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

March AOK Network Meeting Notes:

* Introduction/Check-In
	+ What does family engagement mean to you or your organization?
* AOK Definition of Family Engagement
	+ Family engagement in AOK Networks is a collaborative, relationship-building process with a shared commitment among partners from different sectors to elevate the family voice in building an effective, inclusive and equitable early childhood system. Families are community experts and equal partners in decision-making within the AOK Network. The outcome of this authentic partnership is a thriving early childhood system that ensures children birth to five and their families are healthy, safe, and ready to succeed in life.
* 2023 Wilder Survey
	+ Network capacity initiative
		- Helps inventory how well inter-agency collaboration is doing in key, important areas of success:
			* Environment
			* Member characteristics
			* Process and structure
			* Purpose
			* Resources
	+ Survey link will be sent out with meeting minutes
* Upcoming events
	+ 2nd Annual resource fair
		- Moline Public Library
		- 10am-1pm
		- Tables and chairs provided
		- Inside – no weather worries
		- Kick off Saturday – Week of the Young Child (WOYC)
	+ Week of the Young Child (WOYC)
		- Put on by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
		- Week long set of themed days related to ways you can interact with your children
		- Saturday, April 1st – Kick Off Saturday (Resource Fair)
		- Monday, April 3rd – Music Monday
		- Tuesday, April 4th – Tasty Tuesday
		- Wednesday, April 5th – Work together Wednesday
		- Thursday, April 6th – Artsy Thursday
		- Friday, April 7th – Family Friday (Blue Out – Child Abuse Prevention Month – go to [www.foreverychild.org](http://www.foreverychild.org) to learn more)
		- AOK will post (FB) something each day during WOYC for ideas parents/families can do at home to match the theme of each day
* Community Growing Space – Mitchell Walker
	+ Started in 2022, however really kick-starting for the 2023 growing season
	+ Angelica Villareal – one of the leads in the community garden team
	+ Palomares has helped through this upcoming growing season and getting details sorted out immensely
	+ Mission statement:
		- To improve physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the local community by supporting nutritious food access and inclusive comprehensive wellness programs and resources through collaborative efforts
			* Floriciente Neighborhood, Moline, IL
			* Asset-Based Community Development
			* Donation Garden – Mercado on Fifth
			* Programs at the Garden
			* Community Beautification
	+ Growing Together Illinois
		- Collaboration between Extension SNAP-Ed, Master Gardeners, and 4H Youth
		- Awarded $4,000 toward project
		- Focused primarily on food access
		- Increase community capacity
	+ Survey Results
		- 63 responses so far (ongoing)
		- Survey’s main reason – What food do you want us to grow?
			* Peppers
			* Jalapenos
			* Tomatoes
			* Garlic
			* Green beans, etc
		- Survey links included in presentation (both English and Spanish) and AOK will send out to Network with meeting minutes
	+ Volunteer Roles
		- Programming at the garden/mercado
		- Planting and harvesting days
		- Bed construction project
		- Garden maintenance upkeep, etc
* Partner Updates
	+ CHC
		- Health and Resource Fair
			* Looking for more vendors
			* Location @ Islamic Center in Moline, IL
			* Flyers handed out at network meeting
			* Sunday, March 12th
	+ RIMSD #37 – Preschool Program
		- Currently accepting applications for 2023-2024 school year
		- Have to be turning 3 by Sept 1st
	+ SAL Community Services
		- Open classrooms in Aldridge Early Learning Center in East Moline, IL
	+ Trauma Consortium
		- Brought brochures – meetings do not have time conflict with Network meetings anymore
		- Partner with St. Ambrose University to have trauma-informed credential
			* 1st Semester – brain science
			* 2nd semester – implementation process
			* $1300 for cost
	+ EveryChild
		- Safe from Start
			* Accepting referrals for play therapy email Catherine (catherineb@foreverychild.org) if you have referrals or further questions
		- Community Education
			* Lookout for pinwheel garden dates and other events, more info located on EveryChild website [www.foreverychild.org](http://www.foreverychild.org)
		- CASA
			* Still looking for volunteers
			* Next Wednesday A.M. will be at Milltown Coffee House in Moline for any questions as well as getting to know the CASA program
		- AOK
			* Lunch and Learn for March will be on March 22nd from 12-1pm
			* Miryam (Safe from Start Program) will talk about social work, what she does, etc.
			* Flyer will be coming soon about event
	+ Community Garden Space
		- Committee meeting March 17th

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, April 5th**

**Deere-Wiman Carriage House**

**817 11th Ave, Moline, Il 61265**