



## **Kane County Health Department Celebrates Helping 200 Families and Individuals in the First Three Months of New Integrated Referral and Intake System**

June 18, 2021- Kane County Health Department's (KCHD) Integrated Referral & Intake System (IRIS) celebrates its three-month anniversary this week and has referred more than 200 individuals and families to services they need in Kane County.

IRIS was created to enhance the referral process. The Kane County IRIS community has representation from 84 local organizations in multiple sectors including: mental health & psychiatry, primary care, dental, early childhood services, K-12 education, park district programs, adult & juvenile probation, parenting resources, substance abuse services, employment resources, immigration and legal services, emergency shelter, and basic needs (food & clothing).

“IRIS is already proving to be an ideal tool to use for community systems development and improvement and its use is spreading throughout Illinois and other parts of the nation,” said Kane County AOK Network Coordinator Kim Peterson. “IRIS is user-friendly, people powered, and data driven which gives us the ability to accurately identify and address strengths and areas of need that are specific to Kane County residents and their families. Providers in Kane have reported that using IRIS has increased collaboration and communication among providers, enhancing our community capacity to serve individuals and families in a more comprehensive way.”

The process started in 2019 when the AOK (All Our Kids) Network identified the need for a more streamlined referral process and started laying the groundwork to bring IRIS to Kane County. In late 2020, the KCHD decided to implement IRIS through a collaboration between the AOK Network, Kane County System of Care, and the Opioid Task Force. The team gathered community partners to configure the IRIS platform to meet the unique needs of Kane County residents. Together, partners agreed on common referral practices and developed the Community Standards that will dictate expectations of use for all.

For more information, contact one of the Kane County IRIS Community Managers:

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