

	<p>Swain County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  Date: 2/11/25  Minutes completed by Jody Miller</p>
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Mary Krekeler (CDSA); Julie Davis (Vaya); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Sunny Parks (PAT); Francisco Guzman (DHHS); Deanna Lyles (RAPC); Artith Parton (Swain FRC); Barbara Jefferys (NC PreK); Charlotte Destino (Hearing Detection); Mitt Arbelius-Poole (Pisgah Legal); Sarah Turner (Jackson Health Dept); and Jody Miller (RAPC)</p>
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	<p>Mary provided attendees with information on the services provided through the Children’s Developmental Services Agency. She shared a PowerPoint that will be shared with attendees. Some basic information. CDSA is part of the NC Infant-Toddler program providing early intervention services for children from birth until the third birthday. Children with developmental disabilities and/or delays are entitled to EI services under IDEA, Part C. No financial requirement. Anyone can make a referral.</p> <p>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 receiving 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. Any questions please reach out to Barbara, NC Pre-K Coordinator, 828-226-6445, bjefferys@rapc.org. <a href="http://www.rapc.org/ncprek">www.rapc.org/ncprek</a>.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Presentations</b></p>	<p>March—Circles of Jackson  April—No meeting  May—open  June—Planning for next fiscal year</p>

**Vision:** Swain County will be a community of healthy, safe and successful children.

**Mission:** A cohesive group that collaborates, identifies resources and provides opportunities for positive family well-being.

<b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b>	<p>The team is focusing on Children in Households that are food insecure: 16.8% in 2021 from 22.0% in 2019. Even though it went down the concern is that true numbers are not reflected yet.</p> <p>The second data point the team wants to impact on is children without health insurance 21.0% in 2021 from 23.7% in 2020. This is a slight decrease.</p>
<b>LICC Strategic Plan</b>	Child find event
<b>Activities to Achieve Strategies</b>	<p>Educate families at events about health insurance, navigators consortium, food resources</p> <p>Partner w/Bright Adventures at PreK registration to provide food resources and Medicaid information</p> <p>Possibly partner with Catholic Charities for a drive thru food distribution/resource fair in spring of 2025</p>
<b>General Team Goals</b>	<p>Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024:</p> <p>Number of meetings/times review goals: 8 (6); Number of events: 1 (1); Number of team member / community presentations: 8 (7)</p>
<b>Old / New Business</b>	N/A
<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 March 11, 2025.</b>

**Vision:** Swain County will be a community of healthy, safe and successful children.

**Mission:** A cohesive group that collaborates, identifies resources and provides opportunities for positive family well-being.