Rock Island AOK Network Meeting

August 4, 2021 🞄 9-10:30AM

Education Center of Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House 🞄 701 12th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

WELCOME BACK!

* Katrina, Stephanie, Traci, Leticia, Emily, Melissa, Pauline, Sarah, McKenzie, Cassie, Sam, Elizabeth, Daniel, Christine, Heather, Brittany, Noemi, Habie

Introductions & Check-In

* Check in question: What is one thing you find depleting or draining about your work? What is one thing that brings you joy in your work?

Network Updates

1. FY21 Accomplishments/Review
   * Membership
     + 128 members, 13 sectors, 65 agencies
   * Resource Guides
     + 5000 Yellow Pages distributed
     + 800 of 1100 Food Guides distributed in first week; corresponding digital database viewed over 1600 times since launch. Gained positive attention from Environmental Protection Agency and Feeding Illinois.
   * Community Events
     + 13 non-traditional events reaching over 900 community members
       - 6 Learning Through Play events: signs and take-home kits
       - 3 virtual poverty simulations: gained attention from outside entities due to being one of the only virtual ones created. Trained Georgia State Extension to facilitate their own
       - 2 Eat Play Grow events with schools/families
       - 1 diaper distribution and resource fair: 5000 diapers distributed
       - 1 early childhood mental health event – 35 kits along with 1 training for early learning and child care group settings
2. FY22 Administrative/Technical Updates:

* [Partnership Agreement](file:///C:\Users\catherineb\Desktop\AOK\AOK%20Partnership%20Agreement%20FY22.docx) updated for FY22
  + Signatures Needed – Grant Requirement!
* [Welcome Packet](file:///C:\Users\catherineb\Desktop\AOK\AOK%20Welcome%20Packet%20FY22.pdf) updated for FY22
* Workgroups *(Sign-up sheet passed around at meeting was misplaced – please let me know if you have it OR if you would like to sign up for a workgroup and haven’t yet!)*
  + Steering Committee
  + Resource Committee
  + Learning Through Play Workgroup
  + Early Childhood Mental Health Workgroup
  + Health and Wellness Workgroup

1. FY22 Strategic Plan Overview
   * Network Capacity
     + Collective Learning
       - *Need suggestions for topics of professional development and/or speakers*
     + Yellow Pages Resource Guides
       - *Resource Committee updates*
     + Early Childhood Mental Health
       - *ECMH Workgroup discusses annual classroom event and yearly goals*
   * Health & Wellness:
   * Food Resource Guides and [Online Database](https://tinyurl.com/iwex85j8) will be continually updated
   * Poverty Simulations & Awareness Events
     + Have had some requests for virtual ones; may be able to continue doing that due to low cost
     + Fall one will be virtual due to COVID cases on the rise
   * Food Resource Coalition with UIE
     + For food pantries to promote best practices and professional development
   * Family Education Events & Engagement
     + Like Eat Play Grow; open to other ideas
   * Community Gardens
   * Very early stages of collaboration and discussions; still planning out what this might look like
   * Information & Referral:
     + AOK Coordinator will continue acting as IRIS Early Childhood Liaison
       - Contact me to connect with QCON. Referrals are faster, easier, and easier to keep track of for those who use it regularly. Hoping to increase inter-agency referrals.
     + Resource Fairs
       - Will be attending and potentially hosting
     + Legislation and Advocacy
       - Will be highlighting and sharing legislation that impacts early childhood
       - Open to other suggestions
     + Holistic Safety and Wellness for Children & Families
       - Monthly highlights; weekly for ECMH month
       - Hoping to continually add even after this year, so please send any suggestions/information

Small Group Brainstorming

* AOK has previously identified community concerns; both in or 2018 Root Cause Analysis (for why young children aren’t healthy) and through discussion at our June 2021 AOK meeting. We will take ideas and suggestions and do small group brainstorming at each upcoming AOK meeting
  + *Children not enrolled in high quality early learning don’t receive same supports/services as those who are – how do we get in touch with these families?*
    - Police departments host community events; room for partnership here?
    - Can we involve more medical providers in Network efforts? What about schools (younger siblings for children already in school)?
    - Increased community relationships between agencies, as well as referrals
    - Eliminate income-based requirements for programs
    - Address stigma of seeking support

Partner Presentation

* Stephanie Rhodes, Early Head Start Director
  + EHS CCP (Child Care Partnership)
  + Full days, Full year
  + Provides same services as traditional Head Start (mental health, nutrition, etc.)
  + Serves Rock Island, Mercer and Henry Counties
  + Ages 0-4 years in home; 6 weeks-3 years in centers
  + [Full presentation/more details here](EHS%20CCP%20Powerpoint%20Presentation.pptx)!

Partner Updates & Networking

* Katrina, Stephanie, Traci, Melissa; SAL Early Head Start:
  + Enrolling kids and babies; hiring
  + Can take kids with special needs/disabilities
  + Homeless and foster kids receive priority and automatically qualify
    - Eligibility Director Angela Casteel
* Elizabeth; RICHD/WIC:
  + No waitlist for WIC; still doing curbside services
  + Vaccines available
* Christine, Brittany, Sarah, Naomi; RIROE:
  + Enrolling; openings for community-based services for pregnancy through 36 months. Visits are happening 2 times per month, virtually.
  + Hiring
  + Infant openings at YWCA; offers developmental tests and screenings and home visiting services
* Leticia, Pauline; Family Resources:
  + School-based Care Coordinator
    - Identifies needs and makes referrals
  + Braking Traffik Survivor Services
    - Accepting referrals & hosting drop-in hours at Humility of Mary and QC Harm Reduction
    - Serves ages 5+
    - Prevention: book clubs, support groups
* McKenzie; RIMSD41 Head Start & PFA:
  + Enrolling ages 3-5 preschoolers; this does take a little while so it helps if parents/caregivers have paperwork ready prior to registration
* Habie; World Relief:
  + Expecting a large number of refugees to be arriving soon; 400+
  + Hosts International Food Pantry; once per month (currently drive-thru)
    - August 9 at World Relief from 9-11
  + Provided financial assistance to families who did not qualify stimulus checks last year; they are no longer doing this, but QCAIR is. Habie is able to help connect families to this.
* Cassie, Sam, Emily, Daniel, Heather; Child Abuse Council:
  + Healthy Families: Home visiting openings
  + Doula Program: Accepting referrals; has openings. Provides new parent home visits, starting at 28 weeks pregnant, and can assist with labor and delivery. Back to in-person.
  + CASA: New volunteers/advocates are being trained at this time
  + Safe from the Start: Therapy for children 0-5 who have experienced trauma; saw influx of referrals over past year so had longer than normal waitlists, but is returning to a normal waitlist period at this time.

Next AOK Network Meeting:

September 1, 2021

Partner Presentations:

Christine, RIROE

Debi, CAC Doula Program