

Missouri Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children
Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting on December 1, 2022, 10:30 AM
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

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
- Kayla Womble, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

1. Approval of minutes – Distributed with Agenda
 - a. The meeting minutes from October 17, 2022 were approved at 10:37 a.m.
2. Shared Hope 2022 Score Card for Missouri
 - a. Funds for education/awareness available
 - b. Improve communication among various stakeholders involved in anti-human trafficking work
 - c. AGO Task Force works to connect stakeholders across the State of Missouri
 - d. The Children's Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri (CAC NEMO) has a coordinator position specific to bringing the MDT's in their service area together – geographic response more effective than attempting statewide template for addressing human trafficking (HT) victims
 - i. Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) CSEC coordination
 - e. Statewide system for improved communication for law enforcement would be helpful
 - f. Improve training for law enforcement on recognizing indicators of HT
 - g. MOU for CAC/MDT could be built upon for establishing statewide operational cohesion
3. Data Upload Explanation
 - a. Representative Unsicker shared data from various sources related to HT occurrences in Missouri
 - b. Special Victims Resource Prosecutor for Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, Catherine Vannier, explained how HT cases come to prosecutors as other forms of criminal investigations where evidence of HT is uncovered. In some cases, (e.g. federal drug charges) charges are pursued over HT, making it difficult to accurately report HT prosecutions
 - c. VOCA recipient agencies generally report child sex cases that may include elements of HT that result in inaccurate HT reporting

- d. Consider CAC NEMO as a pilot for other CAC's – Forensic Services Program Director, Amy Robbins, suggests that other CAC's may cite funding as a barrier
 - i. CAC NEMO is well supported by its leadership for fund sourcing
 - 1. Stand-alone nonprofit, sometimes those with umbrella agency are inhibited by umbrella agency
 - 2. No grants from the state; receive specialized HT grant from national association
 - 3. Other CAC's would need a grant similar to CAC NEMO
 - 4. Some CAC's have smaller service area and would need to partner up
 - a. CAC NEMO model may not be achieved at every CAC in the State of Missouri
 - e. Improved training and education for prosecutors also necessary
 - i. ALL MDT stakeholders need improved training and education for addressing HT
 - f. Data necessary for developing improved HT protocols
 - g. Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC)
 - i. The term "trafficking" gets in the way of understanding what trafficking is in terms of actually being CSEC
 - ii. People get confused and think HT means moving people and don't understand the actual elements of HT
- 4. Next Meeting Goals and Schedule
 - a. Coordination of MDT's modeling CAC NEMO – what funding is necessary for these other MDT's to facilitate CAC NEMO model
 - b. Database for organizations that brings stakeholders together
 - c. Consider reviewing data sets for adult victims of HT due to the intersection of perpetration of minor and adult victims
 - d. Next meeting, mid to late January 2023
 - i. Second or third week of January preferred
 - ii. Longer meetings may be beneficial
 - 1. 2 hour meeting next time
- 5. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.