitary” housing. Mountain Projects and the Federal Government have a special commitment to aid the homeless, low income, elderly, handicapped, disabled and large families. MPI currently has 1008 vouchers to help families in both Haywood and Jackson Counties. Typically 43% of the clients we help are elderly, handicapped or disabled. Once our clients receive a voucher they choose the home they want to live in. We have more than 700 landlords within the two counties that work with this program.

Mountain Projects is now taking applications for the Self-Help Housing program for Haywood County. If you or your family make \$44,000 or less (family of 1-4) or \$58,100 or less (family of 5-8) with good credit, you may qualify for a new construction home loan with payments based on your income, plus no down payment/100% financed loan. For more info on this affordable housing program, funded through USDA, please call 452-1447, ext. 127. HOW DO I APPLY? If you want more information on Owner-Built Housing/Self-Help Housing, call for an appointment: Call Kerry Moffat, Self-Help Counselor, at 828-508-4743

Mountain Projects’ Weatherization technicians use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic technologies, such as blower doors and duct blasters, to determine the most cost-effective measures for each home. They also assess related health and safety conditions. After our crews provide services, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more. This means

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	<p>that hundreds of dollars are put back in their pockets to buy groceries, visit a doctor, buy medicine, or improve some standard of living. Serving as the nation’s core program for delivering energy efficiency services to low-income households, the Weatherization Assistance Program prioritizes service to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and households with children. The Weatherization Program serves every county in the nation through its network of state and local agencies. This program allows us to help families with income up to 200% of the poverty level. The income limits are listed below. Weatherization and Heating Appliance Repair and Replacement Income Guidelines:</p> <p>Family Size 1: \$24,980 Family Size 2: \$33,820 Family Size 3: \$42,660 Family Size 4: \$51,500 Family Size 5: \$60,340 Family Size 6: \$69,180</p>
Upcoming Presentations	<p>February—Vaya Health March--Parents as Teachers April--No meeting May—Youth Villages June—planning for next fiscal year</p>
Smart Start Strategic Plan	<p>The team is focusing on Children in Households that are food insecure: 13.7% in 2021. A decrease from 19.4% in 2019. There was concern that this may not be an accurate number. Mentioned from the 2023 Roadmap of Need County Profile that the 27% Housing Cost Burden reflects on the food insecurity.</p> <p>The team is focusing on the housing cost burden of 27% as indicated on the 2023 Roadmap of Need County Profile.</p>
LICC Strategic Plan	<p>Transition presentation</p> <p>Encourage caregivers to attend the team meeting</p> <p>Roll and Read child find event—3rd grade students scoring proficient in reading went up to 56.5% in 2021-2022 from 51.2% in 2020-2021.</p>
Activities to Achieve Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize workshops around food insecurity in spring and fall. Details to follow • Organize a housing workshop. Details to follow • Bring presenters to address food insecurity as well as transition
General Team Goals	<p>Desired outputs for 2024 - 2025: Number of meetings/times review goals: 8 (4); Number of events: 1 (0); Number of team member / community presentations: 7 (7)</p>
Old / New Business	<p>The Roll and Read Planning Meeting will occur right after this meeting using the same link.</p>
Planned Community Events	<p>Roll and Read 4/26/25 rain or shine.</p>
What worked, what should we do differently, and when do we meet again	<p>Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2025.</p>

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