

VOCA Formula Meeting

February 21, 2023

MOCADSV: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zak - would like to come out with the tasks for the subcommittee. Is excited to get a plan together and a formula. Believes this is a good step forward.

Attendees:

- Zak Wilson – COO MOCADSV
- Jessica Seitz – ED MO Kids First
- Jamie Padgett – MAPA Statewide Victim Coordinator
- Ken Chapman – OWCI Assistant Deputy Director
- Brock Whisler – MOCASA Program Services Coordinator
- Tina Utley – DPS Grants Specialist
- Tiffany Johnston – VOCA Program Coordinator
- Patti Custer – VOCA Program Specialist
- Tara Shahangian – VOCA Program Specialist
- Benjamin Johnson – VOCA Program Specialist
- Jeriane Jaegers-Brenneke – OWCI Deputy Director

Zak –

- Review primary objectives:
 - Determining allocation methodology that will assist in developing application and percentage ranges
 - Review process with a target date of September 30th
 - Start looking at application process to make it
 - Reduce review process and application

Jeriane - Agree on the priorities.

Zak - Jordan Hawkins from MOCATE was on the invite list. The minutes will go out to larger group. Will do overall review and scope of committee.

Jeriane –

- ARCHS has not been involved, they were supposed to be represented by FACT, but FACT did not come to the meetings. ARCHS is a governor's priority in St. Louis.
- In House markup, there was \$5M in GR.
- If the group reviews unobligated and it is obligated to those that are spending, there will be reduced or no carryover.
- The \$1M in IT movement does not mean there is additional funding, and historically was not spent; therefore, the funding is in the overall allotment.

Jessica – Wanted to know the obligation and how do we want to inform legislators through September?

Zak – Stated to keep on invite list, send minutes, and keep informed of process.

Jeriane – Agree that we need to invite to the meeting and communicate regularly.

Jessica – Agreed on scope and look forward to keeping informed. Should consider sending a letter after this meeting.

Jeriane – We should consider sending a letter after this meeting since it goes to the entire committee.

Tiffany – On the agenda, are the four priorities the federal priorities?

Zak – Stated it could be a 5th or 6th. At a bare minimum, the 4 federal priorities.

Jessica – Other states make sure they meet the 10%, but overall renamed it based on the type of service and not type of crime.

Zak – The review process is about the grant review process. How is that actually going to be done? What is it going to look like and who is going to be involved? What are the questions that need to be answered?

Brock – Wanted to know if there is more funding if they would remain at 5%.

Zak: Stated we need to develop a mechanism if the funding goes up or down.

Jessica: Believes the funding allocations would increase if the grant increases.

Zak – There is a \$5M shortfall with exercising one-year option, and they are having those conversations. Where are people? What has been carried over? Seems like conversation is more into categories. For now, we will table the funding.

Zak – Need to discuss the kick off on plan. What are the categories?

- VOCA funding categories by formula is the type of victims, not type of services
- Legal assistance, shelter support, etc. – Would fill out under different funding.

Zak – Reiterated would like to stay away from services. Many agencies can provide a lot of different services. There are distinctions inside of the victim services and could break down that way, or the type of provider that is working with those clients. Do not want to get into 25 different priority areas. If have five or six primary categories that reach victims across state.

Tiffany – What would be examples?

Zak:

- Child abuse
- Domestic violence
- Sexual violence
- Underserved
- Systems based (PAs and law enforcement) – Reynolds and Wayne County, Livingston, and 8 independent PA contracts
- CASAs: Where do CASAs fit? Brock stated if it does not change funding, it does not really matter. Patti stated would still fall under child abuse when we report.

Zak – The difficulties of allocations are going to be equally shared until we run into the application process. During the application process, there will be overall categories and the percentage ranges. Amongst the priorities, would look at things we have to have such as forensic exams, CASAs, etc. The application process will drive the services.

Jessica – When think of CAC, it is very streamlined, as they are required to provide same service. Can we compare within agencies including service populations? Does think child abuse is very different from where CASAs fit as kids already came to foster care.

Jessica – Need to determine if funding is cut by 50%, what is the priority?

Zak – Agreed.

Jessica – Do we prioritize personnel? It is the priority.

Jeriane – May want to consider funding actual priorities, such as vehicle purchases, travel, staff costs, etc.

Patti – A CASA and a CAC are different in an application process. Should we split CASAs for the application process?

Jessica – Agree need to determine if there is a better way to organize. Know some agencies do other things that is not just VOCA. Many agencies do other things, i.e. legal services. How do we isolate their programs? Then there are programs vs. agencies.

Tiffany – There are 10 child abuse providers, but everyone does different things.

Jessica – Believes CASAs and CACs should be viewed differently.

Benjamin – CASAs are more like a mentorship and help as it relates to development and outside of work hours, more like a mentorship. There for those individuals to help build themselves up. CACs are more 9 to 5.

Brock – For CACs, there is an open criminal investigation. There may be overlap, or could go back and forth.

Tiffany - General child abuse providers are providing direct service (i.e. counseling, after school programs, foster care specific). Most do counseling and public school system in KC is foster care.

Jessica – Asked for more information on KC Public School.

Patti – The KC Public School is in the underserved. Handle counseling and kids that have been in the system.

Benjamin – Stated they handle truancy, etc.

Patti: Both ARCHS and KC Public Schools were funded at the same time under a governor's initiative.

Jessica – Stated KC Public Schools is receiving 3% of the overall allocation.

Group discussion on Excel spreadsheets:

- KC needs to move under underserved and this will be corrected on the spreadsheet.

- County of Greene, under court based advocacy and need to determine if this is under system based or another category.
- Circuit attorney – Needs to be moved from DV to system based.
- General crimes/law enforcement – Would Reynolds and Wayne fall under system based. Group indicated yes.
- Need to determine where St. Charles Courts who has both a CASA and juvenile court advocate.

Zak – Systems based will be the trickiest for allocations because will cross types.

Tiffany – Split service agencies on DV/SV. Would we split the allocations?

Zak – Yes because there are dual services.

Jessica – Federal is based on victim type. We have gotten away from agency type.

Zak – Inside the categories, we can identify the priorities for the agency types. Is there a higher priority for these types? For example, need to make sure we have forensic exams and personnel instead of a vehicle. Of course, someone could come in and give a justification for a vehicle. Part of grant review where will need to make those decisions.

Tiffany – Wouldn't CACs go under systems?

Jessica – All provide mental health.

Tiffany – The only one alongside a court case is CAC.

Group – No, CASAs are going to be court appointed.

Jessica – Could make argument that CACS are for prosecution cases. However, they also are required to provide mental health services. Mental health services are for an open case. They are also non-profits.

DPS – If separate, what do you do with general child abuse service providers?

Jessica: The general are not the same either.

Patti – Overview of 10:

1. Cornerstones for CARE is a home for older youth that teaches the youth how to get a job, finish school, etc. Allocation is \$68,000.
2. Central MO Foster Care Coalition does the kinship program, which helps kids that are in foster care. They also provide court advocacy. Allocation is \$425,000.
3. CAPA – This is counseling for youth up to 14. Allocation is \$725,568.
4. Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition – This is the St. Louis kinship program. Allocation is \$386,848.
5. Foster Adopt Connect BI – Helps with behavioral issues and working through traumatic situations to adapt to different home. This is alternative therapy. Allocation is \$1,326,000.
6. Foster Adopt Connect KIN – See #5. Allocation is \$476,000.
7. IPOUR Life – Provides on-site services to youth to help get a job, complete a resume, start college, etc. Allocation is \$252,668.
8. KC Public School – Description is above. Allocation is \$1,376,086.

9. The Children's Place – Pre-school for up to age five for victimized children. Provides on-site counseling, activities, etc. Allocation is \$400,012.
10. Missouri Alliance for Children & Families –Primarily uses to train parents on coping with foster care children who have been victimized. Allocation is \$192,766.

Zak –Each program needs to have mechanisms to identify participants are victims.

Jessica – Curious how kinship programs are identifying participants are a victim.

Zak – Not arguing the validity or need.

Jessica – They have their own specific funding through DSS. Do not know how they would fall into victims of crime. Kinship is questionable.

Patti – Kinships were awarded with influx of money in 2018, under special projects under special conditions.

Jessica – Kinships will receive more funding from the Family First Services Prevention Act.

Jeriane – Will review programs for VOCA compliance.

Zak - Systems based folks are going to spend in different categories. Would make sense for CASAs to be under child abuse.

Brock – OK with it.

Zak – Verified everyone was OK with five categories.

Tiffany – System – Confirmed all MAPA, independent contracts, Circuit Attorney, and Reynolds/Wayne is under Systems Based.

Jamie – St. Charles Family Court needs to be under child abuse.

Overall:

- Legal Services and Legal Aid stays in DV.
- KC law should be under Systems Based.
- Grain Valley Police Department out of DV to Systems Based.

Zak – Next step is identifying percentage range, but need to finalize categories. Should we prioritize underserved?

Jessica – Child abuse agencies are primarily child abuse, but could have underserved special projects including collaborating with other agencies. What do want underserved to be?

Zak – Prevention is not eligible.

Jeriane – Asked if one of the categories should be gun violence.

Jamie – If underserved is gun violence, this will put more funding in the urban areas and there are 113 other counties that may need it a little more.

Jeriane – Stated this would start the rural/urban discussion on if there were ever enough funding on either.

Zak – Need to review data points for underserved. By crime type or population. This leans to what data you use.

Jessica – Is a goal to identify a set of priorities to identify underserved? Then, rethink every 3 years?

Zak – Should set priorities.

Jessica – What do we think is going on in our state? In other states, huge influx of refugees. What is going on in our state, and what data to we want to pull.

Patti – Could pull on quarterly reports, stalking, teen violence, trafficking, and violation of court orders.

Jeriane – We should consider listening sessions from communities. Maybe the MSHP could come and discuss what is going on in parts of the state.

Zak – Are they underserved if they are victim categories? MSHP can give outlay of crimes. More than welcome to give us a presentation. Or is it more pulling reports for data trends. Believes the listening sessions would be a token move.

Ken – What is KC public schools addressing?

Zak – We are the stakeholders, who would come in?

Jessica – Wants to ensure that the presentations would not be a pitch for funding.

Jeriane – The focus of the statement was not on providers. The focus was on the communities and their voice. We could have teachers, the MSHP, the Chamber of Commerce, or other community leaders. It is very important to ensure when the recommendations are made that we have done our due diligence in ensuring we hear from the community.

Zak – Would say had a VOCA stakeholder group and representatives across areas. Maybe it is qualitative survey and using local providers. Lets a draft a quick survey.

Jeriane and Jessica – Supportive of a survey.

Zak – Believes should ask no more than four questions with demographics.

Jeriane – Need to ensure we have enough data including some demographics. We could develop the survey and then get with MU for feedback. We can draft, the group can give feedback, and then we can send to MU.

Overarching survey layout:

- Demographics:
 - Zip code
 - Age range
 - Gender
- Services they need help with/concerns in the community.
- Is there a specific group that is experiencing violence that is not receiving assistance?

- Crimes currently not receiving services.

DSS – Outreach from our side.

- Gov Delivery
- JRI workgroup
- Partner/providers
- Other state agencies
- Lincoln
- MU

Tasks for the group:

- Determine the assessment tools used to identify victims, services, etc.
- Determine outreach groups

Next meeting:

- March 27th – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- MCADSV – 217 Oscar Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 (in training room in the back of the building)

Agenda for March 27th:

- Current status of the VOCA fund and projections through FFY23 – FFY24
- Review FFY23-24 contract allocation methodology if there is a FFY24 VOCA fund deficit or increase
- Identification of percentage range of fund for each category table – DSS to complete the spreadsheets within the next week. Only looking for expenditures vs. contract, not expenditures by funding cycle.
- Review application process with procurement requirements and category-specific responses

Jamie – Wants to know if we will review regional vs. statewide and if we will consider making changes to the FFY24 contract.

Zak – Stated yes, he has some definite opinions on this.

Jeriane – We stated we would have renewals that were the same as before, so we should not make changes because this would likely open it up for other discussion/changes and affect the renewal process.

Zak – Wants to discuss region vs. statewide in the application process. Moving into application process and allocation decisions. Next discussion will be fiscal heavy. What are the non-negotiables – exhibits.

Jeriane – Will want to have Wade McDonald in that discussion.

Jessica – Need to review contract expenditures and allocation decisions and if there is a significant deficit – triggers response.

Zak – Need to work on percentage range, final document, and categorize.