

Missouri Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children
Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting
July 10, 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
- Matt Rodriguez, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Darrell Missey, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Connie Berhorst, Missouri Department of Public Safety
- Jessica Seitz, Missouri KidsFirst
- Marcia Hazelhorst, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
- Kim Davis, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Rikki Wright, Missouri Department of Mental Health
- Lisa Schulze, Missouri Department of Corrections
- Jordan Hawkins, Missouri Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation

Stakeholder Contributor Attendance:

- Adam Crumbliss, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Taylor Jones, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Misty Allen, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Angie Swarnes, Missouri Department of Social Services
- Kara Wilcox, 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
- Maddie Green, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Jonathan Yelton, Missouri Attorney General's Office
- Catherine Connelly
- Kara Bixby
- Abby Wolner
- Kayla Womble
- Grace McDaniel

1. Approval of Minutes – Distributed with Agenda
 - a. The meeting minutes from May 22, 2023 were approved at 10:01 a.m.

2. Budget Changes Following Governor's Veto
 - a. Rep. Ed Lewis
 - i. Did not veto council related work
 - ii. HB 11.225 was vetoed
 - iii. Funds for CSEC positions approved
 - iv. Funds for FTE positions in DSS approved

3. Comments from Rep. Unsicker
 - a. Sarah Unsicker, Missouri State Representative
 - i. Unavailable due to attendance required elsewhere
4. Gateway HT Needs Assessment Results
 - a. Shima Rostami, Gateway HT
 - b. Kara Bixby and Abby Wolner (contracted to conduct assessment)
 - i. Conducted a needs assessment of HT training needs for individuals working in the field within the state of Missouri
 - ii. The objective was to learn about the education and training needs of human trafficking service providers
 - iii. Methods
 1. 6 focus group sessions
 2. Key informant interviews (case study reviews)
 3. Statewide data
 - iv. Recommendations and Findings
 1. Allocate resources to ensure professionals have ongoing access to foundational human trafficking training
 2. Identify or develop training on specialized topics, victim psychology, and trauma-informed response
 3. Explore venues and programming for prevention with young people
 4. Develop collaborative response and centralized systems for information sharing
 - v. Challenges
 1. Data collection
 - a. Data exists among several different state departments and there is not a single source identified for data (word for pool of data)
 - i. Council recommendation to utilize newly funded DSS FTE position(s) to reconvene council data collection sub-committee to address information and data sharing among stakeholders statewide
 2. Training and education for medical providers
 3. Providing awareness and prevention education within school settings
 - c. Study underway to identify gaps and needs for professionals within the school setting to recognize indicators of HT among students
5. New Items/Open Discussion
 - a. Missouri Attorney General's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force continuing to be re-developed
 - i. Rep. Lewis invited them to share any updates at the next meeting
 - b. Presentation of Gateway HT's second study provided by Dr. Berry will be shared at the next meeting

- c. Update on CSEC positions among CAC's to be provided at the next meeting
- d. Next meeting set for August 21, 2023 at 10 a.m.
- e. Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.