

**VOCA Web-Ex**  
**January 4th, 2024 10:00 AM Agenda**

*Welcome* – Patti Custer is leading the meeting.

***Housekeeping***

- Please mute and put questions/comments put in the chat
- If we do not get all questions answered in the allotted time, we will schedule additional calls.
- The Web-ex will be recorded and placed on our website along with meeting minutes <https://dss.mo.gov/dfas/victims-of-crime-act/>
- There are Interpreters on the line as well.

***FFY24 Plan***

- Recommendations due back to DSS by Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. We are compiling those comments now. We have received 74 comments and they are all over the place. We are currently reviewing all the feedback.
- The last meetings minutes and Webinar recording are posted on our website.

***VOCA Invoices***

- Emails are going out if you have not sent in November and or December Invoices as a reminder to get them in.
- Please double check your invoice form to make sure you are using the correct funding form for your funding source. Use funding in this order ARPA, GR, VOCA Grant 21, 22, or 23. All invoice forms, data sheets and expenditure sheets are posted on the website.

## *Reports*

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reports are due on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Email to [fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov](mailto:fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov)
- New Quarterly Report and Training Video was released last week. Please watch the Training Video and Use the NEW quarterly Report.
- Send DATA sheets (due at the same time as the invoice) to [fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov](mailto:fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov)

## *Jessica- Kids First- Executive Director*

Advocate Lunch and Learn for advocates in all fields. The Training and Consultation is on **January 17, 2024 from 12:00 PM-1:30 PM**. The topic in January is “**Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights and Working with Older Youth.**” People can register for this one (and our June and December offerings) here:

<https://missourikidsfirst.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/trainingevent/seriesdetails/1031>

Lunch and Learns are held quarterly.

Our online mandated reporter training, [www.protectmokids.com](http://www.protectmokids.com), is available year-round BUT we just got it approved for CEUs for social workers which should be of interest to many of the VOCA agencies.

## *Zak – MOCADSV-*

We are finalizing the first half of our 2024 training calendar. We will send out information about the first trainings soon.

**MOCADSV will host an Immigrant and Refugee Services Relationship-Building Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on January 26, 2024, via [Zoom](#). This meeting does not have a training component, it is more of a meet and greet.**

Join the meeting at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5734697817> or use meeting ID 573 469 7817.

This relationship-building meeting will bring advocates, attorneys, and immigrant service providers together to connect with one another, share resources, and discuss emerging trends. Topics of conversation include immigration, public policy, language access, among other issues related to providing services to immigrant and refugee survivors of violence.

**There will not be a formal training component to this meeting, rather an opportunity to build relationships, discuss trends, and share program updates with other service providers from across**

## Missouri.

All parties interested in supporting immigrant survivors of violence are warmly welcomed to attend at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5734697817> or with meeting ID 573 469 7817.

Contact Nora Mosby, Member Services Specialist at [nmosby@mocadsv.org](mailto:nmosby@mocadsv.org) with questions.

### *VOCA Agency Highlights –*

North Star- Linda Mattson, ED. Northwest corner of the state. 400 victims of DV and SV each year. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser will be March 21<sup>st</sup> in Maryville. There will be a survivor speaker and other community members.

Haven House- Amber Tinker, ED. Not present

KC Mothers in Charge – Christina Esteban. Small team in KC that works with the Police Department responding to homicides. They assist the families with support groups and connecting with other local resources. During National Crime Victims Week, April 27<sup>th</sup>, they are participating in a 5K in KC.

Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation – Not present

Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation – Bran-Dee Jelks. Located in STL city and county, as well as Jefferson and St. Charles counties. They help stabilization for survivors after they have left an abusing situation. They help with emergency situations and ongoing stabilization. They help connect them with housing locations and local resources. They have a pathways to healing program that helps with mental health and group healing. Pathways to prosperity- developing this program to help get them set up with businesses and job seeking. Their application intake has gone up about 30% in the past couple of months. They have placed at least 150 people in the past year in addition to their emergency placements (approx.. 60). They are hosting a walk for survivors and awareness. They do resource fairs every month in efforts to connect with survivors. They are now able to assist with gas bills and utility assistance. This February is their 11<sup>th</sup> year doing hygiene package for women leaving domestic violence situations. They are always looking for new partnerships across the state.

Employment Connection -

Harmony House – Jared Alexander, ED. Located in Springfield- Greene, Christian, Webster counties. 325-350 people in shelter over the past year. Over

4,000 hotline calls over 2023. They provide emergency shelter with 41 rooms on site. Their services include case management, food, clothing, counseling services, outreach support, court advocacy, housing assistance, and prevention education and community awareness programs. They now have advocates within the Springfield and Republic Police Departments. They are able to reach out to victims directly at the time of the call, or directly after. Over 4,000 people were met with through community outreach. They are working on trying to fill the gaps in the more rural area. The Purple Party is on April 16<sup>th</sup> as one of their fundraisers.

Audrain County - Kathy Yohe, Interim Director. Art therapy group is going again. They have a ten bed shelter. They are working on gaining new volunteers. They are revamping their office.

Children's Center of SW MO – Matt Stewart, ED. Main office is in Joplin and covers 12 counties. They provide forensic interviews, trauma focused interviews. They remodeled their existing building. They are having a ribbon cutting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala in Joplin. They are prepping for Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. They just got a grant for child exploitation through Missouri Kids First.

CADV – Sheree Keeley. They are celebrating 30 years in operation. 40 beds at their shelter. They have just added a male suite and a transitional housing program. Outreach services in Eldon and Versailles. Their shelter is in Camdenton. They are a tourist area, so there are a lot more people who come through their community. They have Safe Bars which is a training program to help prepare establishments for violence that could happen. Be Alert, through the Stop Trafficking Project. Russ Tuttle comes to the schools to help create awareness with students and parents. October is their biggest fundraiser CADV Brunch.

January 11<sup>th</sup> is Wear Blue Day for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Ken Chapman reiterates that we appreciate all the work that the agencies are doing. We value the work and it is our hope to continue to keep victims at the center of our work, regardless of how the funding goes.

**Attendees:**

Patricia Custer, DSS  
Benjamin Johnson, DSS  
Ryan Stiffler, DSS  
Julie Meranda, DSS  
Kathleen Tofall, MOPS

JoAnna Watts, CASA of the Parkland  
Laura Farmer, CASA of Southwest Missouri  
Jerod Breit - MADD  
Timothy Meeker, Hope House  
Cheryl Robb-Welch, MOCADSV  
Jared Alexander, Harmony House  
Melissa Birdsell, Voices of Courage CAC, St. Joseph  
Hannah Moore, Safe Connections  
Wendy Logan - DeafLEAD  
Linda Mattson - North Star Advocacy Center  
Michelle Whitesell, KVC Missouri  
Anthony Ketchem  
Gail Dickson, ARCHS  
Zak Wilson, MOCADSV  
Andrew Berhorst - Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition  
Jill Wondel, House of Refuge  
Carrie Bolm - Missouri Alliance for Children and Families  
Happy New Year! Michael Turner, KVC Missouri  
Hannah Meyer 15th Judicial Circuit CASA  
Jenny Shaver, Child Safe of Central Missouri Inc  
Jessica Seitz, Missouri KidsFirst  
Sharon Hileman  
Courtney Davis, I Pour Life  
Wende Ochoa-Turning Point Advocacy Services  
Cynthia Danley, Safe Connections  
Kelli Neel and Amanda Wade, Christos House, Incorporated  
Survival Adult Abuse Center, Inc. Alisa White  
Christine Thompson - Grain Valley/Oak Grove Police Department  
Les Johnson-ARCHS  
Sharon Hileman, CASA of Southeast Missouri  
Kimberly Kemerer, Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri  
Kathy Yohe, ACCIS  
Anthony Ketchem, KVC-MO SE, Associate Director  
Connie Pendergrass, 37th CASA  
Angela Hirsch - Rape & Abuse Crisis Service  
Michelle Barron, 11th Circuit CASA Program  
Jennifer Hickam, True North of Columbia, Inc  
Rod Sansom, KVC Health Systems  
Ken Chapman, Office of Workforce and Community Initiatives, Assistant Deputy Director, DSS  
Wendy Harris Compass Health / Comtrea ASP and CAC  
Kirsten Dunham, Mid-Missouri Legal Services  
Matt Stewart--Children's Center of SWMO  
Emily Macdonald, Regional Family Crisis Center  
Holly Hunt with KVC  
Jamie Willis, Greene County Family Justice Center, Springfield, MO  
Stephanie Logan ~ DeafLEAD

Katie Dalton, Crime Victim Center  
Josh King, Vice President of Grants and Compliance, MOCSA  
Betsy Barnes Mid-Missouri Legal Services  
Lauren Frosch with Turning Point Advocacy Services  
Kelly Hill, Heart of Missouri CASA  
Eddie Ross-Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation  
Victoria Roberts, St. Charles County PA Office-VCAP  
Jessica Hill - Safe House of Southeast Missouri, Cape Girardeau  
Shannon Unnerstall - Legal Services of Eastern MO  
Kendra Eads- SEMO-NASV  
from Dr. Kristina Jones to everyone: 10:11 AM  
Dr. Kristina Jones - Child Abuse Prevention Association  
Angie Blumel, Jackson County CASA  
Laura Cook, The Child Advocacy Center of NEMO  
Patrick Foran, The Women's Safe House  
Rebecca Griffith- Russell House  
Brandi Bair, Hope House  
Bran-Dee Jelks- Diamond Diva Empowerment  
Kelly Broeker, Preferred Family Healthcare  
Alicia Knickman-CASA of Jefferson County  
Martha Sander, Council on Families in Crisis