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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)*



Stephenson
All Our Kids (AOK) Network Meeting
June 16, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM

In Person
Krape Park

ZOOM LINK OPTION:
NOT AVAILABLE

MINUTES

Attendee's: Pamela Williams, Bekah Randecker(AOK), Nicole Bleuer (Sinnissippi),Kaye Nichols (Freeport Park Dist.), Amy Pinkston (Moving Beyond Depression), Beth Johnson (ROE), Ashley McKinney (SCHD), Jennifer Beck (WIC), Barbara Davis (Health Families IL), Danielle Wittig (Mercyhealth Freeport), Sarah Kuhlemeier, Rassny Homer (Early Learning Academy), Ashley Harms (Amity), Stephanie Jones, Crystal Garkey (YWCA), Tashara Grandy (U of I Ext.), Julian Vilchez (Parent Ambassador), Toni Cummins (Believe in the Children), Lexabet Alvarez-Torres ,Suzanne Schoff (Brightpoint), **Ana Jozefowicz** (4-C's), Kaitlyn Rodriguez (Freeport & Local Parents), **Cami McElroy** (World Financial Group), **Vince Brooks** (High Hope Freeport), Jennifer Rojas (Meridian/Youth Care) (25)

Welcome & Introduction – Participants were invited to take a name tag with funny names on them. When prompted, partners were invited to locate their matching group members and to take time to get to know each other better, no pressure, no prompts, just genuine connections.



Activity: We participated in the **"Me Too" networking game** as an icebreaker activity to help network partners build connections and learn more about one another. Through sharing personal and professional experiences, participants discovered common interests, challenges, and strengths, creating a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere. The activity reflected the work of AOK by demonstrating the importance of relationships, communication, and partnership in supporting young children and families. Just as the game highlighted shared experiences among network partners, AOK brings organizations, service providers, and families together around common goals, ensuring that families remain at the center of our work and have access to the resources, supports, and connections they need to thrive.



Activity: Team Dynamics Thumb Ball - We participated in the Team Dynamics Thumb Ball activity to promote engagement, communication, and relationship-building among network partners. Participants tossed a ball printed with discussion prompts and answered the question located under their thumb when they caught it. The activity encouraged meaningful conversations, helped partners learn more about one another's experiences and perspectives, and strengthened collaboration. This aligns with the work of AOK by fostering connections, building trust, and reinforcing the importance of working together across organizations to better support children and families throughout our region.



Recognition - We continued the celebration by reading our FY26 story of accomplishments. Partners took turns reflecting on the ways that our network centered families by elevating the parent voice, supporting mental health, ensured equity and inclusion, supported child development, strengthened information & referral coordination and put community engagement into action. We have so many things to be thankful for this past year. We also took time to recognize individual organizations that assisted with the mission and significant contributions to the work of AOK.



Gratitude

Thank you to all AOK Network Members who were able to attend the End of the Year Networking Celebration. Your participation helped create a meaningful opportunity to connect, reflect, and strengthen relationships across our region. Through shared conversations and engaging activities, we celebrated the collective impact of our work in supporting children and families. As you head into the summer months, please be sure to take time to rest, recharge, and do something fun. We look forward to reconnecting and reconvening in August 2026 as we continue our shared commitment to building strong, connected supports for families in our communities.



