

**VOCA Web-Ex
May 2nd, 2024 10:00 AM Agenda**

Welcome – Patti Custer is leading the meeting.

Housekeeping

- Please mute and put questions/comments 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 (2nd Quarter)

- Due Date is April 30, 2024, send to FSD.VOCAUNIT@dss.mo.gov
- Explanation of Reporting (If you use GR or ARPA Funds report all zeros, explain amount and funding source in Additional Comment Section)
- Using FFY funds report as usual

Grant Update

- Funding for Missouri for Grant YR 2024 has gone down to \$14,267,757.00. Grant for GY 2023 was \$24,764,263.00
- Senate put in another \$7.8 M. plus the original \$16.9 M
- We will have about 13M from GY 2023 grant to use.

Invoices & DATA sheets

- Please make sure you are copying the FSD.VOCAUNIT@dss.mo.gov email on Invoices and expenditure sheets to the invoicing team

System does shut down in Mid to late June will reopen in July.

Trainings Updates (Reminder)

- In Person Collaborative Roundtables in 5 locations around the state.
- First one in Jefferson City in May 7th
- Kansas City May 16th
- St Louis June 4th
- Southeast and Southwest released later this month

- Purpose: Bring agencies together to discuss resources, services, working together, long-term planning, and vision.
- Jessica Seitz - Missouri Network Against Child Abuse- Executive Director
 - Not present due to conflict. They report that they have
- Zak Wilson Missouri Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 - Several training opportunities. One is May 7th, which is part of their two part series on prevention. May 17th is the Ins and Outs of the orders of protections. May 22nd is the Sexual Violence 101.

Patti: For next month you will get a new meeting invite to combine VOCA and DVSS call.

Comments/Questions:

Katie Dalton: What are the timeframes of the roundtable meetings?

Answer: 9 am to 3 pm.

Amy Couture: Does this new great funding news mean that, if this all passes, then agencies might receive the same level of VOCA funding this year, instead of reductions?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. If everything passes, that means no reductions.

Matt Stewart: Just making sure that i understood correctly, if the GR money stays the same as proposed now, then we can expect to stay level funded? Same was we were for this current year. Thank you.

Answer: Yes. As long as everything passes.

Patrick Foran: What does this mean for the new Fix VOCA Act?

Answer: We don't know exactly what this means. We believe that it still has to be passed at the federal level.

Kelly Pedigo - Are we looking at a competitive bid if GR funding is approved and goes through?

Answer: It will not be a full competitive bid. It will be a simple proposal. We don't know yet when it will be released. We hope to have it sent by the end of June/beginning of July. It will not be graded, just a proposal for us to have on file.

JADASA - What is the deadline for the proposal?

Answer: It will be in September.

VOCA Agency Highlights –

- ***Family Forward:*** Annie Herz – They work with children dealing with trauma, including early childhood trauma. They have prevention, foster care case management and licensing. They work with St. Louis City and County, as well as about 4 other counties. 4,098 clients last year. They have also launched a podcast to talk through things that children who have been abused experience.
- ***Foster & Adoption Care Coalition:*** Melanie Scheetz– They have a very collaborative community in STL. In Missouri, we are the top in the nation for children placed with family while in foster care. The Kinship Navigator Program is designed to help kinship placements navigate their way through the process – including home visits, licensing, and developing a wraparound team to help support the children and the caregiver.
- ***SAWERRA*** – Jay Sridhar –
- ***Life Source Consultants*** – Not Present
- ***McDonald CO Circuit Court.*** – Dana – Works alongside the prosecutors office and sheriffs department. They have a special office for security for victims presenting with physical violence. They work with approximately 300 victims a year. It is court system based, including all things court based- testifying, notices, protection orders, etc. She will sit in on various meetings with victims and make referrals for several different services. They also have after hours protection orders.
- ***MICA-*** Kenneth – Migrant Immigrant Community Action Project in STL. They have a service areas of 150 miles. They assist with immigrant and legal services. They serve approximately 1,000 clients per year. They help with various services including case management and referrals. They help with victims of crime to get them to resources. They have a trivia night coming up in STL.
- ***Mid Ozark CASA*** – Present but connection is spotty. Mid Ozark CASA news is that we just moved, yesterday, into our permanent office, after a fire in August caused us to move into 2 temporary places. We're very happy to finally be settled, however our some of our computers are not liking moving again, I apologize for the glitch.
- ***MAPA*** – Jamie Padgett – MOPS and MAPA. MAPA was developed to help give uniformity across the state for prosecuting attorneys. They developed a training council subcommittee in 1981, which is MOPS. All positions are with MOPS as the government agency. Kathleen's position is specific to VOCA. Any prosecutor across the state can call the general council and receive assistance. They work on many different kinds of cases. Specifically for VOCA, MAPA wrote for a passthrough grant and received funding for

advocates for prosecutors offices throughout the state. They collaborate with the Department of Public Safety for trainings and conference needs for advocates.

- ***North Central Mo Childrens Advocacy Center*** – Verna Kelsey – Agency works with child victims of abuse and conducts forensic interviews. They work with 10 counties in the rural area. They see approximately 200 new children every year, with about 200 on going cases each year. They provide case advocacy and support. All services are at no cost. They work with a MDT and hold case reviews. Due to the rural area, they have to search for resources. They conduct prevention education programs in the schools and community.
- ***St. Charles Family Court*** – Not present
- ***Douglas Community Services- CASA program*** – Emily Trevathan – located in Hannibal. They serve the majority of the counties located in the NE region of the state. They have a housing/rental assistance program, utility assistance, toys for tots – 1515 kids through toys for tots, plus various other community projects. They have 17 CASA volunteers. Last year they served 40 kids, and 12 of them received permanency. Emily is now Safe at Home certified. They are in the midst of a capital campaign for a new building. The CASA program has a Care Closet for kids coming into care.

Attendees:

Jamie Padgett Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

Sheree Keely, CADV

Janelle Williams-MOCADSV

Matt Stewart--Children's Center of SWMO

Kirsten Dunham, Mid-Missouri Legal Services

Gail Dickson, ARCHS

Melissa Platt - Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

Meghan Miller - Crime Victim Center

Patrick Foran, The Women's Safe House

Gina Clement, Capital City 37th CASA

Verna Kelsey ~ North Central Missouri Children's Advocacy Center

Wende Ochoa-Turning Point Advocacy Services

Angelea Hirsch - Rape & Abuse Crisis Service
Jessica Hill, Safe House of Southeast Missouri
Amy Couture, Rose Brooks Center
Michelle Whitesell, KVC Missouri
Broeker, Preferred Family Healthcare
Erica Nobles - Randolph/Macon County Prosecuting Attorney's Offices
Connie Pendergrass-37th Judicial CASA
Jayashree Sridhar
Dana Banta McDonald Co. Victim Advocate
Laura Cook, The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
Emily Burgess, St. Louis County Weinman Shelter
Jessica McNear, Rape & Abuse Crisis Service
JoAnna Watts, CASA of the Parkland
Morgan Liegh, Safe Connections
Betsy Barnes, Mid-Missouri Legal Services
Loretta Schouten, Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition
Emily Trevathan, Douglass Community Services Hannibal, MO
Melissa Birdsell, Voices of Courage St. Joseph MO
Kathleen Tofall, MOPS/MAPA
Anthony Ketchem, Associate Director, KVC-MO SE
Katie Dalton, Crime Victim Center
Malika Poindexter and Ursula Rowan from St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office-Victim Services Unit
Shannon Unnerstall, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Josh King, MOCSA
Missouri Alliance for Children and Families
Louis Killebrew Healing Action St. Louis
Danielle Brown, YWCA St Joseph
Laura Zahnd, MOCADSV

Andrew Berhorst, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

Eric Keith, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Donna Franz - Selah Place of Oregon Co.

Teresa Morehouse, CARE of Atchison Co. Inc.

Erin Swafford, Synergy Services

Courtney Davis, I Pour Life

Annie Herz - FamilyForward

Debi Koelkebeck, Jasper County CASA

Rebecca Griffith- Russell House

Leanne Reese, Missouri CASA Association

DeAnne Rader, Safe Harbor

Lisa Fleming, Rose Brooks Center

Sharon Hileman, CASA of SE MO

Carlos--MICA Project

Laura Farmer, CASA of Southwest Missouri

Laura Halfmann-Morris, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Tyler Bernsen - CASGSL

Ann Gosnell with House of Hope, Inc.

Anne Crites, The Victim Center

Kathy Yohe, ACCIS

Alicia Knickman-CASA of Jefferson County

Kelly Pedigo , Safe Passage

Karrie Flowers Safe Connections