

## LICC Meeting Minutes 11.18.25

**Welcome:** Nikki Hinnant, LICC Chair called the meeting to order.

**Approval of minutes from October Meeting** – motion approved and seconded.

**Funding Update** from Carmen Martell, Treasurer – our current balance is \$2354.38. We have been awarded a grant of \$800 and this funding is forthcoming.

**Child Find Activity** – was held in October with HCPC and numerous community partners and agencies. This was a successful event and goodie bags and information were provided to all attendees. We are still hoping to hold a developmental screening health fair event in March 2026.

**Upcoming Meeting presentations** – Lynda Turlington – please reach out if you are interested in presenting at an upcoming meeting.

### Presenters:

**Doris Gardner, Guardian Ad Litem Project** – This program exists to fulfill the state and federal mandates for the best interest for children in our community in finding permanency for children who have already been removed from their home. They work with these children and advocate for them in the court system. DSS service the entire family while GAL volunteers service the *child*. Their focus is on the best interest of the child re: their custody and their placement.

This program needs volunteers to be successful. Ms. Gardner provided information packets to all attendees. The application process is simple and 6-week online training is held virtually every Thursday 5:30-7:00 pm. A volunteer needs a computer and a vehicle to be able to do their own work and investigation on behalf of this child. A volunteer should visit the child at least once every 30 days (spend about 2 hours a month) and turn in a monthly report and a court report. GAL's are welcome to come to court but not required. There are 126 children in this program now in Harnett County.

**Nicole Harris, Autism Resource and Support Group Specialist w/Autism Society of NC** – Ms. Harris has 3 autistic children ages 19, 16, and 14 and is very passionate about this statewide program. Their mission is to improve the lives of children with autism, support their families and educate communities.

Autism is a spectrum that affects the brain and the signs are different than what you would expect and she discussed different onset patterns and early signs.

- Developmental differences before 12-18 mos
- Developmental plateau
- Regression loss of skills around 14-24 months.

They work with families to provide information, resources and support. There is no cure for autism but there are a variety of therapies, services and now even medication to support individuals. Remember their behaviors = communication.

Ms. Harris provided tips on FREE resources for services for families.

- Free classes and training for parents
- ABA and clinical services
- Workshops and conferences
- Local parent support groups
- Policy advocacy
- Awareness events
- Training for professionals/teachers
- Diagnosis of autism
- ASNC online resources
- Toolkits on topics such as accessing services, IEPs, and residential options.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder challenges range from mild to severe**

Level 1 “Requiring support”

Level 2 “Requiring substantial support”

Level 3 “Requiring very substantial support”

### **Dr. Alexis Blue-Wilson, Drayton’s View Therapy & Wellness Services PLLC**

New private practice to Harnett County and her office is located right here in Lillington. She services children ages 7+ both in person and virtually accepting insurance and private pay.

Discussed importance of Self-care – how do you take care of yourself? How often do you engage in self-care activities? What reasons are keeping you from self-care?

### **Main 3 components of her practice:**

**Talk therapy** – CBT, Interactive complexity, and life skills.

**Snoezelen Room** - multi-sensory, calming ages 0+, offering a calming multisensory environment designed to support individuals w/special needs and sensory tools and features.

**Serenity Suite** – recharge, multiple therapies, ages 18+, relaxation room is designed to provide a serene environment where you can unwind recharge and relieve stress. Sound and light therapy, aromatherapy, massage therapy, grounding mat, meditation space.

**Drayton’s View** also provides a space in her office for community events, parent trainings and mental health small group events and educational events.

Small steps lead to big changes – mental health is an ongoing journey of care, resilience, and support.

**Agency Updates** opportunity was given for attendees to share information.

**Save the dates** – future LICC meetings – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

February 19, April 16, June 18, and August 20

Meeting adjourned by Nikki Hinnant.