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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)*



MINUTES

Carroll / Jo Daviess
All Our Kids (AOK) Network Meeting
April 17, 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**), Michelle Bashaw (**Parent Ambassador**), Nicole Bleuer, Trudie Flaningam (**Sinnissippi**), Dion Garcia (**TCOC-Head Start**), Maggie Fern (**4-C's**), Katie Kalina (**Kinder Mind**), Julie Yuswak (**TCOC**), Tashara Grandy (**U of I Ext**), George Vennalasseril (**DCFS**), Gabby Brunner (**Child & Family Connections**) Ashlyn Horn (**Birth to Five IL**) (13)

Welcome / Introduction: The meeting began at 9:00 AM with welcome & introduction from each participant.

Greetings/Updates from IDEC: We were greeted with a recording of Shante Holman from the Illinois Department of Early Childhood. Shante Holman shared that the Customer Service Bureau will continue supporting and connecting partners to early childhood programs during the transition to the Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC), effective July 1, 2026. Updates will be provided as changes occur. Partners are encouraged to attend IDEC town halls to learn more about the new agency, including topics like technology, data, and grant management. The next virtual meeting for external partners is scheduled for April 15 from 5:30–6:30 PM. You can register at www.idec.illinois.gov. For questions, partners can contact the Customer Service Bureau at DHS.DEC.Info@illinois.gov, reach Shante Holman directly, or email Questions.IDEC@illinois.gov for transition-related inquiries.

Family Engagement Updates- AOK supported two events in March: The Community Baby Shower on March 30, 2026, and the Parent Swap on March 14, 2026. These efforts were made possible through collaboration with multiple partners, including local parent groups, health organizations, community services, the faith-based community and the public library, all working together to support families in the community.

Review of Q3 Report Overview: The local staff shared the progress & barriers that has been accomplished or attempted during Q3. Please click link to review Q3 Report - <https://canva.link/5o0dip0gxcy02xf> . Pam is requesting a 2-hour meeting in May, so that we might review survey results, parental feedback and begin planning for FY27.

Network Partner Updates:

All Our Kids of Northwest Illinois - We are excited to offer three “Families, Food, and Connections” events to community members. Food is at the heart of every culture, and we hope to use it as a pathway to meaningful conversations about belonging and racial healing. Stephenson County event will be held on May 2, 2026, at the St Johns UCC. [CLICK TO VIEW FLYER](#)

4-C's / Honeybee Childcare: Happy to share that they had successful open house and Week of the Young Child Celebrations.

Kinder Mind: Newest network partner. Offering mental health services to all of IL and will be starting a Postpartum Therapy Group. [CLICK TO VIEW FLYER](#)

The Family Enrichment Program- Currently have openings in their home visiting program in Jo Daviess County. [PLEASE APPLY : https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=69faf1940b960b7e...](https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=69faf1940b960b7e...)

Illinois Department of Child & Family Services: *Seeking individuals who are interested in being a Foster Parent.* [CLICK TO VIEW ENGLISH FLYER](#) / [SPANISH FLYER](#)

Child & Family Connections: *Looking to host a Family Photo Event / Resource Fair – more information to come.*

Sinnissippi Centers: *Will be holding a Home visitors celebration/Resource fair on June 11, 2026 from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM. There will be a petting zoo, music, Etc. Those who are interested in setting up a resource table, please contact Nicole Bleuer at nicolebleuer@sinnissippi.com for more details.*

Pitter Patter Pantry: *Seasonal clothing change, will take place on April 21st*

Right Steps Family Center: *Hosting “Blooming Babies” family event on April 23, 2026, from 10 AM – 11 AM. This event is open to the public – [CLICK LINK TO LEARN MORE](#). They will also be Pampering Mom’s on May 7th from 5PM – 7:00 PM. Please contact Michelle for more details. michelle.is.up.too.late@gmail.com*

TCOC: *Currently out of rental assistance funding. Has some funds available in their LIHEAP Program and Homeless assistance. They can also offer assistance with job training and get people connected to the state referral network. Their Head Start Program is offering Free Early Childhood Education. [CLICK TO VIEW FLYERS](#)*

Birth to Five: will be hosting a virtual parent café on April 30th from 4:00 – 6:00PM – [CLICK TO VIEW FLYER](#)

END OF YEAR TEAM BUILDING DAY

Plans are underway for an in-person end-of-year networking event bringing together partners from Stephenson, Carroll, and Jo Daviess Counties. Replacing the June meeting, the event will focus on celebrating FY26 accomplishments, recognizing partner contributions, and fostering connections through team building and networking. It is tentatively planned for Krape Park in Freeport, with attendees being asked to complete a Doodle poll to help select the best date.

Please indicate your availability by 5/1/2026
<https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/eEXVgDgd>