Missouri Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children

Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting April 3, 2023 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
- Mary Weir, Associate Circuit Judge of Jackson County, 16th Judicial Circuit
- Rikki Wright, Missouri Department of Mental Health
- Lisa Schulze, Missouri Department of Corrections
- 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
- Kara Wilcox, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Misty Allen, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Angie Swarnes, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Amy Robins, Children's Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri
- Jessica Rodriguez, assisting Rep. Sarah Unsicker
- Shima Rostami, Gateway Human Trafficking
- Heather Silverman, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
- Marilen Pitler, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
- Louise Levine, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
- Maddie Green, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Jonathan Yelton, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Jordan Hawkins, Missouri Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation

- 1. Approval of minutes Distributed with agenda
 - a. The meeting minutes from February 27, 2023 were approved at 9:59 a.m.
- 2. House Budget Items Passed for Implementation of Council Priorities Rep. Lewis
 - a. HB 11 DSS budget
 - *i.* 2 FTE for CSEC position approved
 - *1.* Leadership position
 - 2. Support staff position
 - *ii.* 2 FTE for DLS
 - *1*. Legal position
 - 2. Support staff position
- 3. \$900 thousand allocated toward CAC budget from C/AN-CAPA funding
- 4. \$500 thousand allocated toward KC CAC
 - a. Resource for regional CSEC position
- 5. \$150 thousand allocated toward statewide CSEC education
- 6. \$450 thousand budgeted in 2023
 - a. Funds were not administered through ARCHS to Gateway Human Trafficking
 - *i*. Funds were supposed to be dispersed in July 2022
 - ii. DSS Director Knodell approached ARCHS and corrected issue
 - *1*. Funds to be released in three upcoming payments
 - 2. Funds will be used to create and distribute curriculum materials related to CSEC to be pushed out to schools and other public entities
 - *a.* Shima Rostami, Gateway Human Trafficking described the initiatives to be funded:
 - *i*. Working to develop statewide report on identifying human trafficking in schools
 - *ii.* Invitation of human trafficking experts to participate in group work aimed to identify ways for improving services
 - *iii.* Developing free anti-human trafficking online course for school personnel
 - *iv.* Develop procedure for human trafficking reporting by school personnel
- 7. Attorney General Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
 - a. Crystal Atkinson, Maddie Green, and Jonathan Yelton
 - *i.* Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
 - 1. Comprehensive response and coordinated services
 - 2. Meets quarterly
 - 3. Task force was developed under the Hawley administration and continued under the Schmidt administration
 - a. Bailey administration working toward rebranding task force
 - *i*. More info to come in the future
 - *ii.* Surveying other states to see what other AGO's are doing
 - *iii.* Surveying NGO's to gather best practices
 - b. Rep. Lewis suggests collaboration with federal partners
 - i. Eastern District of Missouri Human Trafficking Task Force

- ii. Western District of Missouri Human Trafficking Rescue Project
- *iii.* Rep. Lewis proposes utilizing the May or June council meeting to serve as facilitator for bringing together AGO and federal partners
- *c*. Rep. Lewis recommends that the AGO Task Force continue work of the council upon statutory conclusion of council
- 8. CSEC/CAC Implementation Plan
 - **a.** Jessica Seitz, Missouri KidsFirst and Amy Robins, NEMO CAC
 - *i.* \$500 thousand allocated to Missouri KidsFirst for CSEC implementation plan
 - *ii.* Scale work of NEMO CAC to other CAC's toward a statewide approach
 - *iii.* Replace funding lost by NEMO CAC to continue their work
 - *iv.* Competitive application process for CAC's to receive funds include conducting needs assessment of CAC's
 - *v*. Looking to fund four additional CAC's in addition to NEMO CAC
 - *vi.* Northwest region will be in Kansas City
 - 1. CAC's in the three other regions (central, southeast, and southwest) yet to be determined
 - *vii.* Identification of CAC's to receive funding projected to occur by November 2023
 - *viii.* Additional funding in the future may be needed to fund remaining CAC's to implement statewide approach
 - **b.** Council recommendation for survivors to be included in the regional coalitions
- 9. New Items/Open Discussion
 - a. Survivor component on council is recommended for the council's ongoing work
 - **b.** Kim Davis, MSHP Kansas has a law enforcement protocol that she can share on the council's box.com share drive
 - *i*. Kansas LE protocol include staff secure facilities used to house run away juveniles (i.e. runaway juveniles potentially exposed to human trafficking victimization)
 - *c.* Jessica Rodriguez, assistant for Rep. Sarah Unsicker advocates should be used in developing safety plan for placement of juvenile runaway human trafficking victim
 - *i*. Ms. Rodriguez is willing to act as a resource if needed
 - *d.* Judge Mary Weir electronic monitoring may be a better option in lieu of secured placement of juvenile runaway HT victims
 - *e*. DSS CD Director Darrell Missey currently there is a lack of capacity in Missouri for placement of juveniles
 - *i.* CD Deputy Director Angie Swarnes as of last week looking for beds for 140 youth needing residential placement
 - *1.* There is a need for working with experts to avoid re-traumatization of juvenile victims
 - *ii.* Rep. Lewis recommends submitting budget proposal for addressing these real issues
 - *f*. Kim Davis will reach out to Kansas officials to identify what works well in their protocol

- *g.* Connie Berhorst, DPS will review Missouri POST standards to see what currently exists in LE protocol
- *h.* Shima Rostami, Gateway Human Trafficking working on a statewide assessment of MO LE to identify existing protocol
- *i.* Catherine Vannier, MOPS suggests including a prosecutor on review/development of LE protocol
- *j.* Judge Weir training amongst judiciary also an important consideration
 - *i.* Will share judiciary protocol on box.com share drive
- *k.* Discussion about statutory language change as proposed by Crisis Aid International (i.e. changing "child pornography" to "child sexual abuse material")
 - *i.* Further consideration is required as statutory language change will involve several statutes to be revised
- *l.* Next council meeting scheduled on May 22, 2023 at 10 a.m.
- *m*. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.