

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Stakeholder Call

August 29, 2025

Scan to Register for the next call



We're glad you're here!

Agenda

- 1. Welcome
- 2. HR Updates
- 3. Fiscal Team Updates
- 4. Safety Unit Update
- 5. Permanency Updates
- 6. Training, PIP, and Field Updates
- 7. Prevention Spotlight CD and Partners
- 8. Adjourn

Please type your questions in the chat!

CENTRAL OFFICE STRUCTURE



Sara Smith
CD Director





Kate WatsonDeputy Director



Marcia HazelhorstDeputy Director



Christina Barnett
Designated Principal
Assistant



Brandi CaruthersFiscal Liaison



Pam AlstonAssistant Director



Christy Johnson
CD HR Manager and
Appointing Authority

STORY OF THE RIVER

Imagine you and some friends are strolling along the shoreline of a river taking in some fresh air, when you suddenly see a baby floating downstream in the water. You jump in to save the baby. As soon as you get the baby to safety on shore, you notice another baby in the river, with more babies behind that one. Your friends begin assisting you in the water pulling baby after baby out to safety. No one knows where the babies are coming from or how they've gotten in the river. Eventually one of your friends suggests that you go upstream to find out where the babies are coming from and stop it. But it's taking every hand to pull the babies out of the river. **What would you do?**



You know that the work of staying downstream and pulling the babies out of the river is invaluable, but upstream something is causing the babies to end up in the river in the first place. If you can stop whatever that is, you will prevent the babies from this fate.

HUMAN RESOURCE TEAM



Christy Johnson
CD HR Manager
and Appointing
Authority



Brad VanceHR Manager
Employee Relations



Jeremy Wilkerson
HR Manager
Position Management



Christine Steele
Recruitment/Retention
Unit Manager

HUMAN RESOURCE TEAM UPDATES

- As of July 31, 2025, CD has 1,954 full time team members on board
 - 1,517 of those are front line workers and supervisors
 - We currently have 99 vacancies
- Annual leave sweep is on October 31, 2025

Employee's Years of Service	Semi-monthly Accrual Rate	Yearly Maximum Annual Leave Balance Allowed	October 31 Annual Leave Balance
Less than 10 Years	5 Hours	240 Hours	235 Hours*
10 Years to 15 Years	6 Hours	288 Hours	282 Hours*
Over 15 Years	7 Hours	336 Hours	329 Hours*

^{*}Employees must be at or below this balance as of October 31 to allow accrual of annual leave for the October 16-31 pay period.

• ENGAGE Evaluations are open September 2-22, 2025

FISCAL TEAM



Brandi CaruthersCD Fiscal Liaison



Hannah SiegelAssistant Fiscal Liaison



Jennifer Schulte
Program Coordinator



Scott MontgomeryFiscal Notes

FISCAL TEAM UPDATES

- The Fiscal Team is working with programs for FY26 to best utilize and track our appropriations.
- The CD Fiscal Unit are identifying common coding errors on expense reports and addressing errors at the source
- Fostering a culture of continuous learning with program and field staff related to Children's Division budget and compliance.

SAFETY UNIT



Marcia Hazelhorst
Deputy Director



Jeremy Bowman
Critical Investigations
Unit Manager



Kara WilcoxSafety



James Harris
Out of Home
Investigations



Casey Gilmore
Assistant Deputy Director



CCU Manager

PERMANENCY & FOSTER CARE

LICENSING



Kate WatsonDeputy Director



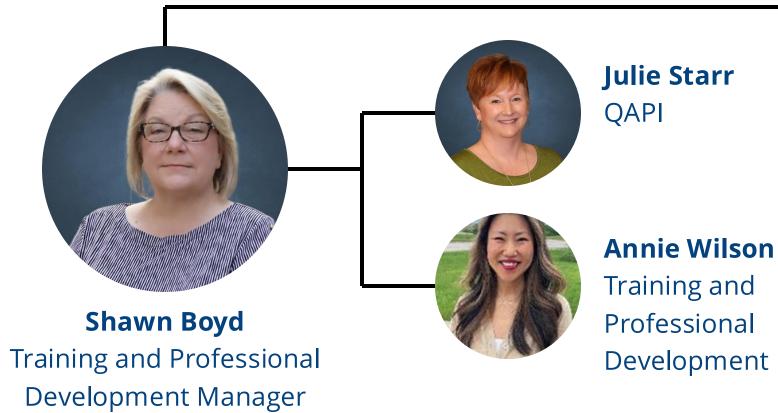
FOSTER CARE UPDATES

- House Bill 737 legislation was signed by Governor Kehoe in July 2025
- Policy updates were released to notify case managers of the changes to KIDS accounts as a result of the legislation
- A Scope of Work was issued and awarded to Public Consulting Group (PCG)
- PCG is working with CD and DSS to do a comprehensive system assessment related to benefit management and establishing of ABLE accounts which will be utilized to collect the benefits for children to be utilized for their needs

FIELD OPERATIONS



Pam Alston
Assistant Director



Field Administration



Jennifer ChismNortheast Director



Jana WymanSt. Louis Director



Shasta MillerSoutheast Director



Chris KimseyNorthwest Director



TBDKansas City Director



Lisa CrawfordSouthwest Director

STRUCTURE - FIELD OPERATIONS



Northwest Regional Director Chris Kimsey

St. Joseph State Office Building 525 Jules #127 St. Joseph, MO 64501

Phone: (816) 387-2010

<u>Christopher.R.Kimsey@dss.mo.gov</u>



Kansas City Regional Director

TBD

Kansas City State Office Building 615 East 13th St.

Kansas City, MO 64106

Phone:

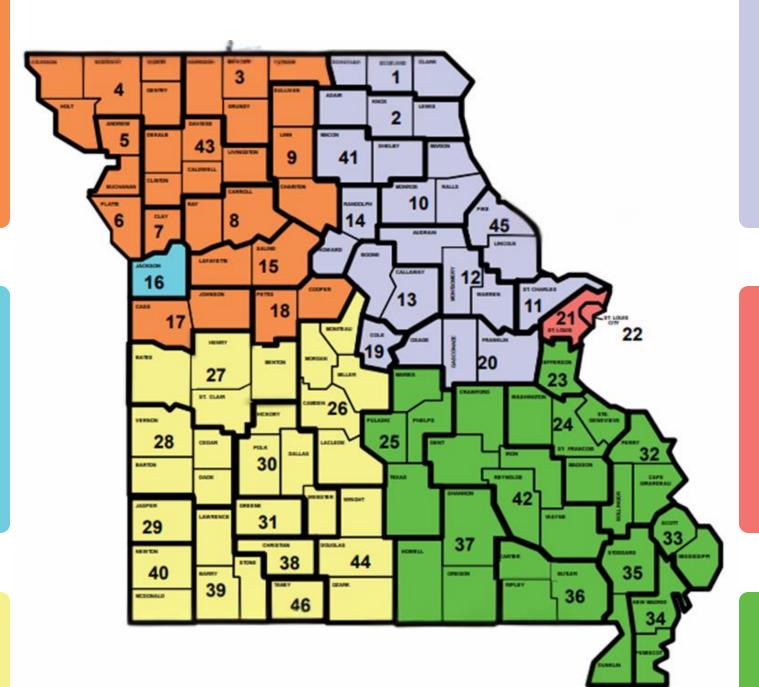


Southwest Regional Director Lisa Crawford

Greene County Office 149 Park Central Square, Suite 538 Springfield, MO 65806

Phone: (417) 895-7855

<u>Lisa.Crawford@dss.mo.gov</u>





Northeast Regional Director Jennifer Chism

Audrain County Office 4690 S. Clark Street Mexico, MO 65265

Phone: (573) 253-8230

Jennifer.Chism@dss.mo.gov



St. Louis Regional Director

Jana Wyman

St. Louis, County Office 9900 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132 Phone: (573) 536-8612

Jana.Wyman@dss.mo.gov



Southeast Regional Director Shasta Miller

Texas County Office 16798 Oak Hill Drive, Suite 600 Houston, MO 65483

Phone: (417) 967-5105

Shasta.Miller@dss.mo.gov



TRAINING

- Wendy Libey announced as new Training Supervisor along with Annie Cordry
- We will be going back in person beginning Sept 8 in Platte and St Charles
- Rebrand from CWPT to MOCWLI
- Supervisor Training will be completed by Jan 1, 2026 along with FACES training
- Adding VR technology to help staff with skills in interviewing

FEDERAL CASE REVIEWS - PREVENTION

Item 2 – Services to Family to Protect Children in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care

• Purpose: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children's entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification.

Item 2 applies when there are risk and/or safety concerns within the family home and services are needed to address the concerns:

- Children who remain in the home with their parents
- Children who are with relatives/kin on a Temporary Alternative Placement Agreement (TAPA) and the provider needs services to prevent foster care placement
- Children who are returned to their parents' home on a Trial Home Visit
- Siblings of children in foster care who remain in the home with their parents/caregivers

The timeliness of service provision is also assessed. Services must be provided within a timeframe that will prevent foster care.

Examples of services that may be needed to prevent foster care include:

- Intensive In-home Services
- Child care services
- Substance use/mental health treatment services
- Concrete services such as financial assistance to ensure utilities remain connected, housing assistance, etc. in the context of safety or imminent risk of child abuse/neglect
- Services to support reunification

FIELD OPERATIONS

FEDERAL CASE REVIEWS - PREVENTION

	Baseline	Measurement Period 2	Measurement Period 3	Measurement Period 4	Sustained Improvement Goal	High Performance Goal
Item 2	66.7%	76%	45%	65.6%	73%	79%

In total, **99 cases have been reviewed and were applicable for Item 2** since Measurement Period 2 began in November, 2024. 62% have received Strength ratings. The table to the left provides the case review results by program line.

Case Type	Percentage w/Strength Ratings
Foster Care	65% (37/57)
In-Home	60% (25/42)

Some common trends for Item 2 include:

- Services to support trial home placement and prevent re-entry were not provided or not provided timely
- No services were offered, or were not offered timely, for several in-home cases
- TAPA providers were not offered needed services, such as food pantry resources or day care assistance
- Accessibility/waiting lists impacted timely services for some in-home cases

WHERE DO I FIND THE DATA?

Children's Division published data can be found on the Department of Social Services webpage. Follow this link to find information about Child Abuse/Neglect, Prevention and Foster Care Services, as well as annual federal reporting. https://dss.mo.gov/re/

Annual Reports

- Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report
- Child & Family Services Plans
- Children's Division Annual Report

Monthly Reports

• Children's Division Management Report

Don't' see what you are looking for or have questions? Contact Julie Starr, <u>Julie.L.Starr@dss.mo.gov</u>

You can make a request for information at the link below



https://dssmo.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(ja02xur0fg2uqynsgvqdodeh))/Support Home.aspx?sSessionID=1095086GEGKTKFBZOSSPHUJKZWZJSYYNADUDJCPT

ADMINISTRATION AND PREVENTION

Includes: In Home Services, Residential Licensing, Human Trafficking, Constituent Services, FACES



Christina BarnettDesignated Principal Assistant



Kassy BaumgartnerFACES Unit Manager



Lauren HallPrevention



Molly EckmanPolicy Coordinator



Mason Blair
Constituent Services



Rachel DavisSex Trafficking Prevention



Jennifer Richter
Residential
Licensing and BSU

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Centralization of Primary Prevention Teams

May

- Hired Assistant Unit Manager Kelly Bethel
- Announced Centralization of the Primary Prevention Team



June

- New CANHU Criteria for Primary Prevention Referrals Identified
- Drafted New Primary Prevention Policy



July

- Centralized Primary Prevention Team!
- Submitted Necessary Changes to Case Management System for New Referral Process



August

- Finalizing Criteria for Primary Prevention Referrals
- Set Criteria for Primary Prevention Practice
- Finalizing Primary Prevention Policy



CD PREVENTION

Primary Prevention Referrals

- Primary Prevention Referrals will be screened through CANHU.
- Criteria has been established for Primary Prevention Referrals and situations in which prevention workers can connect families to community supports and services:
 - Family or Caregiver in need of services to address parenting supports, physical, mental, and behavioral health.
 - Family or Caregiver in need of Economic or Community Supports.

Community Engagement/Community Resources

- Primary prevention workers will attend monthly meetings within their local community by other agencies and are encouraged to volunteer to facilitate meetings once a quarter.
- The goal of community meetings is to connect with community partners to identify existing and needed resources within the community and to develop strategies to address the service gaps and needs identified.
- Primary prevention workers will attend System of Care meetings in their communities.

TEAM DECISION MAKING® (TDMM)

Began Implementation in 2024

- Good time for Evaluation
 - Ensure the right prompts are in place to work cohesively with our policy and practice
 - Multi-Disciplinary Team part of the decision
 - Partners and Stakeholders have clear understanding of the when and how TDM's are used



System of Care

Missouri

What is System of Care (SOC)?

SOC is a comprehensive spectrum of effective services and supports for children, youth, and young adults with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families that is organized into a coordinated network of care, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and is culturally and linguistically responsive in order to help them to thrive at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life. A system of care incorporates mental health promotion, prevention, early identification, and early intervention in addition to treatment to address the needs of all children, youth, and young adults.



(Stroul, B.A., Blau, G.M., & Larsen, J. (2021). The Evolution of the System of Care Approach. Baltimore: The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, School of Social Work, University of Maryland.)

The Impact of SOC

Engages services upstream

Improved communication

Braiding of funds

Increased accessibility of services

Family/youth/individuals are engaged and involved

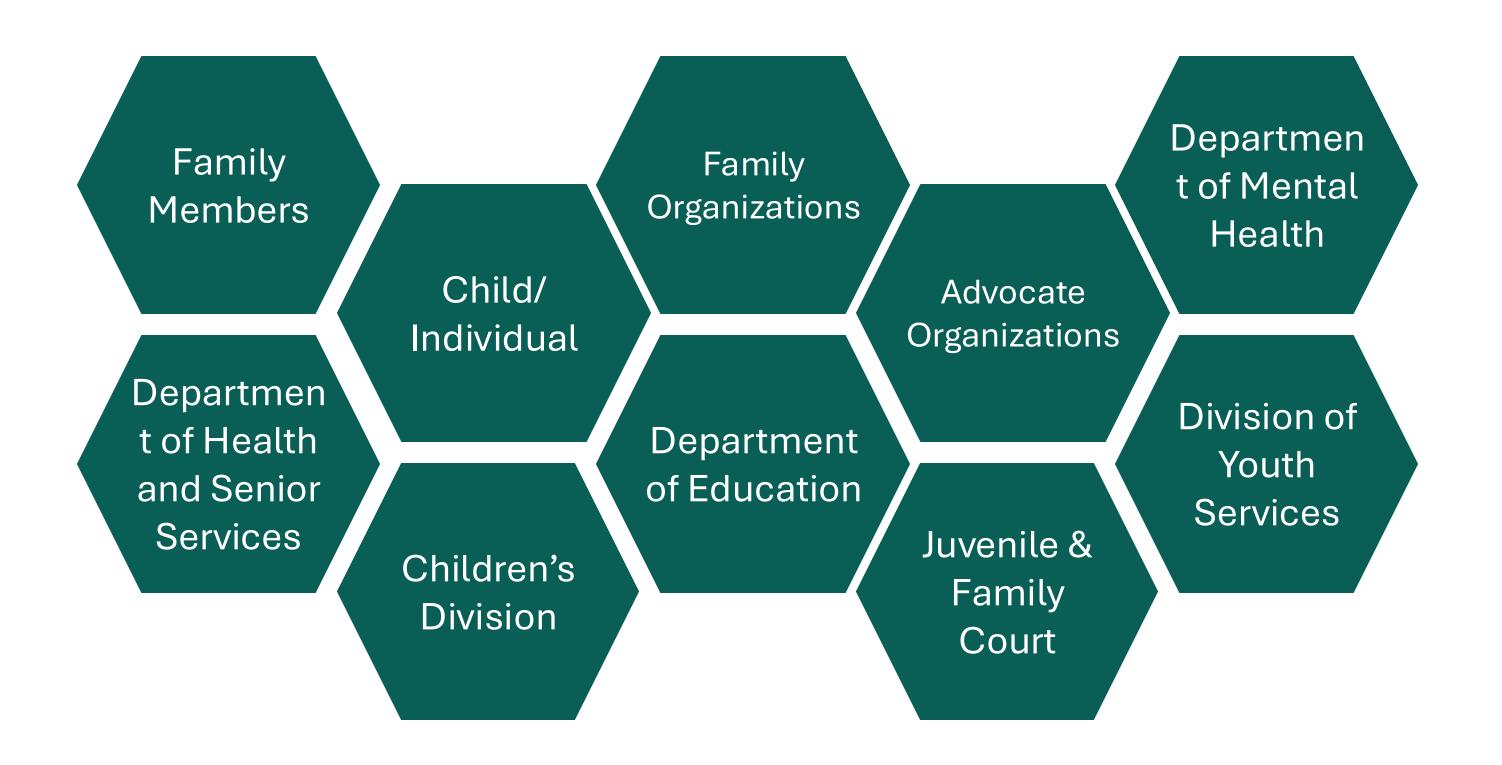
Individualization of services

Innovative solutions

Positive outcomes for youth/families/individuals involved in multiple systems



SOC Partners





Core Values

Comprehensive spectrum of effective services

Individualized to meet unique needs of the youth/individual/family

Based on family strengths and goals

Family/Youth/Individual driven

Culturally and linguistically responsive



Guiding Principles



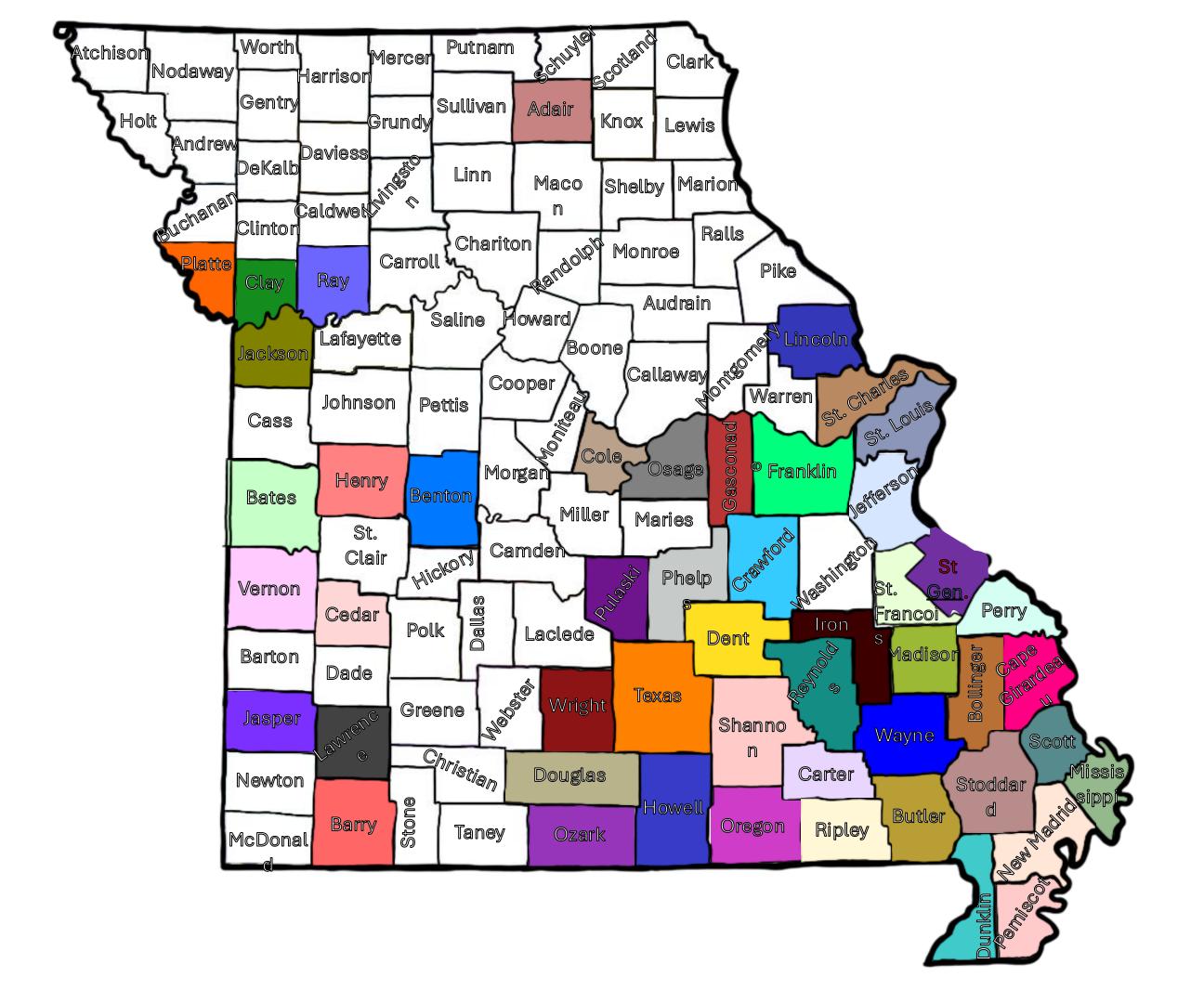


Guiding Principles





50 counties
are
supported by
an
established
System of
Care!



Key Resources for Current and Future SOC Teams



Contact list and state map



Local SOC start-up guide with resources



SOC 101 PPT



SOC One-pager



Missouri 2025 SOC Summit, August 2025



SOC Office Hours, monthly TA beginning September 2025-April 2026



Statewide leadership meetings for SOC at regional and central level

Please contact JJ Gossrau for additional information about SOC Expansion efforts.

JJ.Gossrau@dmh.mo.gov

For information about how to become more involved in local SOC Teams, please contact the SOC Team Chair or DMH representative for that area.

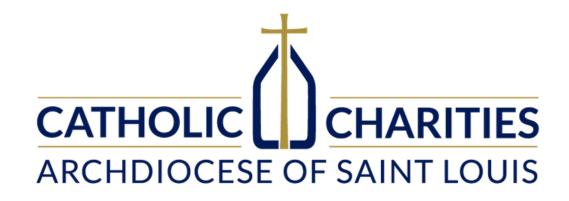
Locate a System of Care | dmh.mo.gov



Thank you!



GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN AND FAMILYSERVICES



Our Purpose

Connecting children with families and keeping families connected by providing pregnancy and parenting support, foster care programs and adoption services.



About Us

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to strengthening, healing, and preserving families through expert social services. Through its ministry, Good Shepherd Children and Family Services, it continues a mission that has endured for nearly 200 years constantly evolving to meet society's needs through a highly respected and compassionate practice.

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

Maternity and Transitional Living Shelter

In-Home Pregnancy and Parenting Services



Maternity and Transitional Living Shelter

- Offering shelter, support, and treatment for pregnant and parenting teen mothers and their babies, including therapy, life skills training, and education
- For pregnant and/or parenting mother ages 12-21 and their children up to age 5
- For pre-post-partum care, parenting and child development
- Case managers and counselor resources to support stability and mental health
- A focus on parenting skills, life skills, educational and vocational attainment for a successful transition into stable housing and independence

ADOPTION SERVICES

- Providing compassionate counseling and assistance to birth families as they explore their options and make life-giving decisions.
- Navigating a family through the complex legal process of adoption from home study, to matching, to finalization, to post adoption support.
- Connect to Prenatal care and Resource
- Access to Counseling

- Provide Parenting and adoption education
- Individualized adoption Planning
- View Adoptive Family profiles and select
- Continued Support post-adoption



Specialized Adoption Services

Supporting Missouri families who are interested in adoption with children of all ages in the US foster care system, Ultimately connecting a loving family and also reducing the number of waiting

children in foster care.



Foster Care

Case management

 Providing care for children and families separated due to abuse and neglect with a focus on safely reuniting families whenever possible.

Foster Family Support

• Recruitment, assessment, training and ongoing support of foster families to meet the needs of children in care.

Treatment Foster Care

• Working with families to provide a high level of care for foster children with specialized needs that includes 24/7 support.

Connect with us

Pregnancy and Support Services text or call:

314-560-6703

Referrals@gsstl.org (in home services)

Adoption Services text or call:

314-724-8417

LOCATIONS

ST. LOUIS- MAIN CAMPUS

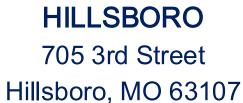
1340 Partridge Avenue St. Louis, MO 63130

NORTH CITY (THE HUB)

3000 E. Prairie Ave. 2nd Floor St. Louis, MO 63107

X f 🖾 in @goodshepherdstl

(314) 854-5700 goodshepherdstl.org









FARMINGTON

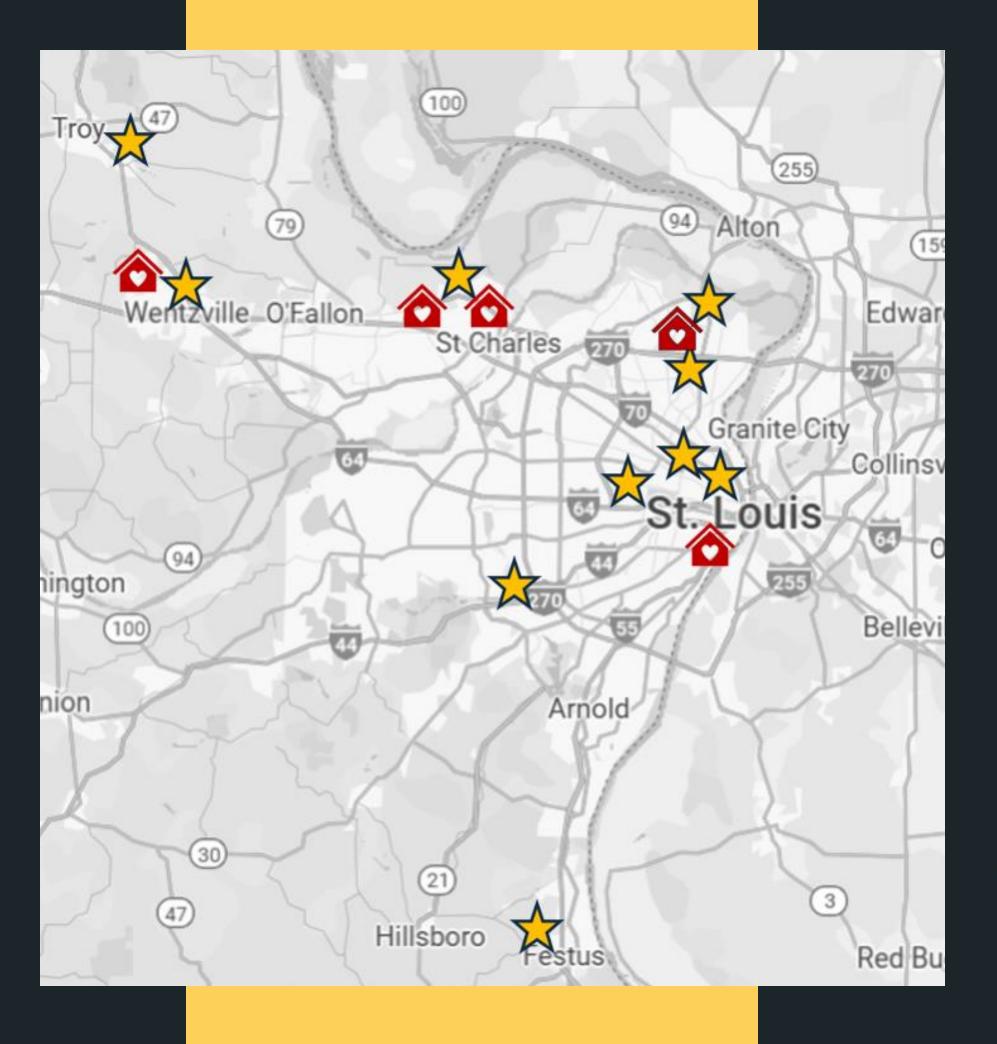
111 Walker Road Farmington, MO 63640



SAINT LOUIS CRISIS NURSERY

39 YEARS / 15 REGIONWIDE LOCATIONS 140,000 LOCAL CHILDREN IMPACTED





OUR MISSION

The Saint Louis Crisis Nursery is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and provides trauma-informed emergency intervention, 24-hour respite care, and ongoing support to families in crisis.

15 REGIONAL LOCATIONS



5 Nurseries providing 24/7/365 care for children in crisis



10 Community-based Outreach
Centers supporting families for
LONG TERM success

OUR MODEL

The Saint Louis Crisis Nursery Model

24 Hour Helpline



Available 24/7 for overwhelmed parents in crisis



Highly trained staff provide crisis intervention and parenting support



Families are scheduled for respite care, or linked to community partners for more support

24/7 Respite Care



Immediately accessible 24 hour care for children ages 0-12 in a trauma informed environment



Medical Exams,
Occupational Therapy,
and Developmental
Screening on site to
identify issues early



Basic needs supplies to take home: food, clothing, diapers, and toys



Art & Play Therapy to address the impacts of traumatic stress

The Family Empowerment Program [FEP]



Follow-up in home Crisis Intervention & Family Stabilization services to promote child safety



Emergency Funding to cover rent or utilities



Parenting Education & Support Groups



Individualized Counseling and Parenting Support to address underlying family risk factors



Community Outreach to underserved populations

Art & Play Therapy Outreach



Art & Play Therapy intervention on site at local childcare centers



Professional development coaching and support for direct care professionals



Ongoing parent support and connection to facilitate long term success

Protective Factors Framework

Trauma Informed Care

Community & Client Voice

OUR 2024 IMPACT

4,142

calls to the 24-Hour Helpline answered

4,527

admissions providing more than 225,000 hours of **Crisis Care**

1,788

families participating in Family Empowerment Programming

794

Art & Play Therapy sessions for children in childcare centers

Children remain free from abuse/neglect and in the custody of their parents

Greater than 95% of children served did not have a substantiated report of abuse/neglect and remained in the custody of their parent (s)

Families achieve greater safety & stability

- 96% of families met immediate safety & stability goals set at intake by their child's discharge from care
- 94% of parents experienced a reduced stress level from intake to discharge
- ▶ 97% of families demonstrated increased skills in at least three of the five protective factor domains by discharge from services

Children are resilient

93% of children gain new coping skills through participation in art & play therapy

Youth Behavioral Health Services

OVERVIEW

- Crisis Continuum
- What is a YBHL?
- What is a HOPE MDT Navigator?

Crisis Continuum



Response Teams

Crisis Centers

Crisis Lifeline

What is a Youth Behavioral Health Liaison?

A Youth Behavioral Health Liaison (YBHL) is a behavioral health professional employed at Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across the state.

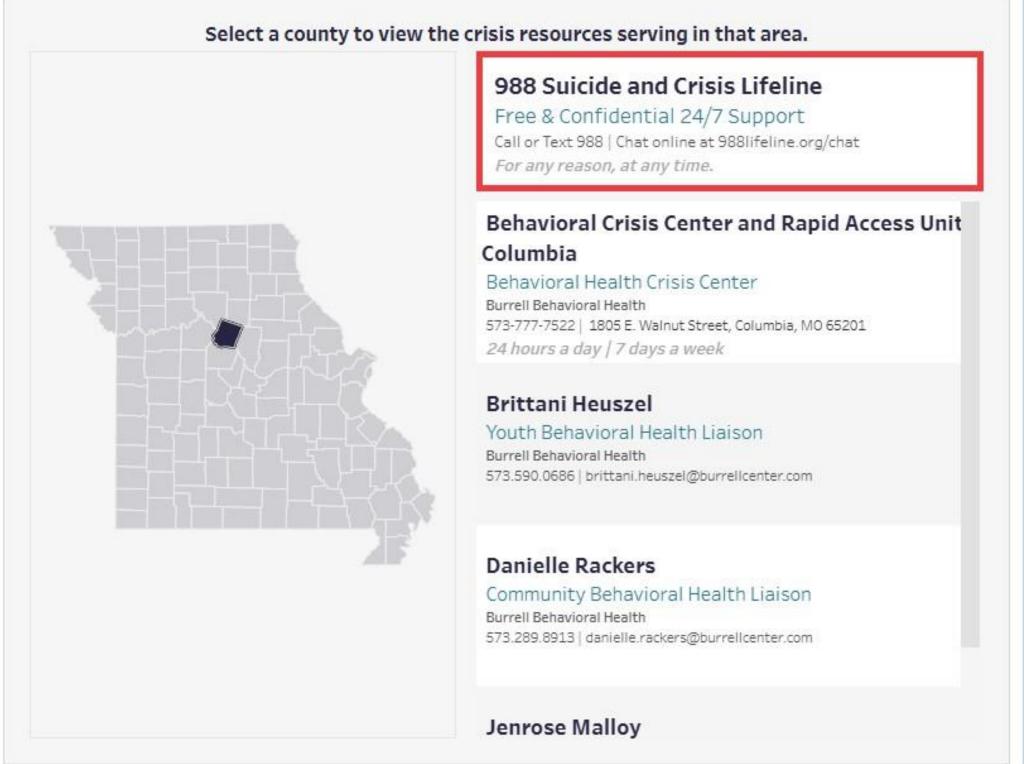
YBHLs support youth experiencing behavioral health challenges by connecting them with necessary services and supports.

YBHLs also focus on providing education on youth behavioral health to local youth-serving organizations, as well as building vital relationships throughout the community.

Missouri Crisis Resources

Contact Directory





Resource Type



All

View Spreadsheet

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HOPE Multidisciplinary Team Navigators

HOPE (Helping Others Provide Encouragement) MDT Navigators are responsible for supporting and coordinating with cross- system staff to ensure that youth and family needs are met for those in Children's Division Custody.

This is a pilot program with 8 HOPE MDT Navigators employed by local Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs).

THANKYOU

Mikala Jungmeyer-Geiger
Youth Services Manager
Missouri Behavioral Health Council
MJungmeyer@mobhc.org
573-634-4626 ext. 115





healing for young children in our community who have faced trauma, enabling children to lead happy, healthy, hopeful lives.









Home Visiting: Overview



Home visiting is a prevention strategy used to support pregnant moms and new parents to promote infant, child, and maternal health, foster educational development and school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect

There are many evidence-based home visiting models administered across the state by individual providers¹















Home visitors may be trained nurses, social workers, or child development specialists. They provide services at the client's home, including:

- Assessment of the living condition of the family and their health practices
- ✓ Health and/or development teaching
- ✓ Family counseling and education on additional available services/resources

Home visiting has been proven to impact a wide variety of outcome domains:



Prenatal Maternal Medical Care



Economic Mobility



Child Medical Care



Child Safety



Family Wellbeing and Empowerment



School Readiness



Mental Health

^{1.} These home visiting models have met specific US Department of Health & Human Services criteria and are classified as evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery models; Source: HomVEE

Home Visiting: Evidence Base



Low Birth Weight Prevention

Home visiting significantly reduces the odds of experiencing adverse birth events, with a large effect for low birth weight¹



Infant & Maternal Mortality Prevention

Home visiting is a promising means to reduce:

- all-cause mortality among mothers, and
- preventable-cause mortality in their first-born children living in highly disadvantaged settings²



Child Safety

Home visitors provide parents with knowledge and training to make their homes safer, reducing injury / ingestion-related hospitalizations³

- 1. Anthony ER, Cho Y, Fischer RL, Matthews L. Examining the Causal Impact of Prenatal Home Visiting on Birth Outcomes: A Propensity Score Analysis. Matern Child Health J. 2021 Jun; 25(6):947-955. doi: 10.1007/s10995-020-03054-7. Epub 2021 Feb 22. PMID: 33616819.
- 2. Olds DL, Kitzman H, Knudtson MD, Anson E, Smith JA, Cole R. Effect of home visiting by nurses on maternal and child mortality: results of a 2-decade follow-up of a randomized clinical trial. JAMA Pediatr. 2014 Sep;168(9):800-6. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2014.472. PMID: 25003802; PMCID: PMC4235164.
- 3. Kitzman, H., Olds, D. L., Henderson, C. R., Hanks, C., Cole, R., Tatelbaum, R., et al. (1997). Effect of prenatal and infancy home visitation by nurses on pregnancy outcomes, childhood injuries, and repeated childbearing. A randomized controlled trial. JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association, 278(8), 644–652.



Coordinated Referral & Intake System (CRIS)



Referral Source

A referral is made for a family by:

- Community Programs
- MCO
- Medical Providers

Coordinated Referral & Intake System

Collective impact site

Receives the referral and funnels to the correct CI site

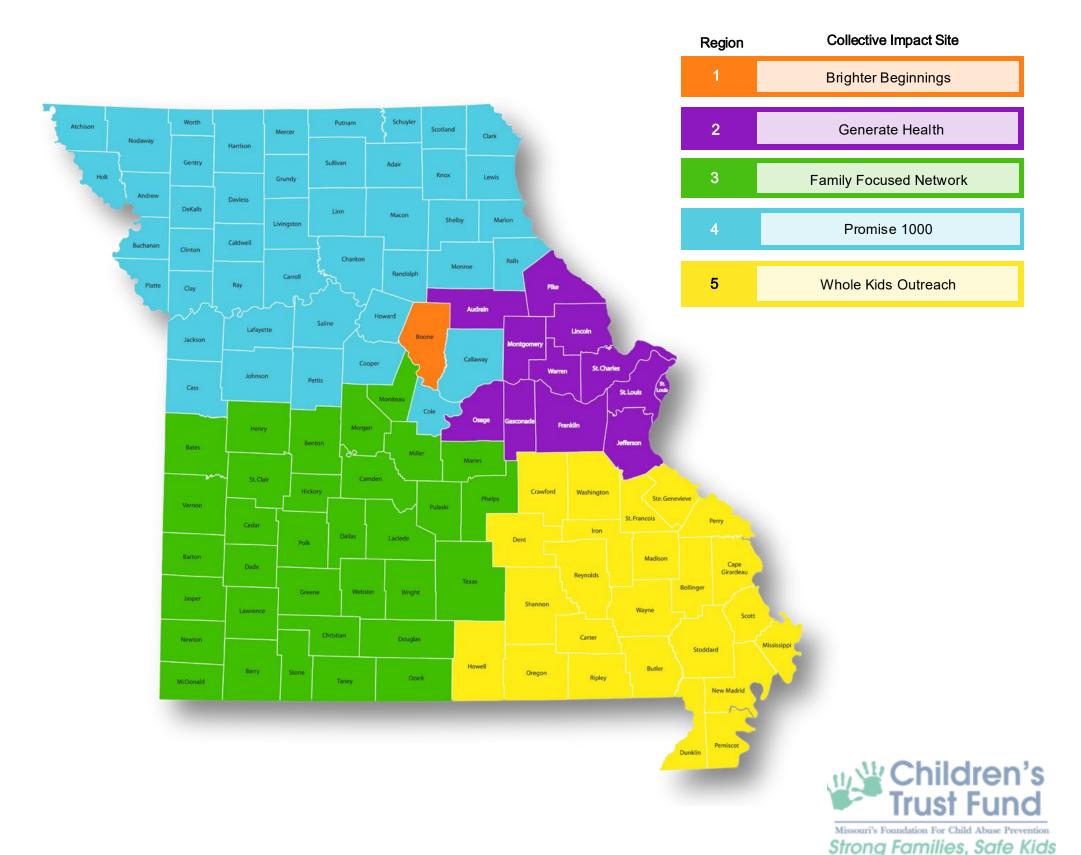


The Collective Impact Site then refers the family to a participating home visiting program!

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Agencies

Families receive needed services



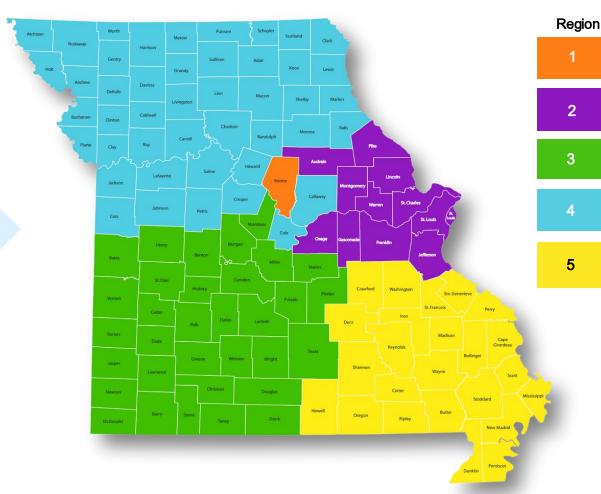


Questions? Ctf4kids.org/CRISLink

Contact your Regional CRIS Coordinator or start a referral using the QR code

or by visiting ctf4kids.org/crislink









thank you





Reach me at: emily.vanschenkhof@oa.mo.gov



September 26 at 10:30 AM

Hope to see you there!

Scan to Register!







Empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives.