



AOK Network Meeting Notes

November 16, 2022

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

Welcome & Introductions

- **1. Introductions**
 - a. **AOK Network Coordinator: Jess Lovera-Matter**
 - b. **Family Engagement specialist: Autumn Glass**

Presentation by Jessica (AOK Network Coordinator):

- **1. Network Capacity Plan:**
 - a. **Collaborative Leadership and Engagement**
 - i. **Five new partners**
 - **1. Early Education/Early Childhood Mental Health**
 - ii. **Renew existing partnerships and engage in workgroups**
 - iii. **Learning through Play Events**
 - **1. 2 or 3 events (Autumn and Jess missed first quarter)**
 - b. **Network Function and Structure**
 - i. **Roles and Responsibilities**
 - **1. Updated websites (RI AOK & State)**
 - **2. New Facebook Page for AOK Network**
 - **3. Orientation**
 - a. **Family Engagement Specialists and AOK Network Coordinators meet in four State Trainings**
 - **4. Professional Development Trainings for Coordinator and FES**
 - ii. **Contract Expectations**
 - **1. Quarterly meetings with information and referral workgroup**
 - **2. Quarterly meetings with Food Resource/Access Workgroup**
- **2. FY23 Workgroups**
 - a. **Steering Committee**
 - i. **Essentially like a board**
 - b. **Information & Referral**
 - i. **Marketing**
 - ii. **Updating Yellow Pages**
 - c. **Food Resource/Access**
 - i. **Updating Food Resource Guide**
 - ii. **Community Garden**
 - d. **Health & Wellness**



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- i. Identifying concerns relating to physical and mental health
- ii. Resources and activities related to this
- iii. Trainings around the community as well
- iv. Poverty Simulation
- e. Learning through Play
 - i. Positive child and family interactions
 - ii. Helping parents and families bond with their child(ren)
- 3. Different Meeting Day and time for 2023?
 - a. Different December Meeting?

Partner Updates:

- Poverty Simulation
 - Presentation from Moline Foundation
 - Planning for Spring 2023
 - Getting together with other partners about what to do differently, expanding to outer community
 - Goal of Poverty Simulation:
 - Understanding of families we are working with who live in poverty
 - Understanding the decisions that some of these families have to make with children, bills, groceries, etc.
 - Tie in local statistics
 - Riverbend caseloads have increased in recent years
 - Getting bigger perspective in the community
 - Local QC poverty higher than national average
 - Transform words into actual experiences
 - Target Audience
 - Early Childhood Educators
 - Larger community - in general
 - Variety of different organizations and hosts
 - AOK helps bridge the gaps between Early childhood Educator understanding and the families facing these difficulties
- CASA
 - Looking for more CASA volunteers
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate
 - Number one goal is to support child(ren)
 - Roughly a two year commitment
 - Next cohort training kicks off in January (30hours)



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- Traditional 8 week course available in February
- Continued support for children
- Goal is 18 new CASA volunteers
- Informational session - virtual December 6th
 - Google meets link will be sent out
- Brochures and flyers available for partners to pass out in the community
- Heather
 - Community parent class starting up
 - 4 weeks - certificate afterwards
- Workgroup Sign Ups
 - Placed on table at the front
 - Double check if you want to continue with workgroup, sign up for a different one, etc.

Next Network Meeting:
December???