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%3A%5CUsers%5Ccatherineb%5CDesktop%5CAOK%5CAOK%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%283%29.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