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

September 2023 AOK Network Meeting Notes:

* Introductions/ Check-In: What was your favorite subject in school and why?
* Parent Survey:
	+ Closes September 10th
	+ The AOK Parent Survey helps us measure outcomes in our community that are not found in other data sources. This includes questions about dental hygiene, breastfeeding, bedtime routine, parental attachment, and more.
	+ Please share with parents and caregivers with a child/children five and under
* FY24 Workgroups
	+ Steering Committee
	+ Health and Wellness
	+ Learning Through Play
	+ Early Childhood Mental Health
	+ If you are still interested in joining a workgroup, this is the last month to sign up for them – please reach out to Jess (jessical@foreverychild.org ) if you would like to sign up and haven’t done so already
* Parent Ambassador Update
	+ Parent ambassador position description and flyer now on our website at [www.rockislandaok.org](http://www.rockislandaok.org)
	+ Let us know if you know someone who you think would be a great fit!
* Virtual Parent Cafes are coming to Rock Island County!
	+ Parents engage in conversations built around the Five Protective Factors of Resilience, Relationships, Knowledge, Support, and Communication
	+ Email Angelica Villarreal at avillarreal@birthtofiveil.com to register for more information
	+ Connect with other parents and caregivers in a safe, open space. Parents need relationships and supports.
	+ Starts October 19th from 630-730pm
* What does equity look like for AOK Networks?



* + (from picture) Reality
		- One gets more than is needed, while the other gets less than is needed. Thus, a huge disparity is created
	+ Equality
		- The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is considered to be equal treatment
	+ Equity
		- Everyone gets the support they need, which produces equity
	+ Justice
		- All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the causes of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.
* AOK & Equity
	+ AOK Equity Definition
		- Equity in AOK Networks is realized when all children and families have just treatment and opportunities, which includes valuing and embracing their unique cultures, identities, abilities, languages, needs, and preferences
	+ Our process
		- In an equitable early childhood system, we work toward equity by meaningfully including and involving families that are impacted by inequities in the creation of a system of services and supports that works with and for them
	+ Our Impact
		- We achieve equity when one’s race, ethnicity, or social circumstance does not determine how children and families’ fare; when every child and family have access to everything they need to thrive
* AOK Networks’ Equity Priorities
	+ Build capacity of all local partners to use an equity lens for decision-making and to advance equity processes and outcomes.(network capacity)
	+ Engage with parents/caregivers that are impacted by inequities as partners in the creation and implementation of a culturally and linguistically responsive systems of services (family engagement)
	+ Reduce system barriers and open opportunities for the most impacted children and families to access and participate in services and supports, so that they are not further disadvantaged (system improvement)
	+ Engage with parents/caregivers to design, reframe, or eliminate system policies and practices in order to promote greater justice for children and families (system improvement)
	+ Every child, family, and community benefits from a more equitable and just system (child, family, and system outcomes)
* Network and Partner Updates
	+ Healthy Families – EveryChild
		- Car Seat Saturday, this Saturday, September 9th
		- 9am – 12pm
		- Rock Island Fire Department
	+ Bethany for Children & Families
		- Nurturing Young Parents – The Quad Cities Support & Education Group for Pregnant & Parenting Teens
		- Second Wednesday of each month
		- 430-530pm followed by a community meal
		- Zion Lutheran Church, 1216 W 8th Street, Davenport, IA
		- Call or text Wendy at 563-639-7368
	+ BHASED
		- Offers Early Childhood Services
			* Speech-language – jwinn@bhased.org or 309-865-6919
			* Hearing testing – 309-796-2500
			* Preschool screening – ddurbin@bhased.org or 309-865-6920
			* All services are provided at no charge for families living in Illinois school districts that fund the BHASED Cooperative
		- Developmental Screenings w/ RIROE
			* East Moline Public Library
	+ Trauma Informed Consortium
		- Schedule for 23-24 program year is up and can be found on the QCTIC website <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott/files/documents/QCTIC%20Schedule%2023-24%20%281%29.pdf> or their FB page at QCTIC
	+ Steward’s of Children Training – EveryChild/ Scott County Health Department
		- Thursday, November 30th 1-330pm
		- Scott County Admin Building
	+ Scott County Health Department
		- Community Baby Shower
		- Saturday, September 9th
		- 1-3pm
		- TMBC Lincoln Center, Davenport
	+ Kaelly – CASA
		- Still recruiting for Court Appointed Special Advocates
		- Next training will be in October
		- Will be 3 hr sessions over 4 weeks
		- Have to be 21 to apply
	+ World Relief
		- Also looking for volunteers to help mentor refugee/immigrant youth ages 15-24
	+ Mitchell – University of Illinois Extension/ FCG
		- Have had 3 distribution days so far
		- Have distribution days on 2nd and 4th Thursday from 4-7pm @ Salon Floreciente
		- A vast majority have been coming from the Floreciente Neighborhood itself
		- Will be putting native pollinator garden in April/May
* Partner Presentation – Pregnancy Resources – Annette Cooper
	+ Annette serves as the Client Services Director for both centers (Davenport and Moline) and the Center Director at the Davenport center
	+ Pregnancy resources has coupons for free pregnancy tests, coupon for the boutique, etc.
	+ They are planning on opening an East Moline location with QC Mission, which is by the East Moline Correctional Facility
		- This is a limited service location, but the mobile drive will be able to be housed there to offer more
		- Will eventually have a food pantry and so much more
	+ Main services
		- Free pregnancy tests
		- Ultrasounds
	+ Help with making sure pregnant first and talk afterwards about the three options that the mom/family has if they are
	+ Pregnancy resources is a Christian Organization, however they don’t push that aspect. They inform clients about the specifics and that’s that
	+ Most clients are in their 20s and older, their smallest client population is 17 and under
	+ Offer material services to help with baby – FREE parenting classes, baby clothes, maternity clothes, etc
	+ Have Dad’s programs
		- Dads can either come with their partner to regular parent classes, however, they also have dad-specific classes
	+ Help w/ adoption by giving information and local referrals
		- Usually bring the agency to the pregnancy resources center to talk with the client
		- Averages less than 5 per year
	+ Offers free diapers monthly
	+ If parents go to 4 classes – they can get a free car seat
	+ They have an After Abortion Care Support Group for men and women
	+ Walk for Life Fundraiser @ Ben and Butterworth Parkway coming up in September

**Next Meeting: October 4th @ Butterworth Education Center**