

Pamela Williams
AOK Network Coordinator
pamwilliams@stephensoncountyl.gov
815-599-8432 or 815-291-9885

Rebekah Randecker
AOK Family Engagement Specialist
rrandecker@stephensoncountyl.gov
815-599-8435 or 815-266-9798

www.aok-nwil.com:

*Find Roles & Responsibilities

*Find List of network partners

*Find full list of work product

Find us on Facebook: All Our Kids (AOK)



Carroll / Jo Daviess
All Our Kids (AOK) Network Meeting
March 20, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM

In Person

Carroll County Transit

17612 Benton St
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

ZOOM LINK OPTION:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83888926161>

AGENDA

Attendees: Pamela Williams, Bekah Randecker (AOK), Julie Yuswak (TCOC), Linsey LaGrange (ROE#8), Bella Cece (Birth to Five-IL), Michelle Bashaw (Parent Ambassador), Trudie Flaningam, Nicole Bleuer (Sinnissippi), Dion Garcia (Head Start), Gabby Brunner (Child and Family Connections #3), Ashlely McKinney (Carroll County Health Dept.), Maggie Fern (4-C's), Tashara Grandy (U of I Extension) (13)

Welcome & Introduction- Pam began the meeting at asking partners to introduce themselves and share one service that is offered at their organization that they feel more people should know about.

Family Engagement Updates - Bekah shared many exciting things that are happening with the Family Engagement team. We had a wonderful collaborative event with the Freeport and Local Parents last month. We co-hosted "Love Bug Potluck" there were 48+ attendees present.

Upcoming Events:

- **Parent Café** – March 10, 2026 @ the Freeport Public Library 5:30-7:30
- **Blue Ribbon Week** – April 6th-11th Please contact Bekah @ rrandecker@stephensoncountyl.gov if you would like Swag, Pinwheels or signs. **Don't forget to place your CAP t-shirt orders by March 12th**
<https://aokgoesblue2026.head2toedesign.com/>
- **Families, Food and Connections** – (Stephenson County) – May 2nd at 11 – 1 PM at St Johns UCC. (RSVP REQUIRED) only 50 slots available. Each family will participate in hands on assembly/ cooking activities and parents will engage in cultural conversation. If you can help with this event, please let Bekah know that you are available.

Parent Needs Assessment Overview - Bekah provided an overview of the feedback that was gathered from our Parent Needs Assessment. Many of the key issues are not new but shines a light that we have more work to do. Many of our initiatives are geared towards deducing these issues, so we need to keep working and sharing collaboratively to meet the family needs. Click [LINK](#) to access results. (Assessment results will also be added to the local web site under the community data tab.

Workgroup Updates

Information and Referral- Pam shared that the workgroup recently completed the IRIS Referral System Standardized Onboarding Protocol for New Users [LINK](#). This link will be shared more thoroughly during our quarterly IRIS meeting and will be made available on our local website under the IRIS tab. Our next step is to update the Community Resource Directories. Please take a moment and update your agency's information, so that we ensure we have the most up to date information. [CLICK TO UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

Developmental Screening- Suzanne Schoff informed the group that the workgroup has established some routines around Developmental Screenings. A partnership has been formed with our local Child and family connections. Gabby is in place to monitor on-going screenings/ submissions. An MOU and protocols are in draft form, so that we have things in writing to avoid future confusion about what is expected from any screener.

Mental Health Workgroup- Continues to develop mental health tool kits that will be distributed to 200 isolated families by June 2026. Some suggestions for places of distribution were shared during the meeting and will be passed along to Amy, our MH Workgroup Chairperson.

Crisis Nurse / Extended Childcare/ Resource Center Workgroup – This workgroup has been meeting over the past couple of months to explore the exciting possibility of creating a Family Center in Freeport to support families experiencing crisis, provide 2nd and 3rd shift childcare, and serve as a central resource hub for families in need and possibly provide specialized services. AOK believes that many of the challenges facing families in our community could be addressed or better supported through the addition of this center. While we recognize that bringing this vision to life will require significant effort and financial commitment from key partners throughout our community, we remain hopeful that, through collaboration and shared commitment, this goal can be achieved.

Hearts That Care – Collaborative Health/Resource Fair Workgroup – This workgroup is set to meet for its first meeting on **March 16, 2026, at Mt Calvary COGIC /420 Challenge St./ Freeport, IL 61032 at 9:00 AM**. This workgroup is an opportunity to discuss how we as social services professionals can collaborate and plan a quarterly community resource fair in partnership with our pantry with the goal of building engagement based upon evidence-based practices for increasing delivery of accessible services and resources. Contact Sherry for more information. spearson@geogroup.com

Partner Updates:

4-C's – Currently offering grant funding for Licensed childcare centers/ homes – contact Maggie for more details - maggief@four-c.org . They will also be hosting a Week of the Young Child Event on April 14th from 10-1 at the Honey Bee Child Development Center at Shimer Square. Please see attached flyer.

ROE#8 / Family Enrichment Program – Currently seeking to hire a parent educator. Interest applicants should apply at [Employment Opportunities | About Us](#).

Sinnissippi – HFI will be hosting a Spring Baby Swap on April 24th from 3PM-6PM / Sinnissippi Centers Inc Conference Center/ 325 IL Rt 2 Dixon, IL 61021 Questions? Contact: HFI@sinnissippi.com or 815-284-6611

Birth to Five IL – Offering a virtual parent café on April 30th from 4PM-6PM. Please see attached flyer.

Pitter Patter Pantry – Will be switching out the winter items for spring on April 21st.

Right Steps Family Center – Hosting Little Picasso Night on March 26th from 5:30-6:30 PM / 19 School St. Chadwick, IL 61074. SAVE THE DATE... Blooming Babies Gardening activity. April 23rd from 10AM-11AM (more information to come)

TCOC – Limited funding available only for truly homeless individuals. Limited funding available in LIHEAP. Many other programs available, check them out at [Community Services Block Grant](#) | [Community Action Agency](#) | [Serving Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties in Illinois](#)

Carroll County Transit – Hosting a Drive-up Pork Chop Lunch Fundraiser on June 9th. Spring Punch Card Sale is now available/ Spring Shopping Trip May 19th / Dubuque, IA – (Flyers attached for all 3 events)

TCOC-Early Head Start- Currently accepting students in the Sterling /Dixon area. Parents that live in Carroll County, but work in the Sterling /Dixon area may qualify for services, as long as they are able to arrange their own transportation. Contact Dion Garcia dgarcia@tcohelps.org for more information.

***Agenda subject to change based on discussion or community needs.*

MISSION

AOK Network is committed to a community system that assures positive-growth and development of children 0-8 and their families by providing a framework to support initiatives that embrace this goal.

Funding provided by the IL Department of Human Services