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

rockislandcountyaok.org

Welcome & Check-In Question

* If you could magically gain one skill or improve on an existing one – what would that skill be (professionally or personally)?

Network Updates

1. *Introductions*
	* Partner updates and introductions
2. *Network Capacity*
	* Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockislandaok>
		+ Please Like, Comment, share posts, and feel free to submit items to post for the group! Share this group with anyone that might benefit from it! Thank you!
3. *Annual Collective Learning Event – Mental Health Awareness Month*
	* Thursday, May 19, 2022 – 9AM-12PM, Free Virtual workshop in collaboration with PCA
	* **Topic: *The COVID Kids - Navigating support for children during COVID and beyond*** (focus efforts on trauma caused by current pandemic, how social distancing has impacted children’s (0-5 specifically) mental health and wellness, and how we can as a community provide support to children and families that do not have access to the tools/education necessary to navigate through this pandemic in a healthy way.
	* Registration information coming soon!
4. *Yellow Pages and Resource Guides*
	* If you or your agency need more yellow pages or resource guides please let Georgia know
5. *Workgroups*
	* Learning Through Play
		+ Register for kits starting Monday, April 4, 2022 at Rock Island Public Library
			- Will be sending registration information soon
		+ Kits can be picked up between April 18-23 at Rock Island Public Library
		+ Heather Lamb, EveryChild, will be hosting virtual parent classes talking about the importance of play and how it helps children build resilience. 2 opportunities to attend:
			- Wednesday, April 27 @ 6 PM
			- Thursday, April 28 @ 12 PM
			- Registration info coming soon!
		+ If you would like to help or join the workgroup for our next Learning Through Play activity, date TBD, please contact Georgia
	* Early Childhood Mental Health
		+ Teacher kits
			- Working with the Early Childhood Mental health workgroup on creating kits that support mental health and wellness for classrooms to help with creating safe spaces for kids during the month of May. Let Georgia know if interested in a kit for your classroom or school!
		+ Website resource bank
			- Working with Early Childhood Mental Health Workgroup on creating a collection of resources and videos available on the local Rock Island County AOK website, that support Early Childhood mental health and development.
	* Health & Wellness:
		+ Community Garden
			- The goal is to support food accessibility and the holistic health and wellness of children 0-5 and their families.
			- If interested in helping plan this awesome space let Georgia know!
		+ Lunch ‘n Learn
			- Previous Lunch and Learns are available to view on AOK website
			- Parenting during the Pandemic on Wednesday, March 9th @ 11:30am
			- Hunger and Health on Wednesday, March 23rd @ 11:30am
		+ Coming soon! AOK Parent and Professional informative videos clips on website (rockislandcountyaok.org)
		+ Handle with Care – program that will send children to school with a message to “handle with care” after experiencing a traumatic event so they can receive the appropriate care
6. *Resource Fair*
	* Saturday, June 18, 2022 10AM-2PM, Spirit, Mind, & Body Center across from Two Rivers YMCA in Moline
	* Please Email Georgia if you are interested in hosting a table at the event or are able to join the workgroup!
7. *Information & Referral:*
	* *Iris Updates:*
		+ Local PD and Libraries soon to be on boarded with IRIS
		+ Please contact Georgia if you would like additional training for this referral platform or to be connected with onboarding support.
	* Breakout Room activity – strengthening communication and networking – Name 3 things that make you happy (people and pets not included). Reflecting on how we develop as individuals, and how this has an effect on communication. Collaborative reflection and connection.
	* Just Do it… if you know, you know.

Partner Presentations

* Daniel Williams – CASA Program Coordinator, EveryChild
	+ CASA History
		- Founded by Judge David Soukup in Seattle, WA in 1977
		- Saw that children who had experienced abuse or neglect needed somebody to speak up for their best interests
		- 948 program across the US currently
		- Rock Island County CASA established in 2018
	+ Rock Island County CASA
		- 282 children removed from their homes currently in RI County
		- Youth spend an average of 18 months in care
		- RI County CASA serving 30 children currently (about 12% of those in need)
	+ What do we do?
		- Gather information on history, relationships, need of a child in care
		- Visit with child, case worker, and other involved party’s monthly
		- Advocate for child’s best interests through court hearing, reports, and meetings
		- Provide educational resources for child and family as needed (educational, hygiene, recreational)
	+ Benefits of CASA
		- Children will have fewer placements
		- Are less likely to re-enter the child welfare system
		- Are more likely to find permanency
		- Have higher levels of services, consistent adult support, and significantly higher levels of hope
	+ CASA Volunteers
		- Requirements:
			* 30 hours of training (over 9 weeks)
			* 7-10 hours monthly
			* Visit child once per month
			* Communicate with all key parties regularly
			* Enter case notes, write court reports (template)
			* Attend supervision with CASA Case Supervisor 1x/month
			* Attend court every 3-6 months
			* Pass background screening
			* Accept a case after training
			* Be able to commit at least 18 month or one case with program
			* Must be 21 or older
			* *No special background or experience needed*
	+ If interested, would like more information, or to fill out an application contact Daniel Williams at DanielW@foreverychild.org or visit [www.foreverychild.org/casa](http://www.foreverychild.org/casa)

Partner Updates & Networking

* Kim Stickell – CCR&R: Licensed exempt childcare; forgivable loan program through city of Moline – for those opening their own daycare’s, expanding or revising hours
* Heather Lamb – Prevention Education Specialist, EveryChild: Children Exposed to Violence Conference Thursday, March 3 from 8:30AM-4:00PM; April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, for all events and pinwheel garden information visit our website (www.foreverychild.org/capm)
* Abigail Pritchard – CCR&R Now open to the public!

Attendance:

1. Sue Foster
2. Heather Lamb
3. Gale Vyncke
4. Kim Stickell
5. Jessica Trowbridge
6. Iris O’Dowd
7. LaTashia Sheets
8. Bailee Reiter
9. Abigail Pritchard
10. Daniel Williams
11. Analisa Marceleno
12. Lindsey Schroeder
13. Elizabeth Myers
14. Gabriella
15. Charlene Brants
16. Isabel Watts
17. Sarah Carleton
18. Morgan P.
19. Jozett McCoy
20. Christine Kitchen

Next AOK Network Meeting:

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

10:00-11:30 AM

Location: TBD

Partner Presentations:

**Jessica Trowbridge,** Jessica Trowbridge

Chapter Coordinator at Safe Families for Children

**Abigail Pritchard, Isabel Watts & Georgia Stear**

**AOK Network Grow Team members**- A reflection on growing your own food and personal growth- A deeper look into the AOK Community Growing Space collaboration.