helping families thrive through connected communities

Do you work with young children birth to five years old and want to make a direct referral to other organizations?

In February 2020, the All Our Kids Early Childhood Network launched an online referral system called Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS). There are currently more than eighty programs to refer to. In the past, there was no feedback loop to find out if a referral was acted upon. Most agencies were only able to give out resource guides or phone numbers and might never know if a client received the services they needed. With the IRIS system, it can track referrals to see how many referrals happen and how many were rejected.

With IRIS, the agency gets an email to alert them that a referral has been made. Will County has implemented community standards that states the referral received will be responded to within three business days. This allows for the referring organization to receive notifications about their client's referral process and close that loop. The IRIS system is also HIPAA compliant.

Most early childhood programs use a developmental screening tool to find out if the child is developmentally on track to meeting their milestones. Typically, if it was determined that a child needed further evaluation, the family would call Child and Family Connections to start the process for an evaluation and possibly early intervention services if needed, now the referral can be done directly online.

In Will County, the IRIS system is also tracking zip code data to find out where the greatest need for services are located and what types of services are needed.

To date, there have been over 1,500 referrals made through IRIS in just Will County alone. The IRIS system is being used across Illinois, Kansas, Utah, Missouri, and Boston area.

There is no cost to the agency that is receiving or making referrals. For more information or to join, contact Rebecca Anderson at randerson@willcountyhealth.org

WILL COUNTY
Health Department &
Community Health Center

IRIS is Integrated Referral & Intake System