

VOCA Web-Ex
February 1th, 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.

Quarterly Reports

- 1st quarter reports were due on January 30th, 2024. Email to fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov
- Confusion on the reporting for most agencies. Staff is reaching out to get them corrected.
- We are keeping track of victims served and new victims off your data sheets every month.
 - Patti reminds that due to the different funding allocations, the reports will come back as zero if you are using GR or ARPA.

Allocation of General Revenue (GR)

- We have allocated the \$10M in GR and Unallocated GY 2023 from agencies. Those agencies have been notified. This will help with keeping FY 2025 sustainable.
- Please use GR First if you were contacted by VOCA for the reallocation. Those are due back by Tuesday Feb 6th and do not invoice for January until you have the budget signed and back to us.
 - Jeriane explains that the reason we have done this reallocation is to utilized the General Revenue. GR is first, even though it is state fiscal money, you only have until May to spend it. Everything that we have in the state fiscal year has to be allocated and liquidated during that fiscal

year. If it is not done by that point, it is gone. Final invoices will be due around June 7th in order to make sure there are no mistakes. If you don't have GR, this does not apply to you. Once you use all of GR money, you need to use the FFY21 next. After FFY21, you need to use ARPA money. All three of these funding sources will cease to exist once the deadlines pass- they will expire this year. If you were contacted for a Budget Revision, it will be due back February 6th. You cannot invoice until we have the Budget Revision back.

- Erin Swafford, Synergy Services: Hi, how does the new GR allocation affect Q1? We already invoiced Q1 as ARPA as we were to spend that first. Do we need to go back and reallocate the ARPA as GR? And GR needs to be spent by June 7th?
 - Patti responds, no. If it has already been invoiced, then we cannot go back and reallocate. GR must be invoiced by June 7th.

Jeriane shares that we have received 74 responses to the Agency Feedback. There is no consensus. We have drafted a letter and we will be sending it to the General Assembly. We need to have the final recommendations from the GA before we are able to send the information out to the agencies. We will share all the feedback we have received once it is completed.

Jeriane shares her screen to talk about NAVAA. They have requested letters and information from various providers. Our director plans to send a letter, and we encourage you to send one as well. Please CC us onto the responses. If you have someone who is interested in sharing their story, make sure you get a release of information from them. We will be keeping track of all the different responses. We will send it to you as well as to NAVAA. At this point it looks like there will be a 41% reduction in VOCA. In the governor's recommendation, she believes there is some language to help supplement the funds by about 16.9M, but nothing is official yet. At this point, if the other funds didn't exist, we would only be receiving approximately 14.6 million dollars in VOCA funds instead of the 48M. Ken reminds us that this is an opportunity for us to move forward in the right way and in unity, which means us working together to let the Federal government know we need this funding. We invite input from all agencies.

Glenda Volmert: Do you have an elevator speech or short version we can use for donors and others when explaining the fear of the cut. Short version what's the reason?

Jessica Seitz: Glenda (and all)--The reason for the cut from the feds is due to the continuing decline of deposits into the Crime Victims Fund. Our neighbors may be in different shape than ours. Deposits have been declining for years and while Missouri kicked in ARPA and GR dollars that did not happen in other states. So unfortunately, some of our counterparts have seen their VOCA awards cut in half.

Jeriane shares that many states have just core cut their agencies due to funding because their states did not supplement the funding. We are fortunate in Missouri that our State is willing to assist. We need to continue to remind the federal government that we need assistance.

Jeriane: <https://nationalcasagal.org/ask-the-u-s-congress-to-support-an-increase-in-victims-of-crime-act-voca-funding-for-2024/>

Invoices & DATA sheets

- If you have not sent in Invoices and or Data sheets for October to December please do so.
- Please make sure your copying the FSD.VOCAUNIT@dss.mo.gov email on Invoices and expenditure sheets to the invoicing team

Job Descriptions

- We need VOCA funded Staff and Volunteer job descriptions no later than Feb. 21st, 2024. We have already had several agencies respond and send in their information. Thank you to those who have already sent theirs in.

DOJ- Programmatic Monitoring

- Our Grant Manager will be here from DOJ Feb. 26 to March 1st to monitor VOCA and Compensation at DPS.
- Jeriane reminds that the DOJ has already done the Fiscal monitoring portion of this previously in the year.
- Jessica Hill asks if there is a way to view the fiscal monitoring report. Jeriane answers that not at this time because there is some stuff being finalized and clarified.

Sheree Keely asks: Is there an org chart for DSS leadership posted somewhere? Jeriane asks for clarification on what she would like. There are many different org charts for the department.

Trainings Updates

Quarterly Reports Training is available on our website. There is also a Victims Compensation training available. We are currently working on the SAR and Allowable and Unallowable Expense Trainings and hope to have those up within the next month. Patti shares her screen to show the training portal for our unit.

Christine Thompson gives a “Thank You” to the training team for making such a great training for the Quarterly Reports.

Jessica- Kids First- Executive Director

There will be a new name as the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse (MNACA). It is the same team, but under a new name.

In February there will ongoing consultation groups for mental health within CACs. The Children’s Trauma Network will have a conference in April. It has many options for all staff and is a low cost option.

Training Summit: <https://www.moctn.com/training-summit>

Janelle/ Laura– MOCADSV-

Introduction to Grant Writing Skills

Part 1 - February 06, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Part 2 - February 20, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

"Introduction to Grant Writing Essentials" is a foundational course designed to demystify the world of grant writing for beginners. MOCADSV's Grants Management Specialist, Janelle Williams, will provide a solid introduction to key concepts, techniques, and best practices that form the bedrock of successful grant proposals and empower you to secure the funding needed to turn your vision into impactful change."

Court Advocate Roundtable

February 21, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

This roundtable is a space for court advocates to get together and talk about the work they do in Missouri to help survivors navigate the court system. This relationship-building meeting connects advocates giving them a space to report on issues they are experiencing in their court systems, to brainstorm ideas to improve their services, and to share resources with one another. At each meeting, MOCADSV’s Legal Director, Kelly Martinez and MOCADSV’s Legal Resource Specialist, Samantha Ghormley Hill will provide updates on new laws, court rules, and facilitate conversations with the group.

Prevention Advocacy Training Series - Defining the Problem: Identifying the Root Causes of Gender-Based Violence.

February 26, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Each part of the series will cover a section of the public health approach. We hope to provide preventionists with an opportunity to go deeper into prevention strategies, and the tools available to assist in the development and implementation of those strategies in their communities. Online and in-

person opportunities will be available as we try to accommodate different learning styles and opportunities to collaborate in multiple ways.

Please join us for part one of our training series: Defining the Problem: Identifying the Root Causes of Gender-Based Violence. Here we will learn how to identify the root causes of gender-based violence and explore the public health approach and the role of prevention in social change.

Event information and registration can be found at <https://www.mocadsv.org/training-opportunities/>

VOCA Agency Highlights –

Cope: Judith Kile, DV shelter in Lebanon. They are a 28 bed facility. From their reports from last year, they served 98 victims. 72 adults and 26 kids. They have a rather small community, so 100 people is quite a bit. They are a factory town, so they are very concerned about the cuts. The average base pay is \$18 with benefits. They only have 12 employees. They just did a ground breaking on a new building and are currently raising funds for it. There will be a thrift store and coffee house. It will be a funding source to cover the shelter. They are trying to see how they can fund themselves to keep the shelter going.

Franklin County CASA: Glenda Volmert is the Director of Franklin County CASA. They advocate for kids in foster care primarily. They are serving Gasconade and Franklin County kids. They will be expanding into Osage County. On average, the VOCA funding supports 2 of their staff who are working with about 100 children every month. They will be changing their name to account for the expansion to CASA of the Mid-East Missouri. They have a fundraiser this coming Saturday.

Capital City CASA: Gina Clement is the director of Capital City CASA. They only serve Cole County. 87 volunteers and 3 volunteer supervisors who are VOCA funded. They serve about 200 children in this area. They are going to be offering mentoring tools for volunteers working with Older Youth. They worry for their life skills while aging out of the system, so they desire to help equip them more. More children are being left in the home, so the volunteers are more concerned about visiting the children in the home. 60-70% of the children are placed out of county. Their volunteers have traveled approx. 34,000 miles over the last year for visits. No residential or treatment facilities near them.

ARCHS: Les Johnson in STL. 3 years ago they didn't have a place to operate. They have been working deeply with the department of corrections and re-entry. There has been significant

spikes in crime in STL City and County. They have developed a service delivery model that has allowed them to assemble a collaborative community based organizations within the neighborhoods where the most crime happens. Neighbor Healing Network has been created to help provide victim services. Better Family Life, Mission STL, Urban League of Metropolitan STL, Fathers and Families Support Center, Boys and Girls Club of STL. They have the ability to go into communities that other organizations are fearful to go into because of the crime. Over the last 3 years they have been able to 1,700 victims of crimes. More than 2400 referrals have been able to made. 1196 Counseling Sessions. They mainly serve African American households who typically are afraid to reach out to services – approx. 95%. 97% reported having a positive experiences. 80% said they would recommend services to their peers. They have also been able to conduct several workshops over the past few years. They focus on crisis interventions, referrals, emergency financial services, and trauma informed workshops. They serve 100% underserved populations, many of which live in communities that exposes them to chronic violence. They also tend to have a lot of drive by shootings and vehicular assaults. They have seen a spike in the number of men seeking services—about 40% of the population seeking services are men. They created a common assessment tool that all of their hubs are utilizing to best serve victims.

Attendees:

Laura Cook, The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
Christine Thompson - Grain Valley Police
Tim Meeker - Hope House
Good morning! Kathleen Tofall, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services
Rod Sansom - KVC
Les Johnson/ARCHS
Jared Alexander, Harmony House
Rebeca Pacheco-Community Resource Council - CASA of the 36th Judicial Circuit
from Connie Pendergrass, 37th CASA
Jamie Padgett MOPS/MAPA
JoAnna Watts, CASA of the Parkland
Good Morning, Sheree Keely CADV
Alicia Knickman-CASA of Jefferson County
Shannon Carney, Legal Aid of Western MO
Angela Hirsch - RACS
Emily Macdonald, RFCC
Heather Lynn, Child Safe of Central MO
Kelly Hill, Heart of Missouri CASA
Gail Dickson, ARCHS
Sharon Hileman, CASA of Southeast MO
Louis Killebrew - Healing Action
Ann Gosnell, House of Hope, Inc.
Gina Clement, Capital City CASA

Wendy Logan - DeafLEAD
Kathy Yohe, ACCIS
Wendy Harris, Compass Health for ASP & CAC Programs
Hannah Moore- Safe Connections
Matthew Huffman, MOCADSV
Judy Kile of COPE in Lebanon, MO
Janelle Williams-MOCADSV
Hannah Meyer 15th Judicial Circuit CASA
Kimberly Kemerer, Compass Health - Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri
Wende Ochoa-Turning Point Advocacy Services
Matt Stewart--Children's Center of SWMO
Martha Sander, Council on Families in Crisis
Shannon Unnerstall of Legal Services of Eastern MO
Jessica Hill, Safe House of Southeast Missouri - Cape Girardeau
Scarlett Loomas-DAEOC
Courtney Davis, I Pour Life
Brandi Bair - Hope House
Jamie Willis, Greene County Family Justice Center in Springfield, MO
Suzanne Wilber - Genesis: A Place of New Beginning, Waynesville MO
Danielle Brown - YWCA St Joseph
Megan Garrett-Harmony House
Melissa Birdsell, Voices of Courage St. Joseph
Victoria Roberts, St. Charles Prosecutor's Office
Jill Wondel, House of Refuge
Ashley Freivogel, Hope House
Holly Hunt with KVC
Josh King, MOCSA
Rachel Herbig, The Children's Place
Meghan Miller, Crime Victim Center
Laura Zahnd, MOCADSV
Rochelle Parker (CAPA)
Kelsey Conner with The Victim Center
Eric Keith, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Linda Mattson - North Star Advocacy Center
Kelly Broeker - Preferred Family Healthcare
Mike Othic - Grant Manager, FosterAdopt Connect
Zak Wilson, MOCADSV
Mary Sorrell Macf
Katie Croker -Russell House
Jennifer Howard - CASA of St. Louis
Melissa Platt - Missouri Alliance for Children and Families
Leanne Reese, Missouri CASA Association
Nick Komoroski - Boone County Prosecutor's Office
Malika Poindexter and Ursula Rowan at the St. Louis Circuit Attorney' s -Victim Services Unit
Erin Swafford, Synergy Services
Glenda Volmert Franklin County CASA

Jenny Shaver, Child Safe of Central Missouri Inc
Karrie Flowers-Safe Connections
Carrie Bolm - MACF
Mary Jones-bridgeway dv and sac program
Michael Turner- KVC MO
Erica Nanney, CARDV (Fulton, MO)
Lisa Fleming, Rose Brooks Center
Marsha Keene, Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center, Inc.
Anne Crites, The Victim Center