

Missouri Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children
Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting
February 27 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Capitol Building, House Hearing Room 2

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
- Catherine Vannier, Missouri Office of Prosecution 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
- Angela Mosley, Missouri State Senator
- Kim Davis, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Marcia Hazelhorst, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
- Mary Weir, Associate Circuit Judge of Jackson County, 16th Judicial Circuit
- Rikki Wright, Missouri Department of Mental Health
- Nora Mosby, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Stakeholder Contributor Attendance:

- Matt Rodriguez, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Taylor Jones, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Adam Crumbliss, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Danielle Corley, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Heather Ford, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Misty Allen, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Patrick Luebbering, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Amy Robins, Children's Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
- Julie Seymour, Children's Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
- Jessica Rodriguez, assisting Rep. Sarah Unsicker
- Shima Rostami, Gateway Human Trafficking
- Jatonya Clayborn, Gateway Human Trafficking
- Heather Silverman, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
- Marilen Pitler, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
- Cindy Malott, Crisis Aid International
- Adam Kavanaugh, Crisis Aid International
- Maddie Green, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Jonathan Yelton, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Louise Levine
- Robyn Walker

1. Approval of minutes – Distributed with agenda
 - a. The meeting minutes from January 13, 2023 were approved at 10:01 a.m.
2. CSEC/CAC position -Jessica Seitz
 - a. Jessica Seitz met with all 15 CAC's in the State of Missouri
 - i. Most CAC's interested in developing CSEC programming
 - ii. Recommends funding CAC NEMO for CSEC Coordinator position that can provide training to other CAC's interested in developing similar programming
 - iii. Proposes a central statewide trainer position with two or three regional trainer positions
 - b. Julie Seymour, Director of CAC NEMO, presents in support of the model proposed by Jessica Seitz
 - c. Jessica Rodriguez suggested looking at a California model that uses federal funding for similar programming and has shared information with Rep. Unsicker
 - d. Rep. Unsicker shared more information about the California model
 - i. Federal grant through OVC with Max funding \$1.5 million, 20 percent cash in kind match
 - ii. OVC released grant once a year, awarded for three years, totaling 9 years of potential service
 - iii. Competitive process
 - iv. Jessica Rodriguez has contacts that could offer support for applying for the grant
 - v. Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSEIT)
 - vi. State would have to apply for the federal funding
 1. Jessica Rodriguez could provide assistance with application
 - vii. Rep. Unsicker proposes April 1st as a start date for application process for funding in the following year
 - e. Shima Rostami recommends a comprehensive approach including labor trafficking
 - i. Rep. Unsicker counters that the council was developed to address child sex trafficking and exploitation
 - ii. Shima Rostami suggests clarifying this expectation as the focus to the council with appropriate language as such
 - iii. Jessica Seitz reminds council that the AG has a task force for all forms of human trafficking, including labor trafficking
 - iv. Rep. Lewis addresses council that he wrote the bill intentionally for focusing on sex trafficking of children
3. CAC and CSEC funding in 2024 budget
 - a. Patrick Luebbering, DSS CFO present to address DSS budget related to human trafficking
 - i. \$738 thousand appropriated last year
 - ii. \$278 thousand of ARPA for a couple more years (some expended already)
 - iii. \$4.2 million general revenue budget line for CAC's
 1. \$650 thousand general revenue earmarked to KC
 2. Approximately \$3.5 million general revenue for remaining CAC's
 - b. CAPA grant - Child Abuse and Prevention Act

- i. Child Abuse and Neglect grant \$1.7 million
 - ii. Criminal Justice Act \$370 thousand
 - iii. Federal grant funding that can be used for funding CAC's in developing CSEC programming
 - c. Recommends not relying on VOCA funds as a reliable source of funding because of declining fluctuation every year
 - i. Projected to be \$25 million short in fiscal year 2025
 - d. Rep. Lewis suggests further conversations to determine ways to use state funding for CSEC-specific programming in CAC's.
 - e. Shima Rostami asks if the grant process could be explained for organizations other than CAC's to understand better
 - i. Patrick Luebbering provides an overview of the process
 - f. Judge Weir asks if the education/training component of this funding includes cross-section training of all MDT partners
 - i. Rep. Lewis affirms
- 4. HB 453,454
 - a. Rep. Jeff Coleman present
 - i. The bills focus on increasing penalty range for offenders soliciting sexual acts
 - ii. The bills focus on demand reduction
 - b. HB 454
 - i. Increases victim age from less than 15 years of age to less than 17 years of age
 - ii. Raised to felony offense
 - c. HB 453
 - i. Half of restitution fee going toward arresting law enforcement agency
 - ii. Other half of restitution going toward service providers in the county of arrest
 - iii. Proposes collection process goes through the AG's office
 - d. Jessica Rodriguez asks about training for judges
 - i. Judge Weir shared some of the training that judges receive related to human trafficking, and recognizes need for further training
- 5. Language Modification in RSMO with HB 454
 - a. Cindy Malott and Adam Kavanaugh, Crisis Aid International
 - i. Addresses the council about the current language in statutes related to sexual offenses and the way victims are impacted
 - ii. For example, recommends language change from child pornography to child sexual abuse material
 - 1. The current statutory language suggests that victims were willfully engaging in the act
 - 2. Investigative reports with current statutory language re-victimizes and provides further traumatization
 - b. Rep. Lewis and Rep. Coleman suggest an amendment be considered for changing language
 - i. Catherine Vannier, MOPS, asks if specific language is proposed

1. Cindy Malott advises she does have language change recommendations that she can forward
6. Open Discussion/Next Steps
 - a. Rep. Lewis recommends moving forward with statewide coordinated CSEC programming at CAC's
 - b. Kim Davis, MSHP, asks about what type of training is being considered for law enforcement
 - i. Rep. Lewis agrees that law enforcement training may need to be considered by a sub-group of law enforcement experts
 - c. Next meeting late March or early April
 - d. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.