

Region A Partnership for Children

2014-2015 Annual Report



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Highlights from 2014-2015

The Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC) celebrated another year of successful collaboration in the great far western region of North Carolina with support from new partners and new and renewed commitment to advocacy and coordination of services among our longstanding friends and colleagues.

We are pleased and grateful that Region A Partnership for Children reported to its Board a net increase in assets of \$111,871 this Fiscal Year, thanks in large part to the Edward and Margaret Brown Endowments and the strong professionalism of our Chief Fiscal Officer.

We are also proud to have achieved another year with a clean state audit.

Thanks to the support of the Community Foundation of Western NC, the RAPC began plans to expand our physical space by opening a satellite office in the far western area of the region in Murphy, NC. The confidence on the part of the Community Foundation, our Board and other supporters in our ability to create greater opportunities for families and community partners in the far west is a tremendous statement about the importance of and need for greater connectivity throughout the region.

Other Highlights

- The RAPC hosted four Advocacy Training events in April of 2015 with the support of WNC Non-Profit Pathways and Children First, introducing Values Based Messaging to 104 participants from local businesses, government agencies, faith based organizations and early childhood partners throughout Region A at community based locations.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Foundation funded grants for Macon Program for Progress and God's Little Acre in Murphy to expand natural outdoor learning spaces which will ultimately increase time that children spend learning outdoors.
- Eight RAPC staff members and two Child Care Health Consultants attended the National Smart Start Conference to further statewide collaboration. The Project Manager and Executive Director provided insight about successful regional partnership with the Illinois Early Childhood Contingency at the Conference through the Build Initiative.
- The RAPC Early Literacy Specialist presented at the Smart Start Conference about coordinating efforts with Reach Out and Read and Raising a Reader and about how RAPC emphasizes early literacy across Smart Start and NC Pre-K programming.
- The RAPC Project Manager and Evaluator hosted the Western Regional Parents as Teachers Home Visitors Coordinators' meeting at Macon Program for Progress for the State Consultant. Region A staff presented on transitioning from Visit Tracker to the new Penelope data management system for statewide adoption by the ten counties present.
- Region A Family Support Network and Graham County Smart Start/Local Interagency Coordinating Council were featured in [North Carolina Health News](#) – "Networking to Meet Critical Needs in the Mountains" by Taylor Sisk on May 18th 2015, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the far west in supporting success for young children and their families.

Celebrations

- The RAPC celebrated another year with a clean fiscal audit for 2014-2015.
- The Board of Directors of the Region A Partnership for Children approved the five year Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, developed in collaboration with our community partners, with six Guideposts for Sustainability, Visibility and Advocacy, Connectivity, Quality Programming, Quality of Life Measures and Information Literacy.
- At its November meeting the RAPC Board of Directors recognized Marissa Peck, the Office Manager and Reach Out and Read Coordinator for Peachtree Pediatrics for outstanding work in Quality Assurance with the Reach Out and Read program.
- Jack the Dipper Ice Cream Shop and Western Carolina University students collaborated with the Fontana Regional Library, the RAPC, local government leaders and community members on the second annual ice cream eating contest and fundraiser to raise awareness for early literacy and funds for the Reading Rover.
- Average star rated licenses for child care facilities in Region A were increased or maintained in all seven counties at above 4 stars and the percent of children in four or five star licensed facilities was maintained at or increased above 70%.
- Region A celebrates the work of the child care providers, Child Care Resource and Referral and Subsidy staff, the Child Care Health Consultants, Regional Smart Start Social, Emotional and Behavioral and Quality Enhancement Specialists and NC Pre-K Coordinators in working together to bring about the reality that Region A meets the High Performing standard for quality placement of children in all seven counties for another year!

Community Events

➤ First 2000 Days

Smart Start and Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team Members adopted the First 2000 Days message as the unified theme to communicate the importance of early childhood development and supporting early childhood programming.

This year RAPC staff and community members presented 20 First 2000 Days presentations between October and March in four counties. Events were held at 9 pre k and child care centers, and 2 Head Starts, 2 banks and 1 realty office, 3 ministerial associations and 2 churches. A team also presented at the Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT) in Robbinsville in March leading to a discussion of the need for investment in home visiting support in Graham County. Overall the presentations brought in attendees from a wide range of groups including local business and government leaders. Presentations were well-attended and well- received by the public.

➤ Smart Start/ Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (SS/LICC) Team Sponsored Events

RAPC continues to strengthen interagency cooperation through strength-based partnerships with local agencies in an effort to grow our network of family and children centered resources for our area. This year marked an incredible growth in attendance and expansion to include community business and government leaders from across the region. Events that were sponsored by these groups included:

- Children's Fairs:

September 2014	Cherokee County
September 2014	Clay County
May 2015	Jackson County
April 2015	Qualla Boundary

- SS/LICC sponsored workshops
 - September 2014 Swain County Collaborative Learning Across Service Providers and Families (CLASP) – an event for providers and families to learn about the resources available in their community and how to refer participants and access services
 - May 2015 Swain County “For the Health of It”
- Cookies with Santa
 - In addition to being a fun holiday celebratory occasion, Cookies with Santa is a multi-agency event designed to provide families and children in our counties opportunities for networking with members of our community, access to community resources and contacts, and a shared commitment to supporting the children and families of Region A. Our Parents As Teachers Home Visitors use the well-attended events to connect with new families and take the opportunity to hold family-centered Group Connections for families enrolled in Parents As Teachers programs.
 - December 2014 Clay County
 - November 2014 Jackson County

➤ **Fundraisers**

Region A Partnership for Children is fortunate to have support through community volunteers and donors throughout the year. This year, we launched a successful annual campaign joined by five additional fundraisers held by county groups and the Qualla Boundary team, through partnerships with local businesses and civic groups.

- In July 2014 the Macon County SS/LICC team participated in a School Supply Drive
- In November 2014 Jack the Dipper Ice Cream Shop, Western Carolina University and the Reading Rover held an early literacy fundraiser.
- In November 2014 City Lights Book store contributed 10% of sales during a Reading Rover day.
- In November 2014 the Qualla Boundary SS/LICC team participated in the Cherokee Children’s Coalition Fundraiser 5K Run/Walk.
- In May 2015 Clay County SS/LICC held a luncheon fundraiser.

➤ **Transition to Kindergarten**

Transitioning to kindergarten can be a stressful event for both parents and children. The Family Support Network and Parents As Teachers came together this year to offer families workshop opportunities as they prepared to make the transition from pre-school to kindergarten. Five workshops were held from April to June in Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties, providing learning opportunities and transition resources to children and families of Region A.

➤ **Basic Sign Language Workshop**

Providing a variety of workshops, resource connections, and opportunities for success is an important part of our commitment to the children and families of Region A. This year, the Family Support Network offered a six-week workshop from October through December in sign language. The event, held this year in Jackson County, was well-received and plans are underway to expand this opportunity in the future.

➤ **Subsidy Roundtable**

Thanks to the support of the Community Foundation of Western NC, Southwestern Child Development Commission and the Region A Partnership for Children created a forum for families, community members, early education advocates and child care providers to come together to learn about current issues, changes and legislation related to subsidy as well as to become informed about how subsidy is appropriated throughout the region and in NC.

Each Subsidy Roundtable was open to representatives and interested parties in all seven counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation. Meetings were well attended and are anticipated to continue in upcoming years. Two meetings were held during the fiscal year at Macon County Program for Progress in October 2014 and at the Jackson County Family Resource Center in June of 2015.

➤ **Family Support Workshops**

- Jackson County
 - September 2014 -Toxic Stress & Early Brain Development Lunch and Learn in partnership with the Family Support Network and Regional Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Consultant from RAPC, Dr. Cathy Grist, Western Carolina University and Selena George from LifeSpan, Inc.
 - September 2014 - Family & Parent Engagement Lunch and Learn in partnership with the Family Support Network and Regional Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Consultant from RAPC, Dr. Cathy Grist, Western Carolina University and Selena George from LifeSpan, Inc.
 - September 2014 - Buffering Stress through Responsive Relationships in partnership with the Family Support Network and Regional Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Consultant from RAPC, Dr. Cathy Grist, Western Carolina University and Selena George from LifeSpan, Inc.
- Macon County
 - August 2014- Nurturing the Brain Presentation in partnership with the Family Support Network and Regional Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Consultant from RAPC, Dr. Cathy Grist, Western Carolina University and Selena George from LifeSpan, Inc.
- Be Active Kids Training - March 2015 Be Active Kids Training at Macon Program for Progress in partnership with Raising A Reader and Parents As Teachers

Board Member Highlights

➤ **Retired Members**

- Donna Crawford, Department of Social Services Director for Cherokee County announced her retirement after over 20 years in service with Cherokee County and therefore left the Board in June, having been a founding member and advocate for Smart Start since its inception.
- Carol Grise, Coordinator for the Reading Rover program retired from Fontana Regional Library System, having served as the representative for the library on the Board as well as team leader for Swain County, also retired from the Board in December.

➤ **Members Resigned**

- Ryan Sherby, Executive Director of the Southwestern Planning Commission resigned from the Board in June.
- Bill Skelton, Cooperative Extension Director for Haywood County resigned from the Board in June.

➤ **New Board Members**

- The Board welcomed Harry Baughn, Mayor of Hayesville to represent local government on the Board at the November meeting.
- Jerry McKinney, former Swain County educator, current School Board member and local business leader joined the Board at the start of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, having been elected at the June meeting.
- Jerry Ollis, Bank Manager for Sylva's Entegra Bank branch was elected to the Board at the November meeting and took the lead on the Nominating Committee to recruit the new Representative County Commissioner.
- Gary Shields, Commissioner for Macon County was elected to the Board at the March meeting.
- Deanna Lyles was brought on to the Board in March as the new Library Representative when she was hired by Fontana Regional Library as the Reading Rover Coordinator.

Program Highlights

➤ **New Service Providers**

- Two new Child Care Health Consultants for Jackson, Haywood and Swain Counties completed training.
- The new Child Care Health Consultant for Clay County hired in 2014-2015 will complete training in the coming year.
- The new Child Care Health Consultant hired in 2014-2015 for Graham County completed training.

➤ **Programmatic Success Stories**

• **Quality Child Care**

Regional Training: Quality Enhancement, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Regional Social Emotional and Behavioral Training

Covenant Child Care (CCC) :Two years ago, Macon County had a shortage of child care for children under three years of age. Parents looking for child care, community members and faith-based volunteers worked together to renovate church classrooms to create early education classrooms. The Quality Enhancement Specialist, a Smart Start funded provider through the Region A Partnership for Children, worked closely with Covenant Child Care staff every step of the way. Along with other Child Care Resource and Referral staff, the Quality Enhancement Specialist provided technical assistance through on-site coaching and training from conception to licensing. She assisted with the development of two outdoor learning environments, the design of classroom spaces, provided training and technical assistance on the Environmental Rating Scales, assisted with the development of healthy meal/nutrition policies, and provided support for curriculum development and implementation. Additionally, the Region A Smart Start Social, Emotional and Behavioral Training Specialist provided consultation to the staff on healthy child development at the center as they worked toward achieving the star rated licensure. In November, CCC successfully completed their rated license assessment through the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project. Covenant Child Care moved from a startup, GS-110 licensed program, to a Five-star licensed program in two

short years! They hope to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Certified center, and plan to add additional natural elements to their outdoor learning environment through the support and training offered by Shape NC.

- **Family Support**

- **Parents as Teachers**

- A family involved with Parents as Teachers (PAT) began the program with longstanding financial concerns of instability. Upon entering the program the family faced the threat of disconnection of their electricity. They were behind on their current rent although receiving assistance through HUD. The family was constantly having to seek enough food to feed the children from local food pantries. The PAT Educator worked with the parents to set goals to improve their financial well-being and provided them with resources and information about budgeting. Within the first two months of filling out the monthly budgeting sheet the family was able to see that a lot of their money was going towards wasteful spending that could be used toward necessary bills. After a year in the program, the family was able to pay all the household bills with the mother's income, including the past due balance on the electricity bill. This family had been involved with the local CC4C program for a total of 9 years and the worker from that program (CC4C) stated this was the first time that the family was able to pay all bills for one month at one time without needing some type of financial assistance.

- **Literacy Support**

- **Reading Rover, Child Care Staff Coaching and Library Outreach to Child Care programs in Jackson, Macon Swain Counties and the Qualla Boundary**

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of preschoolers who participated in Reading Rover Story Times, for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, were observed by the Rover's Early Literacy Specialist demonstrating knowledge of rhyming which is a pre-literacy skill. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of preschoolers who participated in Reading Rover Story Times were observed by the Rover's Early Literacy Specialist demonstrating knowledge of sequencing which is an advanced pre-literacy skill.

- **Early Education/ Emergency Services for Family Support**

- Graham County Great Grandparents lost subsidy for their four-year old great grandson, for whom they were providing care, due to changes in eligibility requirements during 2014-2015. RAPC provided additional funding for the family to maintain the child in childcare throughout the summer and ensured that he was placed in an NC Pre-K classroom in Graham County without cost for meals or transportation. The Great Grandparent made the following comment regarding the assistance the family received: "I am very, very thankful. I always think how wonderful it was to have someone to turn to. The Director came to our home to visit and we enjoyed her visiting and helping us. Please tell everyone in the organization and who helped, that they are appreciated."

Overall Region A Partnership for Children Financial Summary

➤ Region A Partnership for Children Total Smart Start Services Budget

- Approved Services budget \$2,071,340
- Required In-Kind @ 15% \$351,279
- Actual In-Kind \$696,367
- Difference \$345,088
- % Change +98%

➤ Region A Partnership for Children Total NC Pre-K Services Budget

- Total NC Pre-K services budget \$2,560,738
- Total # Children Served with NC Pre-K funding 568
- Children Served per/County with NC Pre-K funding
 - Cherokee County 109
 - Clay County 51
 - Graham County 35
 - Haywood County 137
 - Jackson County 25
 - Macon County 106
 - Swain County 105 (Includes 31 children at Cherokee Central Schools in Cherokee)

2014-2015 Region A Partnership for Children Financial Summary

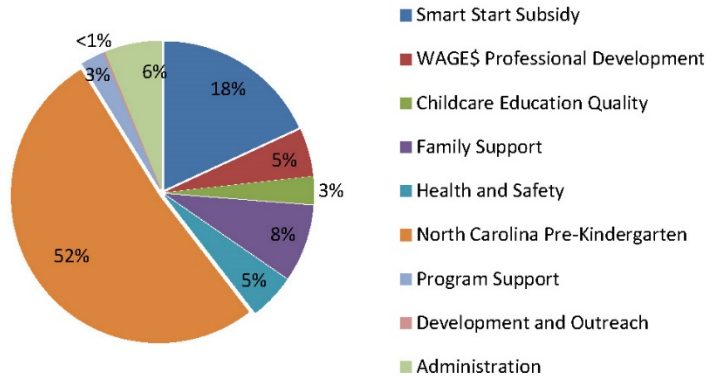
Region A Partnership for Children Financial Dashboard July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Receipts, Expenditures and Net Assets

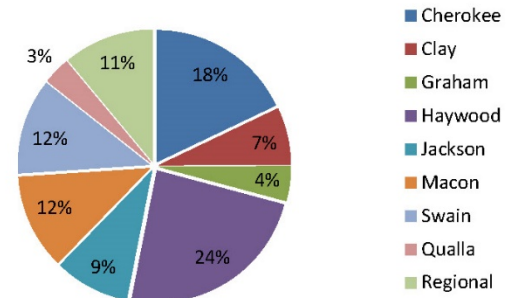
Receipts and Expenditures		Net Assets	
Receipts	\$4,107,268	Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$841,756
Expenditures	\$3,995,397	Unrestricted	\$744,063
Change in Net Assets	\$111,871	Restricted	\$96,055
		Permanently Restricted	\$26,298

Expenditure Detail

Spending By Purpose



Spending By County



Financial Support

North Carolina Smart Start	\$2,260,950.00	North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten	\$2,668,656.00
Community Foundation of Western North Carolina	\$29,970.00	Edward and Margaret Brown Endowment	\$163,682.00
BCBSNC Foundation - Shape NC Initiative	\$13,450.00	Evergreen Foundation	\$12,500.00
BCBSNC Foundation- Outdoor Learning Environment	\$5,000.00	Family Support Network of North Carolina	\$10,820.00

Annual Campaign

Forty-Seven Individual Community Donors Including 100% of Board Members and Staff

About the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan

The Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC) Board and Staff completed a year-long strategic planning process with our partners throughout the region, using Appreciative Inquiry as the basis for community mapping and resource identification. With the help and input of expanded membership of the Local Interagency Coordinating Councils, which have joined with our Smart Start Teams in each Region A county and the Qualla Boundary, relevant data was gathered and new outcomes were adopted for the work of the Partnership. Six “Guideposts” defined within the plan, outline the overall determinants of success for a five year timeframe through 2019. The Strategic Plan was formally adopted by the RAPC Board at their November 18, 2015 meeting. By June 30, 2015 a significant amount of progress had already been made toward addressing outcomes in several areas of the Plan.

Achievements related to the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan

➤ Sustainability

Benchmarks:

- Diversified Funding Sources
- Retention of well trained, qualified program staff at the Direct Service Provider level
- Retention of qualified, well informed and trained staff
- Conservation of energy and resources
- Increase in Coordination, Communication and Collaboration within community and among regional providers
- Assurance that program funds are fully expended in accordance with contract requirements to include program match

2014-2015 Outcomes:

- I. Fiscal
 - a. Decrease in year-end reversions of Smart Start allocations by Smart Start contractors to \$538
 - b. Increase in financial support from private foundations: Community Foundation of Western North Carolina grant for expansion and sustainability of resources in the far west community
- II. Conservation of energy and resources
 - a. Increase efficiency of the Child Care Health Consultant model by consolidating service to Jackson, Haywood, and Swain Counties through Jackson County Department of Public Health (DPH)
- III. Retention of staff
 - a. Increase in well trained and qualified program staff through specialized training and support and development of training guides and tracking tools from Project Manager and Evaluator

2014-2015 Outputs:

- I. Fiscal
 - a. 198% of required Smart Start match: \$351,279 required, \$696,367 actual
 - b. 537 Volunteers; 877 Volunteer Hours; \$17,384.45 In-kind contribution from volunteer hours
- II. Retention of well-trained qualified program staff
 - a. Trainings offered to staff members of child care facilities: 516

- b. Increase in coordination, communication, and collaboration within community and among regional providers: 96 community meetings and local events involving community partners
- c. Regional providers met regularly with Project Manager and Evaluator to coordinate activities:166

➤ **Visibility and Advocacy**

Benchmarks:

- Expansion of engagement in the work
- The general community is well-informed about the importance of investment in programs that support Early Childhood Development.
- The RAPC is well-known and well-supported by the local community in Region A.

2014-2015 Outcomes:

I. Local Advocacy

- a. Increased attendance and diversity (role, job position, interest group) of membership at Smart Start/Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (SS/LICC) in each county with acknowledged community leadership developing beyond traditional realms
- b. Increased dispersion of information about the critical nature of the First 2000 Days in creating success opportunities for children through Smart Start/LICC teams and RAPC staff

II. Expansion of RAPC Presence

- a. Strengthened Reading Rover 2nd Annual Fund Raiser with a partnership between local government and community members, Western Carolina University's Center for Service Learning and Jack the Dipper, local business owner
- b. Increased visibility with local businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations in response to First 2000 Days presentations at parent meetings, community, church, school, and organizational meetings, and through flash drive and promotional materials distributed throughout all seven counties and the Qualla Boundary
- c. Funding received and preparations made for expansion of RAPC services to create a satellite office in the far west
- d. Increased membership at Chambers of Commerce and Rotary
- e. Increased regular activity on Facebook and 100% response rate to posts

2014-2015 Outputs:

I. Community Events and Presentations

- a. 96 community meetings and local events involving community partners
- b. First 2000 Days Presentations to diverse groups in all seven counties: 25

➤ **Connectivity**

Benchmarks:

- Common purpose
- Shared goals
- Intentionally joining forces
- Extending beyond traditional partners
- Programs connect well to ensure effective partnerships with families

2014-2015 Outcomes:

- I. Common Purpose
 - a. Smart Start/LICC share a unified theme for their work related to the focus of the First 2000 Days and identifying and connecting more effective resource access and delivery.
 - b. All Region A Smart Start programs share outcomes related to Shape NC (obesity prevention program for young children).
 - c. Smart Start/LICC teams developing comprehensive resource guides for more effective information sharing among providers and families
- II. Increased Connectivity with Non-Traditional Partners
 - a. Greater involvement in local teams from business owners and faith and government leaders
 - b. Partnership established with Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT)
- III. Increased awareness
 - a. Continued outreach and collaboration with Western Carolina University's Center for Service Learning to grow community awareness
 - b. Renewed use and updating of county Resource Guides resulting from the established Strategic Plan

2014-2015 Outputs:

- I. Community team meetings and events focusing on shared purpose and effective partnership with families
 - a. Number of Smart Start/LICC events held: 96
 - b. Collaborative Learning event held in Swain County to orient families to services provided
 - c. Children's Fairs in four counties and the Qualla Boundary
 - d. BlockFest events in two counties coordinated jointly by Parents as Teachers providers in two counties
 - e. Parent Informational and Support meetings in seven counties: 169

➤ Quality Programming

Benchmarks:

- All children in Region A who are in child care, are in programs with four or five-star licensure.
- Evidenced-based programming meets all quality standards.
- All Region A Partnership for Children funded programs adhere to model fidelity.
- Programs are easily accessible and well-coordinated and connected.
- Programs are responsive to family feedback.
- Clear evidence is measured of progress toward outcome achievement addressing the relevant interests and concerns of families.
- Efficient and effective strategies are in place to ensure that programs build family and community capacity to create and support opportunities for success for children.
- Sufficient Early Childhood programming is available to meet specific individual child and family circumstances.

2014-2015 Outcomes:

I. Quality Child Care

- a. Thirteen child care programs in Region A maintained or increased star rated licensure to 4 or 5 star ratings:

Maintained:

Cherokee County	
Andrews Elementary School Pre-K	5 Star
Kaleidoscope Dreams	4 Star
Haywood County	
Bright Beginnings Head Start	5 Star
Haywood Community College Regional Center	5 star
Waynesville Head Start	5 Star
Jackson County	
Pam's Child Development Center	4 Star
Patty's House	5 Star
Macon County	
Great Beginnings Lutheran Pre-School	5 Star
Highlands Community Child Development	4 Star

Increased:

Cherokee County	
Marble Early Education & Preschool	4 Star to 5 Star
Macon County	
Covenant Child Care	GS-110 to 5 Star
Kim's Kids	3 Star to 4 Star
Swain County	
Tiny Tots Day Care Too!	Special Provisional to 5 Star

- b. Child Care Health Consultants supervised monthly by Project Manager and Health Department supervisors
- c. Reduced teacher turnover to 10% and increased teacher salaries through the WAGE\$ program. (PBIS turnover rate goal is 25%)
- d. Increased communication between Region A Partnership for Children fiscal and administrative staff with Southwestern Child Development Commission subsidy staff to ensure effective planning for subsidy

II. Family Support

- a. Percentage of families that accessed resources to achieve goals in response to assessments: 83%
- b. Percentage of families that increased parenting knowledge and skills: Of the surveys received, 100% of families indicated that their parent knowledge and skills had increased.
- c. Of the eight Service Delivery Essential Requirement Performance Measures for Parents as Teachers, (PAT) the eight Parent Educators achieved at least minimal standards of 60% on seven measures as reflected on the aggregate Annual Performance Report, submitted to the National PAT office.

III. Technical Assistance and Consultation

- a. The average star rating of placements of children enrolled in childcare in Region A increased or were maintained at above four stars in all seven counties with increases in average star ratings in Cherokee, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties.

- b. The percent of children in four and five star child care facilities in Region A was over 70% in all counties in 2014-2015, with increases in Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties and 90% of children in four and five star care in Graham County.
 - c. 100% of facilities reported that they have progressed in achieving at least one or more outcomes on Program Development Plans (PDP)
 - d. Percentage of child care professionals receiving Technical Assistance from Regional Quality Enhancement programs, reporting improvement in practice: Of the surveys received, 93% indicated an improvement in practice.
 - e. 93.3% of participants in four training courses in the Regional Social, Emotional and Behavioral training program reported improvements in their classroom practices based on changes implemented following the courses.
- IV. Coordination of Community Providers
- a. Feedback from Community Providers and recipients of services indicated increased coordination and ongoing quality assessment and improvement resulting in positive outcomes for families participating in Parents as Teachers and child care professionals receiving Technical Assistance and Consultation.
- V. Evaluation and Project Management
- a. The Region A Partnership for Children has strengthened its approach to supporting the work of its Direct Service Providers by increasing the level of Project Management and technical support and providing more consistent tracking tools. The benefit of direct, hands on supervision and support is that Direct Service Providers have greater understanding of their respective service models and are reporting the same type of evaluative information on common measures.
 - b. Of note is the development by the Region A Partnership Evaluator and Project Manager of a comprehensive Parents as Teachers Visit Tracker training manual for Parents as Teachers Educators/Coordinators to reference and to increase efficiency in tracking individual and region wide data.
 - c. The North Carolina Partnership for Children visited for onsite monitoring and the overall feedback to this approach was extremely positive. It shows that Direct Services Providers are gaining the skills and support needed to ensure that high quality services are being shared with families and child care professionals in accordance with the standards and best practices prescribed.

2014-2015 Outputs:

- I. Quality Literacy Programming
 - a. Number of children and families participating in a literacy centered activity or program
 - i. Raising A Reader: 650
 - ii. Parents As Teachers: 216 Children; 153 Families
 - iii. Reach Out and Read: 5274
 - iv. Reading Rover: 1921
 - b. Number of story times offered by Reading Rover: 728
 - c. Number of books given away by Reach Out and Read: 5274
 - d. Number of medical practices participating in Reach Out and Read: 9
 - e. Number of parent meetings held for Raising A Reader: 44
- II. Technical Assistance and Consultation
 - a. Number of child care centers and homes receiving technical assistance: 128
 - b. Number of workshops and trainings offered: 396

- c. Number of child care professionals participating in workshops and trainings offered by Child Care Health Consultants: 400
 - d. Number of child care professionals participating in workshops and trainings offered by Quality Enhancement: 135
 - e. Number of child care professionals participating in TA and Consultation: 535
 - f. Number of trainings and workshops specifically related to obesity prevention: 221
 - g. Number of trainings and workshops specifically related to healthy social emotional and behavioral development: 52
 - h. Number of site visits pertaining to TA and Consultation: 841
- III. Family Support
- a. Number of families with whom the importance of having a medical home has been discussed: 154
 - b. Number of children served through Parents As Teachers: 216
 - c. Number of monthly individual and group supervision sessions held with Parents As Teachers Home Visitors who are supervised by the Project Manager: 70
 - d. New Parents As Teachers Home Visitor added for Cherokee County
 - e. Developing Graham County Parents As Teachers program
- IV. Model Fidelity
- a. Revised Smart Start Logic Models and refined outcomes with defined measures for all Smart Start activities
 - b. Project Management and Evaluation provided direct supervision and technical support for all Smart Start providers to ensure model fidelity and quality of programming.

➤ **Quality of Life Measures**

Benchmarks:

- Increased access to subsidized quality child care
- Reduce obesity in young children
- Increase number of children receiving well-child exams
- Improved health care for young children
- Increased access to learning in quality outdoor environments
- Increased accessibility to appropriate cultural opportunities
- Increased support for parenting
- Increased access to programs and resources through improved transportation systems

2014-2015 Outcomes:

- I. Health and Healthy Weight Management
 - a. Parents as Teachers Home Visitors increased the percentage of children with a medical home by establishing goals within their personal visit record for each family.
 - b. Parents as Teachers Home Visitors increased the percentage of families with information about healthy nutrition and healthy activity for their young children by incorporating goals for obesity prevention and healthy lifestyle in visit planning.
 - c. Child Care Health Consultants increased information about goals for nutrition planning, outdoor learning environments and increased activities in child care by establishing obesity prevention goals with child care staff on Program Development Plans for all child care facilities receiving technical assistance and consultation.

- d. Improvement in outdoor learning environments at four child care facilities to augment outdoor activity and obesity prevention for the children enrolled
- e. Increased participation in Shape NC by child care facilities that achieved breastfeeding friendly accreditation, improved nutrition practices, participated in Be Active Kids training and set additional goals for obesity prevention for early childhood.
- II. Increase in Vision and Hearing Screenings and Developmental Assessments
 - a. Parents as Teachers Home Visitors increased the percentage of children who have vision, hearing and developmental assessments by tracking the health and developmental screenings and assessments with parents and reporting them in the family personal visit records.
- III. Support for Parenting
 - a. Increased number of families with the capacity to care for young children
 - b. Increased number of families who are able to care for the basic needs of their children by accessing and utilizing resources
 - c. Increased number of families with the capacity to care for the children because of improvements in their overall life situation
- IV. Early Education
 - a. Increased access for children to individualized learning opportunities by supporting training in Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies Gold for teachers at NC Pre-K sites
- V. Access to Quality Child Care
 - a. Increased average star rating for subsidized children with special needs in one to five-star rated licensed facilities in Swain County to 74% from 69%. (Cherokee – 97%, Clay – 87%, Graham, Haywood, Jackson and Macon Counties – 100%)
- VI. Outdoor Learning Environments
 - a. Increased access to quality outdoor learning environments by supporting TA, training and materials for Shape NC sites and child care facilities participating in Child Care Health Consultation

2014-2015 Outputs:

- I. Health and Healthy Weight Management
 - a. Number of families with whom medical home was addressed: 154
 - b. Number of families with whom healthy nutrition and healthy activity was addressed: 154
 - c. Number of child care facilities with goals for increased activity and improved nutrition component: 128
 - d. Number of child care facilities participating in Shape NC: 4
- II. Vision, Hearing and Developmental Assessments
 - a. Number of vision screenings: 122
 - b. Number of hearing screenings: 122
 - c. Number of developmental assessments: 116
- III. Families who accessed and utilized resources
 - a. Number of families who accessed additional resources to address basic needs for their children: 137
 - b. Number of families who accessed additional health and/or developmental resources for their children: 134
 - c. Number of families who improved housing, employment and/or adult education through accessing additional resources: 37
- IV. Early Education
 - a. Number of children served in NC Pre-K: 568

- b. Percent of Children served in 4 and 5 star facilities by county: Cherokee: 87%, Clay: 75%, Graham: 90%, Haywood: 84%, Jackson: 84%, Macon: 72%, Swain: 75%

➤ **Information Literacy**

Benchmarks:

- Organizational use of networking technology
- RAPC online network utilized as an interactive hub
- RAPC social networking sites serve as an up-to-date information resource.
- RAPC social networking sites raise visibility for Early Childhood issues

2014-2015 Outcomes:

- I. Sharing of information
 - a. Increased communication capacity with real time interactive online literacy support provided by the Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC) IT Specialist at Subsidy Roundtables, Board Meetings, Community Forums, and conference presentations
 - b. Expansion of RAPC website to include links for all Smart Start programs
 - c. Expansion of RAPC website to include more partners and increased number of partners for families to access resources
 - d. Increased national social media connectivity with early childhood partners due to collaboration with Build the Foundation and National Parents As Teachers on Twitter
 - e. Increased collaboration and information resource sharing with other local Smart Start partnerships and child advocacy organizations on Facebook
 - f. Expanded web video conferencing capability to Region A main and satellite offices for onsite and virtual trainings and meetings