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*Find Roles & Responsibilities

*Find List of network partners

*Find full list of work product

Find us on Facebook: *All Our Kids (AOK)*



AGENDA

Carroll / Jo Daviess
All Our Kids (AOK) Network Meeting
May 15, 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>

Attendees: Pamela Williams, Bekah Randecker (AOK), Dawn Holland (Carroll County Health Dept), Dion Garcia (Head Start), Kinsey LaGrange, (Family Enrichment- ROE8), Michelle Bashaw (Parent Ambassador), Trudie Flaningam, Nicole Bleuer (Sinnissippi / HFI), Julie Yuswak (TCOC), Maggie Fern (Four-C's), Jessi (Kinder Mind) (11)

Welcome & Introduction – Pam began the meeting at 9:01 AM and invited the network participants to introduce themselves to the network.

The Right Steps Family Center- Provided bi-annual updates to the network. Right Steps Family Center is an early childhood program serving families in Carroll County with children from birth to age three. The program focuses on supporting healthy child development, strengthening parenting skills, and connecting families to community resources and early learning opportunities. Through free services, the center partners with parents and caregivers to help children build the skills needed for preschool and future success.

The Right Steps home visiting program pairs families with an early childhood development specialist who visits the home one to two times each month. During visits, families receive age-appropriate activities, books, developmental screenings, parenting information, and guidance on developmental milestones. The program also offers center-based visits, playgroups, parent groups, and family connection activities that encourage socialization and support for both children and caregivers.

The program reported some upcoming staffing changes and noted that each current home visitor has a caseload of 18. They are preparing to graduate many of their families out of the program and will soon be looking to recruit new families.

Family Engagement Updates – Bekah shared that The All Our Kids Network supported or sponsored several community-focused events last month, including Hope WINS Rise Family Connection Night, Paint, Pour & Protect, Child Abuse Prevention Week, and the Week of the Young Child Kick-Off Event. These efforts were made possible through strong collaboration with community partners such as Hope Wins, YWCA of Northwest

Illinois, NICA, Head Start, Child and Family Connections, Amity, Boys & Girls Club, Freeport Public Library, Galena Public Library, Meridian/ Youth Health, Family Services, VOICES, The Family Enrichment Program, The Department of Children and Family Services, and RAMP. Together, these partnerships helped strengthen connections, increase family engagement, and support the well-being of children and families throughout the region.

Strategic Planning – Pam guided network partners through a comprehensive review of the entire strategic plan, highlighting the three key initiatives our network will focus on moving forward. During the meeting, she presented proposals, encouraged thoughtful public discussion, and facilitated live voting on each objective and approach using Mentimeter. Partners were able to view responses in real time, creating an engaging and collaborative decision-making process. The network is off to a strong start as we are preparing to submit our plan to the state for final approval. A huge thank you to everyone who dedicated extra time and energy to this important meeting as we worked together to finalize the direction of our upcoming efforts. A finalized draft will be presented in the August meeting.

Partner Updates

The Family Enrichment Program – The Jo Davies’s office looking to fill a Parent Educator position in Jo Daviess County and the retirement of the part-time Marketing/Recruitment Specialist. Freeport caseloads are currently full, while Jo Daviess County continues recruiting both English and Spanish-speaking families through community outreach, social media campaigns, and partnerships with local organizations and providers.

Sinnissippi Centers – is excited to share that they have recently welcomed a new Home Visitor to their team! They will also be hosting a special celebration on June 11, 2026, from 4:30–6:30 PM to recognize both their Home Visiting Program and families graduating from the program. The event will feature fun activities, valuable community resources, and opportunities for families to connect and celebrate together. For more information, please contact Nicole at nicolebleuer@sinnissippi.com.

Pitter Patter Pantry – Summer clothing is now available.

Tri-County Opportunities Council - Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC) provides support through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program to help individuals and families with low income achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Services include emergency assistance such as rent, utilities, food, and housing stabilization, as well as homelessness prevention supports like eviction prevention and short-term financial assistance. The program also helps families access essential personal care items such as hygiene products, diapers, and household supplies to reduce financial strain. In addition, TCOC offers workforce development supports that may include job readiness services, education and training opportunities, and pathways to employment, including CDL training options when eligible, all designed to help participants build long-term economic independence.

TCOC/Head Start – Currently seeking a new location for Carroll County, also looking to hire qualified staff, or staff who are willing to become qualified. Contact Dion for more information - dgarcia@tcohelps.org

Carroll County Health Department – Happy to report that they are fully staffed and getting acquainted with the Better Birth Outcomes Program, which replaced the client case management. Better Birth Outcomes is a maternal and infant health initiative focused on improving health outcomes for pregnant individuals and babies, particularly in communities experiencing higher rates of infant mortality and health disparities. The program typically provides education, care coordination, and support during pregnancy and after birth, helping families access prenatal care, nutrition resources, safe sleep education, and connections to community services. Its goal is to promote healthier pregnancies, reduce preventable complications, and ensure infants have a strong and healthy start in life.

Kinder Mind – Will be hosting a Fun fair in the near future, more details to come.

Reminder, we will meet at Krape Park next month for a combined regional networking celebration on. Huge thanks to the Freeport Park District for offering us shelter at the Gunkle Shelter.

You're Invited!

END OF YEAR AOK

Networking Event

Let's come together to celebrate our collective impact and strengthen connections across our network!

DATE: JUNE 16TH
Rain Date: JUNE 23RD

LOCATION: KRAPE PARK
Freeport, IL

TIME: 9 AM - 11 AM

Bring your LAWN CHAIR!

ALL OUR KIDS
EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORKS
Northwest Illinois

As we begin planning for our end-of-year networking event, we are excited to bring together partners from Stephenson, Carroll, and Jo Daviess Counties into one shared, in-person space. This gathering will take the place of our typical June meeting and is intended to provide an opportunity to celebrate our collective work and strengthen connections across the network.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- RECOGNIZE**
partner involvement throughout FY26
- PARTICIPATE**
in team-building activities
- NETWORK**
and build meaningful connections

Stronger **TOGETHER.** Greater **IMPACT.** ♥

Meet at Gunkle Shelter near the carousel!

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT BY ACCEPTING THE CALENDAR INVITE!