

All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks (AOK)

Systems Development Initiative

Overview

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children from birth to age five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

Conceptual Framework

At the core of the AOK conceptual framework are the following:

System impacts:

- Families have **Access** to the services and supports they want and need.
- Families benefit from high **Quality** services and supports.
- Families experience **Equity** in the services and supports they access.
- Families' needs for services and supports match the **Capacity** of the system to meet those needs.
- Families experience a high-level of **Satisfaction** with the system of services and supports.

Child and Family Outcomes:

- Children are born healthy.
- Children maintain physical and emotional health and well-being.
- Children enter school ready to learn.
- Parents are leaders in their families and communities.

AOK Networks develops strategic initiatives in three areas*:

- **Network Capacity:** their competence and perseverance to carry out their work proactively and in response to changes locally and beyond through collaboration, adaptation, and self-renewal.
- **System-Building Strategies:** Early Identification, Public Information and Education, Information and Referral, Coordination of Care, Service Needs and Utilization, Workforce Staffing and Development, and Policy.
- **Local Priority:** Identified local priority related to the health and well-being of expecting parents and families with children birth to five.

*Networks are required to develop a Network Capacity strategic initiative and one or more additional strategic initiatives from the other two areas. AOK Networks develop specific objectives and benchmarks for each strategic initiative.

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Community Partnership Structure

AOK Networks consist of people who share a common interest in helping families with young children get the best start in life. Knowing that individual program efforts are not enough, AOK Network partners work together to connect and coordinate services as they address current child and family priorities.

In FY 2014, there are AOK Networks operating in the following counties: Adams, Carroll, Stephenson, Rock Island, Tazewell, McLean, Will, Wabash/Edwards, St. Clair, Kane, and McHenry as well as the town of Cicero, and the neighborhoods of Southeast Chicago.

The Network consists of a Network Coordinator and a wide range of stakeholders representing health, mental health, early intervention, child care and early learning, human services, family support, faith-based organizations, parents, business entities and other community stakeholders. These stakeholders share responsibility for planning, decision-making, action and accountability.

Contact Information

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