FY27 Plan At A Glance:
Network Capacity Initiative

Network: **STEPHENSON COUNTY**

Network Capacity	The Network Capacity Initiative focuses on building the collaborative capacity and structure that is needed to improve the system and enhance outcomes for children and families. By building their network capacity, AOK Network partners become more capable of creating powerful and sustainable system improvements. AOK Network partners work together to build their collaborative capacity by focusing on four core areas: Shared Agenda, Collaborative Leadership and Engagement, Continuous Learning and Adaptive Action, and Network Governance.
Overall Result Desired:	The AOK Network partners have an agreed upon shared agenda and Network governance. Partners have the capacity through improved collaborative leadership and engagement to generate changes to improve the early childhood system. The Network partners understand the importance of collective learning and adapt well to changing conditions in the community.

Objectives		Approaches/Strategies		Outcome
1.4	**Contract Requirements** By June 30, 2030, AOK local staff will meet 100% of the Performance Standards outlined by the Illinois Department of Early Childhood as evidenced by AOK Connect reports and the semi-annual PPR. We will complete an annual self-assessment survey, participate in at least one professional development training course per FY, deliver three workforce development training sessions, and actively support children's mental health initiatives throughout the year.	**1.4.1**	**Local Staff Professional Development**	• Increase in AOK Networks staff's implementation of evidence-based practices.
		1.4.5	**Promote Early Childhood Mental Health**	• Increased awareness of early childhood mental health and available community resources. 10 partners participated in ECMH event or activity. Seventy-five (75) families participated in ECMH event or activity.
1.5	**Enhance Family Engagement** By June 30, 2030, the NWIL AOK Network partners are implementing family	**1.5.5**	**Building Connections: Families, Ambassadors, Leaders**	• Increased parent participation in Network planning and decision making.

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	partnership strategies that gather and incorporates parent input to improve the early childhood system.	**1.5.6**	**Partnering with families for community-led change**	• Increase parents' participation in Network planning and decision-making
1.7	**Enhancing provider Equity & Empathy** By June 30, 2030, fewer service providers bring bias, lack of empathy, and stereotypes in their interactions with families who are experiencing the target problem.	**1.7.3**	**Developing Practical Tools for Inclusive Service Delivery**	• Increase Network partners' ability to incorporate in their onboarding, training and coaching process inclusive communication practices.
		1.7.4	**Strengthening Provider Practices Through Equity & Empathy**	• Increased understanding of the need for equity and empathy with families they serve.
1.8	**Collaborative Alignment** By June 30, 2030, early childhood collaboration partners across Stephenson, Carroll, and Jo Daviess Counties will demonstrate increased alignment of services and resources, resulting in reduced duplication of efforts and more coordinated support for children and families.	**1.8.1**	**Early Childhood Collaboration Alignment**	• Reduce duplicated family outreach efforts within one year while increasing successful cross agency collaboration.
		1.8.2	**Network Capacity Assessment**	• Increased understanding of AOK Network Partners' perception of strengths and challenges related to Network Capacity.

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