

**Missouri Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children**  
Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting on January 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Attendance:

- Chair: Ed Lewis, Missouri State Representative
- Co-Chair: Sarah Unsicker, Missouri State Representative
- Darrell Missey, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Connie Berhorst, Missouri Department of Public Safety
- Crystal Atkinson, Office of the Missouri Attorney General
- Jessica Seitz, Missouri KidsFirst
- Marcia Hazelhorst, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
- Nora Mosby, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Mary Weir, Associate Circuit Judge of Jackson County, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

Stakeholder Contributor Attendance:

- Matt Rodriguez, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Taylor Jones, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Amy Robins, Children’s Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
- Jordan Hawkins, Missouri Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation
- Daria Davis, Legislative Assistant to Missouri State Senator Holly Thompson Rehder

1. Approval of minutes – Distributed with Agenda
  - a. The meeting minutes from December 1, 2022 were approved at 10:03 a.m.
2. Possible CAC “Sharing” Plan and MOU Protocol
  - a. Missouri KidsFirst Director Jessica Seitz provided:
    - i. 15 regional CAC’s across the State of Missouri
    - ii. Public/private funded 501c(3)
    - iii. MDT model
      1. Avoid repeated disclosures
        - a. Multiple disclosures cause more trauma
      2. Justice and healing
        - a. Forensic interview, mental health service, and family advocacy
      3. Any professional that is involved in the sexual abuse investigation may be part of the MDT
  - b. CAC NEMO Executive Director Julie Seymore provided:
    - i. Developed specialized position, CSEC Coordinator
    - ii. Attended 2018 national training on child exploitation
    - iii. Partners with area stakeholders on identifying human trafficking
    - iv. CSEC Coalition established
      1. CAC coordinates effort
      2. Members
        - a. Schools

- b. MDT partners
      - c. Community members
      - d. Agencies/service providers
    - 3. Subgroups created that meet outside of the quarterly coalition meetings
      - a. Works on larger goals of the coalition
    - 4. Jan-June of 2022 there were 73 out 527 identified as CSEC component
    - 5. Better trained and educated results in more identification
    - v. Referrals to CAC come from law enforcement and CD
    - vi. Schools generally work with law enforcement and CD, but on occasion schools work directly with CAC and CAC staff will go to the school to work with children
  - c. Other CAC's that are building capacity are encouraged to develop similar CSEC programs as CAC NEMO
    - i. CAC NEMO could provide training and technical support for other CAC's as needed
    - ii. Recommend helping seven or eight CAC's to build capacity and establish CSEC protocol
  - d. CSEC federal funds cut, no state CSEC funding currently available
  - e. Possible consideration proposed for 2024 state FY requirement to maintain CAC NEMO CSEC program and creating seven or eight more
    - i. Could have CSEC coordinator position that works at more than one CAC
    - ii. Partner and train other assets within MDT for developing CSEC program in other CAC's.
  - f. KidsFirst will meet with all 15 CAC's and discuss options for developing CSEC programs
  - g. Rep. Unsicker will look at state budget and see if state funds could be available for implementing CSEC programs in some of the CAC's.
3. DSS Tracking of CSEC
  - a. Director's Office
    - i. Director's Office would like additional information on scope and purpose for tracking, but support the endeavor and are agreeable to exploring options for implementation.
  - b. Children's Division
    - i. CD Director Missey has concerns over funding and lack of resources
      - 1. FACES would need adjusted, funding necessary
      - 2. DSS has 1,800 staff, but currently vastly understaffed specifically in CD
        - a. Needs at least 1000 more full time employees to adequately meet the need
  - c. DSS will continue conversation internally
  - d. Suggestion from Marcia Hazlehorst to provide state funding for each CAC to create CSEC position and/or a position working in tandem to locate and track victims
  - e. Need to address confidentiality and access to systems for tracking

- f. Suggestion for Legislators to review/consider state budget for funding
- 4. Approved Screening Tools
  - a. Validated screening tool
    - i. No validated screening currently exists in Missouri
      - 1. Need to look at other state's validated screening tools
  - b. Children's Division has screening tool that is encouraged to be used, however not validated
    - i. No protocol in place for CAC to use the same screening tool
    - ii. Tool was shared with the council
    - iii. CD provides training to staff on identifying indicators of HT and ways to ask questions in an informal way so that the screening tool may be completed
      - 1. The staff does not go down the list of questions on the tool, rather information is gathered through conversation in an informal interview style, and then the screening tool is completed by staff.
  - c. cursory interview/statement screening tools do not exist currently
  - d. KidsFirst will schedule a meeting to discuss training inventory and coordination with KidsFirst, DSS CD, law enforcement, and MOCATE
- 5. Non-agenda item
  - a. Representative Lewis discussed sources of funding in DSS Children's Division that might relate to CSEC that have not been fully expended
    - i. HB 11.380 has a child abuse and neglect grant
    - ii. HB 11.315 has a child abuse, prevention, and treatment grant
    - iii. A one-year state-funded allotment of \$450,000 towards education related to HT
  - b. CD Director Missey reached out to DSS Division of Finance and Administrative Services and further clarification is needed, which can be provided in an upcoming meeting.
- 6. Attorney General's Original Jurisdiction
  - a. Does not have original jurisdiction on criminal cases
  - b. Cases referred to MHSP
    - i. MSHP determines if they'll investigate or refer to local jurisdiction
  - c. Legislature should determine whether AG has original jurisdiction
    - i. Legislation could dictate ways in which AG would assume original jurisdiction in a back-up capacity to address concerns of local prosecutors' failure to act
  - d. AG and MOPS plan to meet and discuss best practices and inclusion of local prosecutor's input
  - e. Following the AG/MOPS meeting, possibly pursue as a recommendation from the council for further consideration and review
- 7. Next Meeting Agenda Items
  - a. Discuss the meeting held pertaining to training inventory and coordination
  - b. Unspent funding in DSS
  - c. Next meeting scheduled for February 27, 2023
    - i. 10-11:45 a.m.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

