

**VOCA Web-Ex**  
**April 11, 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)***

- Due Date is April 30, 2024, send to [FSD.VOCAUNIT@dss.mo.gov](mailto: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***

- Application has been released and due by May 22th.
- Funding for Missouri for Grant YR 2024 has gone down to \$14,267,757.00. Grant for GY 2023 was \$24,764,263.00

Patti shows what we have sent to the Senate:

\$11M – Carryforward from FFY23 Grant

\$14.573M – Potential FFY24 VOCA Award

\$16.9M – Governor Parson’s Recommendation to Fund with General Revenue

\$42.473

\$7.5M decrease from last year. We are assuming that this will be a decrease across all agencies

\*State budget is not signed until the end of June 2024

\*11M is likely to be the carryforward amount from FFY24 contracts

- We are hoping for GR. We will find out on June 30, 2024 how much.

- We will have about 13M from GY 2023 grant to use. So funding in October will most likely go down.

### *Invoices & DATA sheets*

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

### *Trainings Updates (Reminder)*

- In Person Collaborative Roundtables in 5 locations around the state.
- First one in Jefferson City in May 7th
- 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*

- Jessica Seitz - Missouri Network Against Child Abuse- Executive Director
  - E-Learning: Culture Reframed:-Still Growing Up in a Porn Culture: Building Partnerships to Address Harms to Youth. See attached flyer with program description and registration link.
  - E-Learning: Victim Services Update. See attached flyer with program description and registration link.
  - Training: Introduction to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children & Human Trafficking (April 30, 2024)

Flyers will be sent out after the meeting is over.

- Zak Wilson

**Review training opportunities and register @ <https://www.mocadsv.org/training-opportunities/>**

### **DV 101 – The Basics of Domestic Violence Advocacy**

**April 17, 2024** (in-person at the Colleen Coble Education Center in Jefferson City)

**09: 30 AM - 04: 30 PM**

This interactive training for newer advocates provides a philosophical basis for advocacy and the skills you need to provide effective and respectful services. We will examine the nature and dynamics of domestic violence, review the history of social change movements, and examine

voluntary services, low barrier rules, and accessibility in domestic violence shelters and services. The training includes the opportunity to think critically through scenarios, practice with role plays and simulations, and learn common sense techniques to determine which advocacy approaches are safe, practical, empowering, and ethical.

### **Immigrant and Refugee Services Roundtable Meeting**

**May 03, 2024** (in-person at the Colleen Coble Education Center in Jefferson City)

**10: 30 AM - 02: 30 PM**

Victim-based forms of immigration relief are available to provide status, work authorization, and a pathway to citizenship for eligible immigrant survivors of violence. Join Amanda Williams, Senior Staff Attorney at the Immigration Law Project at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri for a discussion about these forms of relief and best practices for connecting the survivors you serve with victim-based immigration options. This meeting will bring advocates, attorneys, and immigrant service providers together to connect with one another, share resources, and discuss emerging trends.

### **Prevention Advocacy Training Series**

**May 07, 2024** (in-person at the Colleen Coble Education Center in Jefferson City)

**10: 00 AM - 02: 00 PM**

Please join us for part two of our training series: Developing and Testing Prevention Strategies Based on Identified Risk and Protective Factors. We will learn continue to explore the public health approach and the role of prevention in social change by strategically integrating risk and protective factors in communities with evidence-based prevention models.

### **Ins and Outs of Orders of Protection: A Clinic for Advocates**

**May 17, 2024** (in-person at the Colleen Coble Education Center in Jefferson City)

**09: 00 AM - 04: 00 PM**

In this dynamic training, attendees will learn the legal ins and outs of Orders of Protection and will get hands-on experience filing out Petitions from MOCADSV's attorneys Kelly Martinez and Samantha Ghormley Hill. This training was designed with both new and experienced advocates in mind. Participants will:

- Better understand laws regarding Orders of Protection, including Stalking and Sexual Assault Orders of Protection
- Be prepared to assist survivors in filling out all types of petitions for Orders of Protection
- Learn tips for survivors in the courtroom
- Learn to recognize barriers that impact individuals seeking and enforcing protection orders — and best practices for response
- Tailor advocacy skills to meet the individual needs of each victim and enhance survivor safety while navigating the court system

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***Questions from Chat:***

from Frankie Babaian:

Whats the \$7.5M decrease in total %? Sorry if I missed that.

from PatrickFo:

I second that question: What % is that and what % of cut should we anticipate if there aren't additional funds added?

***Answer: 8-9% decrease total depending on how much GR is put in.***

from PatrickFo

Can you restate what you said that "is due 5/22?" My audio wasn't working yet.

from Jamie Willis

Did you say that an RFP has already come out for the next VOCA cycle? My audio cut out and I only caught the tail end of proposals being due in May?

from Alisa White to everyone:

Not finding info on the NOFO, can someone send me details.

***Answer: This is for the state to apply for, not agencies. We will let you know if there is any additional application/process for agencies if/when needed.***

from Frankie Babaian

Are there dates for the roundtables yet?

***Answer: Only the Central one has been set for May 7<sup>th</sup>. We are finalizing the dates for the other regions. When it is finalized, we will send out information.***

from Jamie Willis

Any estimates of when the NOFO for victim services agencies will come out?

***Answer: We will most likely be doing a continuation with a decrease for this next year.***

from PatrickFo to everyone: 10:15 AM

Do we know anything about DVSS yet?

***Answer: We do not know the funding levels yet.***

from Amy Couture

The collaborative round tables sound like a great opportunity. What do you think they'll include? Just want to make sure we have the right people there.

***Answer: The goal is to make sure everyone is collaborating since the fund is going down. We are hoping this will allow agencies to find new ways to work together.***

from Angela Hirsch

Do you have an ETA to announce VOCA funding decreases to agencies? Meaning the total decrease for each?

***Answer: We do not know yet.***

from Martha Sander

So, it would be best to attend the roundtable closest to our area?

***Answer: Yes***

from Kendra Eads

Anything we can be doing with contacting the legislators about increasing the GR amount?

***Answer: It has not gone through the Senate. I can't tell you to contact them or not to contact them. But I can tell you it has not gone through the Senate yet. The more they know the better.***

***Patti presents combining the DVSS and VOCA Calls. All feedback given is in support of combining.***

#### ***VOCA Agency Highlights –***

- ***Family Forward – Not present***
- ***Adhoc – Brittney Scarborough. Supports individuals and families who have gone through violence, most often gun violence and homicides. They support through the court process and connecting with resources in their area. Last year they served 164 individuals, with 68 being new to the office. Some were from the parade shooting who needed support. They mainly had adult males from that event that needed support.***
- ***CASA of Parkland – JoAnna Watts serves the 24<sup>th</sup> circuit, 4 counties. They served about 50 children last year with 28 casos. They work with other service providers to give judges all the information they need to make an informed decision for each child. The volunteers visit with the child monthly to get to know them and their situation. They are having their ribbon cutting and grand opening today for their new house/office. This extra space allows for more activities for the children and families who are working toward reunification. They are also having more life skill classes. This is their 3<sup>rd</sup> expansion in 4 years. All the furniture that children touch is new. They also have a space for children entering custody who need a place to be while they do the initial intake process.***
- ***Jackson County CASA – Not Present***
- ***Hope Haven of Cass County – Not present***

- **JADASA** – Cynthia Bennett, Journey Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse founded in June of 2002 in North St. Louis County. They have a resource center to help with community events. Women and children are helped through this program. Since 2003 they have helped 6500 women and 5000 children. They help with services and referrals. There is a summer program- coding to combat abuse, it is for children ages 10-18. At the end of the program they are able to build mobile apps and then give them \$50 gift certificates. It's to help teach them to be paid for their work and knowledge. They work with educational settings and 3 school districts. They have partnered with several churches and faith based organizations. They have a trivia night coming up April with a comedian.
- **Jefferson City Rape & Abuse Crisis Service, Inc.** – Angela Hirsch, ED. They serve 9 counties in central Missouri. 1323 survivors last year with over 18000 different services. There has been an increase, but she doesn't believe that it's due to more abuse but more community awareness. It was founded in 1980. They have a 24 hour hotline available, personal and court advocacy, individual and group counseling, and shelter. They are partnering with an agency to help get them transitional housing after leaving the shelter. They have brought on a new shelter director, Jessica McNear. This summer they are starting a new children's service program to help provide educational resources for them. They are working with JCPD to help expand their crisis intervention services for immediate services when the police are called out to a DV situation. This is based on a program in AZ, who are working alongside RACS to get it off the ground. They will be hosting their first fundraising event on April 22 – Driving out domestic violence golf tournament.
- **Kid's Harbor** – Not present
- **Legal Services of Southern MO** – Whitney Williams, serves 70 counties across the bottom portion of the state. Family law and domestic abuse, evictions, housing issues, elder abuse. 55% of the caseload is domestic violence. They opened access justice center in Springfield. They are able to receive assistance in representing themselves in law matters and filling out forms. They just added housing and evictions to the access justice system as well. They have a few golf tournaments coming up this summer.
- **MO Alliance for Children & Families** – Mary Sorrell. They work with children who are in CD custody. They support families through engagement and connection. They try to support them with specific services for their needs.
- **Synergy** – Not present
- **Legal Aid of Western MO-** Shannon Carney, 40 Western counties. 2500 survivors per year. Madison Peak is the supervisor of the domestic unit. She shares about a client who shares a 3 year old son. Dad was withholding child from mother and she had not seen him in 3 months. Dad took kid after a visit. There was abuse toward mom by dad. Dad was engaged in drug use and firearms. Trying to get him served and get the son back was very difficult. The court had to order dad to bring the child to court. Child made several disclosures of abuse to mom. Dad ended up being incarcerated. After a long trial, the mom was granted sole custody and was able to move without notice to dad. It turned out to be a good ending.

**Attendees:**

Patti Custer, DSS  
Benjamin Johnson, DSS  
Ryan Stiffler, DSS  
Julie Meranda, DSS  
Donna Franz , Selah Place of Oregon Co., Inc.  
Sheree Keely, CADV  
Jamie Padgett Missouri Office of Prosecution Services  
Jill Wondel, House of Refuge  
Matt Stewart--Children's Center of SWMO  
Loretta Schouten - Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition  
Holly Hunt, KVC  
Wende Ochoa, Turning Point Advocacy Services  
Sharon Hileman, CASA of Southeast MO  
Wendy Logan, DeafLEAD  
Shannon Carney, Legal Aid of Western Missouri  
Jenny Shaver, Child Safe of Central Missouri Inc  
Gina Clement, Capital City CASA  
Karen Hodges, Interpreter  
Amy Hathcock - The Child Advocacy Center Inc  
Erica Nanney, CARDV  
Jamie Willis, Greene County Family Justice Center  
Gail Dickson, ARCHS  
Tony Ketchem, Associate Director CBS, KVC\_MO SE  
Jared Alexander - Harmony House  
JoAnna Watts, CASA of the Parkland  
Tim Meeker - Hope House  
Katie Croker, Russell Hosue  
Lauren Frosch, Turning Point Advocacy Services  
Jackee Pemberton Executive Director Regional Family Crisis Center Perryville,MO  
Laura Cook - The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri  
Betsy Barnes, Mid-Missouri Legal Services  
Jessica Hill, Safe House of Southeast Missouri  
Leanne Reese, Missouri CASA Association  
Brittney Scarborough-AdHoc Group Against Crime  
Rebecca Griffith- Russell House  
Melissa Platt, Missouri Alliance for Children and Families  
Phyllis Miller, YWCA Metro St. Louis  
Alisa White, Survival Adult Abuse Center, Inc.  
Kelsey Conner, The Victim Center  
Karen Kirk, CEO, Lydia's House  
Rebeca Pacheco CASA of the 36th - Butler County Community Resource Council  
Zak Wilson, MOCADSV  
Courtney Davis, I Pour Life  
Emily Burgess, Weinman Shelter  
Alicia Knickman- CASA of Jefferson County  
Kelly Hill, Heart of Missouri CASA

Ke'Shee Dent - Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation  
Verna Kelsey, North Central Missouri Children's Advocacy Center  
Tyler Bernsen - Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis  
Patrick Foran, The Women's Safe House  
Angela Hirsch, RACS  
Stephanie Logan - DeafLEAD  
Justin Horton - Cornerstones of Care  
Martha Sander, Council on Families in Crisis  
Kristina Jones, Child Abuse Prevention Association  
Melissa Birdsell, Voices of Courage St. Joseph  
Amy Couture, Rose Brooks Center  
from Jamie Willis - Greene County Family Justice Center to everyone: 10:09 AM  
Kendra Eads, SEMO-NASV  
Stephanie Bennett SEMO FVC  
Jessica McNear, Rape and Abuse Crisis Services (RACS)  
Victoria Roberts, St. Charles County Prosecutor's Office  
Malika Poindexter, St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office-Victim Services Unit  
Wendy Harris, Compass Health  
Karrie Flowers Safe Connections  
JudyKile, COPE  
Kathy Tofall, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services  
Kimberly Kemerer - Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri