

	<p>Macon County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Meeting Minutes  Date: 1/23/25  Minutes completed by Jody Miller</p>
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Toineeta Saunooke-Leonard (BCBS); Syvella Symonds (Maximus); Mary Krekeler (CDSA); Felicia Roberts (MPP); Tobin Lee (Vaya); Denise Rinke (Vaya); Lorrie Ross (Mtn Projects); Tobin Lee (Vaya); Barbara Jefferys (NC PreK); Desiree Durning (AmeriHealth); Francisco Guzman (DHHS); and Jody Miller (RAPC / FSN)</p>
<p><b>Presentations</b></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. There is a total of 562 children enrolled as of December 2024 with 115 in Macon County classrooms. There are 2 providers in Macon County. The school runs 5 classrooms with 1 at Cartoogechaye, 2 at Iotla, and 2 at South Macon elementary schools. Numbers are currently down. 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, <a href="mailto:bjefferys@rapc.org">bjefferys@rapc.org</a>. <a href="http://www.rapc.org/ncprek">www.rapc.org/ncprek</a>.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Presentations</b></p>	<p>February—open  March—open  April—open  May—open  June—planning for next fiscal year</p>
<p><b>Smart Start Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>The team is focusing on children in households that are food insecure—14.8% in 2021 from 20.2% in 2019. Team feels that during COVID more opportunities were available for food that are not available now so this number may not be accurate.</p>

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**Mission:** A team of community agencies, organizations and parents who work together to identify community strengths, create opportunities for growth and education and to advocate for services.

	The second data point the team wants to impact on is children without health insurance at 11.7% in 2021 which is up from 9.9% in 2020 which increased from 9.2% in 2019.
<b>LICC Strategic Plan</b>	Promote child find through activities
<b>Activities to Achieve Strategies</b>	Educate families at events about health insurance, navigators consortium, food resources  Distribute food resource list including the days of distribution at events  Organize a drive through resource / food distribution fair twice—once in the fall and once in the Spring  Participate and support transition events in collaboration with MPP
<b>General Team Goals</b>	Desired outputs for 2023 - 2024: Number of meetings/times review goals: 7 (4); Number of events: 1 (1); Number of team member / community presentations: 7 (5).
<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 February 27, 2025.</b>

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