

VOCA Web-Ex
March 11, 2024 10:00 AM Meeting Minutes

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.

OWCI Building Move

- New address
 - 3705 Missouri Blvd
 - 2nd floor
 - Jefferson City MO, 65109

DOJ- Programmatic Monitoring

- Monitoring went well, thank you to the agencies that were randomly picked for a site visit with Kerry Luper.
- Report expected to be delivered in 90 days.

Invoices & DATA sheets

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

Trainings Updates

- In Person Collaborative Roundtables in 5 locations around the state.
 - First one in Jefferson City in April
 - The dates and locations will be announced soon.
 - Roundtable:
 - Purpose: Bring agencies together to discuss resources, services, working together, long-term planning, and vision.

VOCA Recommendations

- All documents are on the VOCA website for review.
- General Assembly has until May 17th to respond with a recommendation.
- If no recommendations are received DSS will pursue option # 4

Option # 4

DSS will continue to directly contract with all providers that continue to meet VOCA requirements. If there are funding fluctuations, all agencies will receive a proportionate change to their funding level based on the new funding level.

Agencies receiving \$50,000 or less will continue to receive their current allocation if there are funding reductions. The agencies receiving over this amount will receive a proportionate decrease of the remaining funds.

Missouri Victim Service Academy (MVSA)

- Registration is closed, but that will be April 23-25
- Crime Victim Ceremony
- Vendors

Jessica- Missouri Network Against Child Abuse- Executive Director

- There will be a new name as the Missouri Network against Child Abuse MNACA is now official.
- New website <https://mo-naca.org/> will be released in April during Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Introduction to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Human Trafficking on April 30th Flyer will be sent after meeting.
- E-Learning Culture Reframed- Still Growing up in a Porn Culture: Building Partnerships to address harms to youth

Zak Wilson- MOCADSV-

April

- Sexual Assault Enhancement Summit
 - Pre-summit online call on April 9 from 1pm – 3pm
 - Follow-up to last year's 2-day training
 - Opportunity to discuss sexual assault response team development and tele-SANE rollout across the State of Missouri
- Basics of Domestic Violence Advocacy
 - In-person meeting on April 17 (all day) at Jeff City training center
 - For newer advocates to gain an understanding of skills needed for providing DV services

- Trauma-informed, social change movement, low-barrier rules, voluntary services, etc.
- Housing Foundations training
 - 2-days at the MOCADSV training center in Jeff City
 - No registration fee for contractors
 - Not funded through the VOCA contract
 - Housing discussions and prevention focus (prevention is not an allowable cost with VOCA funds)
 - Case management in relation to housing, homelessness prevention, etc.
 - Contact Zak for any registration/attendance questions

VOCA Agency Highlights –

- *Newhouse – Kathryn Snow*
 - 1 location
 - Goal – adding an intake center to the current location
 - 2023 Annual Report is not yet completed, but we do have a few takeaways:
 - Served 450 individuals
 - Provided over 20,000 days and nights, sheltered 15 pets
 - Served 121 children who received over 12,000 educational hours and support
 - Shifted focus to 4 key pillars of service
 - Housing, healing, advocacy, and education
 - March 1-2 development team held a worthy pop-up bar which raised over \$200,000

- *KC Public Schools –*
 - Not present

- *Curators of University of MO – Child Advocacy Center – Megan Marietta*
 - 3 locations
 - Central west-end (forensic hub)
 - Offers therapeutic services
 - Kirkwood
 - Offers only therapeutic services and forensics on an emergency basis
 - UMSL campus
 - Child advocacy studies
 - Workforce development
 - 2023 data
 - Provided services to 400 individuals which accumulated to 4,785 hours of clinical sessions and 207 hours of case management across all three sites

- Forensic services provided to 970 individuals which accumulated to 2,989 hours of forensic services – combo of forensic interviewing and family advocates
 - Case management and follow-up services through family advocates which totaled to 2,900 hours of case management provided to families on an ongoing basis
 - Robust training and professional development
 - Virtual options since COVID
 - Train across the country and offered a few international options
 - Construction
 - Moved out of Weinman location and relocated clinical services at the RCEW building on campus
 - Expanding services – 2 new forensic suites
 - Still offering evidence-based modalities
 - Trauma-focused CDT
 - Integrative treatment for complex trauma
 - Child and family stress intervention
 - Adolescents with illegal sexual behaviors
 - Problematic sexual behavior group
 - TASK – trauma assessment skills knowledge group for caregivers
- *CASA of STL – Jennifer Howard*
 - Serving the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County
 - Currently over 2,000 children in foster care
 - So far this year, sworn in 70 new CASAs who are trained and work with children in foster care
 - Getting ready to start a strategic planning process that will hopefully allow growth in service to community children until FY27
 - April 17th – new presiding judge for city courts
- *St Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office – Malika Poindexter*
 - Prosecution-based victim assistance program – works directly with the circuit attorney’s office in STL city
 - Serve STL city crime victims
 - Currently fully staffed!
 - 8 full time advocate case workers who are specialized in type of victimization
 - 3 DV advocate case workers
 - Crisis intervention specialist
 - Early-crisis intervention specialist
 - Assault advocate case worker
 - Felony crimes advocate case worker

- Don't have capacity to work with all victims of crime, so focus on the dangerous crimes and any case that involved DV, SA, CA, Elderly
 - Do not deny services to victims – as long as their case is active within the circuit attorneys office and services are requested, they will work with them through the prosecution phase of the justice system
- Crisis case managers handle comprehensive case management services and criminal justice advocacy and support
 - Outreach with victims on routine basis
 - Connecting them to valuable resources in the community
 - Going to court with victims
 - Educating them on how criminal justice system works and what individual's rights are
- Counseling program
 - Contracted with licensed counselor who provides victim services
 - Focuses on DV victims of crime and homicide survivors
- Last year, serviced about 3,400 crime victims
- Secured grant for Crime Victims Rights week
 - Housing a resource fair in the courts soon

- *Employment Connection*
 - Not present

- *Cornerstone of Care – Justin Horton*
 - 154 years – work in 59 Missouri counties
 - Foster care and adoption, education, and youth + family supports
 - VOCA award = \$68,000
 - Specific for transitional living program
 - Group home in KC and 15 apartments
 - Serve teen and young adults – many are homeless
 - Serve about 50-60 victims within a funding year between group home and apartments
 - Referrals, advocacy, accompaniment, emotional support, safety services, criminal justice assistance, primarily shelter services
 - Life skills, employment education, IDs, etc. (preparation for adulthood)
 - Expand internal therapeutic support to victims
 - 2023 data
 - Average length of stay = 239 days
 - 92% of victims saw program progress
 - 85% obtained employment
 - No upcoming events
 - Obtained Children's Trust Fund Improvement grant in 2022 and secured work for that in group home that houses 10 youth

- Completely renewed a 100 year old house for a better space for youth
- *A Safe Place – Holly*
 - Small DV shelter serving Jefferson county and surrounding counties
 - Advocate at court house who assists victims through restraining orders and help with the court process
 - Provide personal advocacy services
 - Crisis hotline manned 24/7
 - 2023 data
 - Served over 1,900 victims at the shelter and within the courthouse
 - 1,100 hotline calls
 - Provided over 1,000 advocacy hours
 - 900+ crisis counseling hours
 - 4,400 nights of safety even while short-staffed
 - Currently fully staffed
 - Fundraising gala coming up on April 20th in Jefferson County – “starry skies and fireflies”
 - Spending time with community and supporters

Patti – please be sure to send us any upcoming special events that the other providers or OWCI could attend. 😊

Ken – no updates but thank you to everyone for keeping up the great work in the State of Missouri!

Questions or concerns?

- Kathleen Tofall – Missouri office of Prosecuting Attorney’s
 - There are still openings for the Family and Sexual Violence Conference coming up May 21-23
 - Held in Columbia at the Holiday Inn Executive Center
 - National speakers will be attending
 - www.prosecutors.mo.gov