



SOCCEED, Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters

Meeting Summary for 10-21-25

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and/or provided information before, during, or after. Thank you to our amazing, featured presenters, Alisha Duarte and Grace Chapel. The information they shared will most definitely make a HUGE impact on our entire communities.

This month's meeting focused on critical resources given the uncertain economic times as well as a very impactful program for older youth and young adults that will greatly assist in their successful transition to adulthood. The full meeting recording will be posted to the SOC's website on 10-22-25. The following is a summary of today's meeting:

- **Alisha Duarte, Manager of Customer Affairs-Evergy**
Email: alisha.duarte@evergy.com
Website: <https://www.evergy.com/community/community-involvement/connect>
 - Alisha discussed multiple potential resources for financial assistance to help keep people connected over the coming winter months. There is a Critical Medical Needs Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Economic Relief Pilot program, and the Earned Income Tax Credit,.
 - Evergy Connect is open and available to take walk-in clients who are seeking some sort of support or assistance with their utility bill.
 - The website has information for customers in Kansas and Missouri
 - There is a "Special Medical Needs" program that can further assist consumers who may have access and functional needs or some other medical need.
 - Evergy and Spire both have programs to help people struggling with their bills as well as any special medical needs that they may have.

- Discussed mass power outages in relationship to people who may have special needs.
 - Alisha reported that the Cold Weather Plan is available now.
 - We discussed how the government shut-down could impact some financial assistance and at this time, LIHEAP is the only one that may be impacted.
 - LIHEAP information: <https://formsportal.mo.gov/content/forms/af/moa/my-dss/family-support-division/liheap/liheap/.html>
- Grace Chapel, Youth and Family Liaison- Early Psychosis Care Center
Email: hghcpc@umsl.edu or Rachel Kryah at: rachel.kryah@mimh.edu. Rachel is the Associate Director of the Early Psychosis Care Center.
Website: <https://epcmisouri.org/> and <https://lifelaunchmo.org/>
- The complete slide deck from this presentation is available on the SOC website at: www.jacksoncountysoc.com.
 - Grace talked extensively about the resources available to older youth and young adults who may struggle in their transitions to adulthood.
 - There was also a focus on young adults and older youth who have mental health issues and how this can make the transition to adulthood even more of a challenge.
 - Talked about how Life Launch could be used in the school systems.
 - Life Launch is a comprehensive program available to consumers and professionals to help with the transition to adulthood.

The following updates, resources, and announcements were provided:

- Byra Nicodemus-Norman, ECE Professional Development Specialist reported that the Family Conservancy Center has recently changed their name to Futures First. The website for the agency is: <https://thefamilyconservancy.org/>. Byra spoke about services available in the realm of early childhood care and others including mental health.
- I (Jennifer) talked about holiday assistance that the SOC can provide to individuals and families over the holiday season. I stressed that we do not accept referrals directly from consumers, only professionals, clergy, etc. working with a family and all other community-based resources must first have

been tried. This assistance may come in the form of food, gifts, warm clothing, etc.

- I (Jennifer) discussed some important things related to the need for human and social service agencies interacting with and knowing better, who their Emergency Managers are. Emergency and disaster plans are often developed without much input from the entities served and this means plans are developed in isolation without the knowledge of what your needs and challenges are before, during, or after a crisis has happened. Discussed an important event coming up on November 13th to in part bring these groups together more (flyer is on the SOC's website with a registration link and here: <https://member.marc.org/ap/Events/Register/2JFE5jKt3CNCz>). It is even more critical that human and social service agencies meet and know their Emergency Managers prior to the FIFA World Cup coming to Kansas City because this will add massive amounts of extra people into the community. This will present logistical concerns, road closures, and possibly blocking access to critically needed services. There also could be shortages of needed services. Please attend the meeting on November 13th and make your plans now! Discussed upcoming meetings to further these discussions in 2026. There will also be a Stop the Bleed Training that teaches people to be the help while waiting for the help. This is on November 13th before the other noted meeting. The registration link is: <https://member.marc.org/ap/Events/Register/eZFDm8VIYCWCq>.
- I (Jennifer) discussed how the government shutdown is impacting people financially, emotionally, and more. It is imperative that we are sharing resources now more than ever. The SOC does a weekly resource directory called the Ray Way Resource Directory. This is 100+ pages, has 2 dozen or so categories of assistance, and covers the greater KC Metro area. It can be found on the website at: www.jacksoncountysoc.com. It is updated weekly and uploaded sometime by Sunday evening.
- Our next SOC meeting is on November 18th, 1 p.m. on Webex.

Please reach out to me anytime that I or the SOC may do anything to support you in your helping individuals, children, and families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

Kansas City Regional COAD-Chair (www.kansascityregionalcoad.org)

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