AOK Network Virtual Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2021

Communities build what they dream. Families get what they need. Children thrive.

Welcome!

* Leticia, Traci, Katrina, Elizabeth, Debi, Lindsey, Anna, Nicole, Natalie, Jonnikka, Sarah, Brittany, Alice, Jill, Kim, Christine, Kristin, Habie, Heather, Alyssa, Catherine

Check-In Question

Network Updates

1. Staffing Changes
   * Current Coordinator accepted a new position and will be transferring to a different program within the Child Abuse Council
   * Currently accepting applications and interviewing for AOK Coordinator position
2. Network Capacity:

* [FY22 Partnership Agreement](file:///C:\Users\catherineb\Desktop\AOK\AOK%20Partnership%20Agreement%20FY22.docx)
  + Please complete and return to Catherine ASAP if you did not at August meeting.
  + *Grant requirement – necessary to prove we are engaging with our partners!*
* Learning Through Play/Hug-A-Book: Blocks
  + September 20-25; distributing on RIPL Mobile Library sites
  + Providing blocks as well as instruction/guide sheets for different block activities
  + Providing magnets for parents on importance of different block play for development
  + Providing handouts & Yellow Pages for parents
  + Book and crayons included in kit

1. Health & Wellness:

* Food Resource Guide [Online Database](https://tinyurl.com/iwex85j8)
  + Transportation/bus routes will be added to online database
  + Low on physical guides but online database will be supported and updated by Augustana GIS students each semester
* Poverty Simulation
  + October 19, Follow-up Socioeconomic Workshop October 26
  + Planned for in-person but switching to virtual due to COVID-19
  + Details will be sent as this gets closer
* Healthy Eating/Active Living Events
  + Last year, partnered with RIMSD41 for Eat Play Grow; please reach out if you have ideas/events you’d like AOK to help support!

1. Information & Referral:
   * [Child Safety and Family Wellbeing Monthly Highlights](https://www.rockislandaok.org/wellness)
     + Website-based initiative; has received positive feedback from partners
     + Since launching July 1
       - Site traffic up 167%;
       - Unique visitors up 209%
       - Session duration up 261%
       - Wellness Highlight page is the most popular page; accounts for over half of the site sessions during this time.
       - Other pages on site have traffic increases during this time anywhere from 22% to 300%
         * Highlight initiative is not only helping distribute valuable info, but is also helping to promote awareness of AOK in general

Small Group Discussions

* How can we begin to engage families in conversations about mental health (children’s and their own) and address the stigma of seeking support?
  + Talking about it from the point that we are all human beings, regardless of socioeconomic status
  + Talking to families about everyday routines and challenges at home visits, showing that we all have struggles and getting strategies from others
  + Being open to having a conversation at any time
  + There is a 4 month waiting list that can be discouraging; knowing who they have been referred to and who they can go to now
  + Lack of accessibility, lack of taking insurance (Medicaid), and have quality care
  + Edinburgh screening tool can help open the conversation, pre- and post-natal
* What steps/actions have you seen taken that are either effective or not effective; if any?
  + As we present, share something personal how we have seen something similar and what was done, a story or experience
* What steps/actions can AOK help to take?
  + Utilizing IRIS
  + Reminders/flyers out with packets, where to get referrals
  + Info on symptoms and things to look for, bringing an awareness to it
  + Including handouts about trauma/stress at resource fairs
* How can we engage ALL families – not just those already involved with early learning sites?
  + Utilize Born Learning groups and having open discussions
  + More assessment tools – beyond maternal assessment, things to be looking at/for
  + Share more information at community events, share handouts and information

Partner Presentations

* Debi Bozik, Child Abuse Council Doula Program
  + What is a doula? – labor and delivery support, but also emotional, physical, and encouragement for the birth team
  + Home visiting program – working prenatally with families starting around 28 weeks – can sign on a little earlier or later
    - Prior to 28 weeks meet 2x monthly
    - At 28 weeks and after – weekly for 1 hour
    - Meet with families for 8 weeks postpartum
    - Services available in RI and Scott County - openings currently in both
    - Pre-natal Groups – meeting virtually right now and having great attendance so far
    - Must meet qualifications to be part of the program – pretty easy to qualify
    - Home visits are virtual right now, but still able to be in-person at the hospital for birth support through labor and delivery
    - Can provide translation services, if needed
  + 2021 Doulas flyer [here](2021%20Doulas.jpg) and 2021 Home visiting flyer [here](HFI.FALL%202021.jpg)
* Christine Kitchen, RIROE Early Childhood Program
  + PFA – located in 11 daycare centers – total of 22 classrooms
    - Family events each month for families
    - Provide support for kids and families
    - Bilingual services and translation service for families, with forms being translated into various languages
    - 2 expansion programs at 2 elementary schools
  + Prevention Initiative Program – home visits with moms and kids up to age 3
    - Family Support Specialist provide support for developmental parenting, activities, connect families to community resources, have vision and hearing screening every 6 months, along with monthly family meetings
    - Visits include developmentally appropriate skills and activities to give families showing things their child should be doing based on developmental age and activities for families to do with kids
    - FSS meet with families twice a month; currently back to virtual visits, texts, phone calls, and dropping off resources, any way to keep connected with families and be supportive
    - Center-based programs located at P&J Rock Island, YWCA, and RI High school
      * Teacher and FSS in each room working with infants-3 year olds and then helping them transition into preschool setting
    - Community based birth-3 – screening eligibility checklist to qualify for program (looks at finances, single parent household, 2 under age 3, developmental delays, at-risk families)
  + [Openings available for programs! See flyer here!](RIROE%20Early%20Childhood%20Community%20Based%20Flyer%20FY22-#2.pdf)

Partner Updates & Networking

* Jill D, Prevention Specialist, PCA Illinois: [Virtual conference on October 12-14](2021%20Conference%20Brochure_FINAL%20VERSION_Updated.pdf)
* Traci O, Health/Nutrition for Early Head Start Skip-A-Long: New childcare partnership EHS grant; working with Skip-A-Long and P&J Moline
  + Parents able to drop kids off at center opening (6AM) and pick up at close (5PM) as it works with their schedules and their needs
  + Centers following Head Start curriculum throughout the day
  + Currently signing up kids for classrooms
* Lindsey S/Alice D, Jefferson Early Learning Center: Community Resource Fair on September 21 from 4:30PM-6:30PM (outside)– spots available if your agency would like to sign up
* Chris K/Sarah C/Jonnikka K/Brittany M, RIROE: Openings for families who need extra parenting support
* Kim S, Outreach Specialist, CCR&R: Looking for and signing on new daycare providers; CCAP assistance available for childcare
* Heather L/Alyssa A, Community Education, Child Abuse Council: In-person and virtual [trainings](CE%20Options%20at%20a%20Glance%20(3).pdf) occurring. CETV Conference being planned for March 3rd, 2022
* Leticia S, Care Coordinator Family Resources: Works within all schools in district to help identify child and family needs, helps connect with other resources or services that school cannot help with
* Anna O, Family Educator, East Moline Early Childhood: 10 PFA classrooms; openings available. Office will be moving from Wells Elementary in January into a new building for all early childhood
* Elizabeth M, RICHD: No updates

Next AOK Network Meeting:

October 6, 2021

Partner Presentation:

McKenzie Taets/Dianna Saelens, RIMSD #41 HS/PFA