



SOCCEED, Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters

Meeting Summary for 3-17-26

Next Meeting is: 4-21-26

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and/or provided information before, during, or after. The information shared today will have a positive impact on all our communities.

The following is a summary of today's meeting:

Our March meeting in keeping with the theme for 2026, "Create Don't Wait" focused on some of the most impactful, life-changing, and supportive services right here in our very own communities. March is also "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" and this was the focus of the SOC. More specifically, presentations focused on inclusion, rights, empowerment, resources, accomplishments, and more involving people with developmental disabilities. We all have, are currently, or in the future will serve people with disabilities and the information presented today will help us help others to achieve their full potentials!

The following was our first presentation:

- **Halie Smith-Griffen, Community Connections Resource Specialist-TNC**
Community: Support and care for individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - hsmithgriffin@tnccommunity.com
 - <https://tnccommunity.org/>
 - The slide deck from Halie's presentation will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
 - Halie talked about the multiple resources her agency has to offer people with disabilities.
 - Also discussed were various programs to help support the independence of people with disabilities.
 - An ice cream shop was presented where people with disabilities work, learn valuable skills, and get to experience entrepreneurship!

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council has as its mission: "To assist individuals, families, and the community to include all people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of life."

Our second presenter was:

- **Emily Hartley, Executive Director-Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council**
 - ehartley@moddcouncil.org
 - <https://moddcouncil.org/>
 - **Emily's slide deck and any additional materials will be posted to the SOC's website once available.**
 - **Emily talked about the rights of people with disabilities, inclusion, and so much more.**
 - **Profiled were the many examples of people with disabilities achieving incredible things, something that is not given nearly enough focus!**
 - **After the meeting, Emily shared the following:**

The Arc of the US: <https://thearc.org/blog/texas-and-eight-other-states-renew-attack-on-section-504-and-the-right-of-disabled-people-to-live-in-their-communities/>

The Arc of Indiana (also on the lawsuit): <https://www.arcind.org/news/texas-v-becerra-section-504-challenge/>

Disability Scoop: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2026/02/02/states-sue-over-right-of-people-with-disabilities-to-live-in-the-community/31838/>

DREDF: <https://dredf.org/protect-504/>

AASA - The School Superintendents Association:
<https://www.aasa.org/resources/blog/section-504-litigation-what-the-texas-v-becerra-lawsuit-could-mean-for-districts>

People with disabilities are up to four times more likely to die or be injured in disasters, often facing extreme risks due to a lack of accessible evacuation, information, and emergency support.

Our third presenter was:

- **Vicky Davidson, Retired Executive Director-Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council. Vicky regularly conducts trainings and workshops as a SME, or subject matter expert on people with disabilities.**
 - vdavidso1@me.com
 - Vicky's slide deck from her presentation will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
 - Vicky discussed a multitude of considerations when considering the needs of people with disabilities in disasters and emergencies.
 - Discussed was the CMIST Framework for understanding the needs of people with disabilities in disasters and emergencies.
 - AFN or Access and Functional Needs were discussed in relationship to large scale events such as the upcoming FIFA WC 2026.

The following resources were shared during or after the meeting:

1. [Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(CYSHCN\) & Austin Resource Guide](#) -This guide provides resources and tips to help families of children with special healthcare needs, including those with autism spectrum disorder, improve their everyday health and be prepared during crises like natural disasters
2. [Camp Director Preparedness](#)-Natural disasters and unexpected emergencies can happen at anytime. These PPN resources can assist directors in preparation for campers to arrive at your facility.
3. Operation Heat Shield and another exercise involving MARCs or Multi-Agency Resource Centers in disasters were discussed. These are opportunities for organizations to test their emergency and other capabilities during extraordinary conditions.
4. Free Vision and Glasses Screening is on April 21st from 4-8. This is by appointment only. To sign up for a time slot please go to: <https://form.jotform.com/260675220207147>. The event will be at: 5413 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Raytown 64133.
5. Ford Driving Skills for Life has sessions on April 11 and 12th to help parents of teens and teens to learn advanced driver training skills for FREE. To learn more about this and to register, please go to: <https://www.drivingskillsforlife.com/training/hands-on-training/state/mo/kcmo1pm2026-copy>

6. **All for the Children is a fun resource event for children and their families that will offer carnival fun, fire trucks, police cars, face painting, inflatables, ID kits for kids, backpacks, and more. This is while supplies last. Many resources will be available. For more information and location, please go to:
<https://mcckc.edu/AFC>**
7. **I (Jennifer) discussed the need to find a new Chair for the SOC as I am being asked by my employer to work on other projects. I stated that all of the SOC's community-based initiatives will continue but likely be moved to a new website. I discussed that the new Chair of the SOC will be able to put his/her own stamp on things. I further stated that the Children in Disasters piece of things with the SOC has been transferred to the Kansas City Regional COAD or Community Organizations Active in Disasters as they have a subcommittee on Children in Disasters! I am remaining as Chair of the COAD. I encouraged anyone interested in being the Chair of the SOC, to please reach out to me (Jennifer). There is no final deadline for the transition.**

The next SOC meeting is scheduled for April 21st at 1 p.m. on Webex.

Thank you for everything that you do and have done for the SOC. Please never hesitate to reach out if we may be of assistance!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

**Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters-Chair
(www.jacksoncountysoc.com)**

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