



SOCCEED, Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters

Meeting Summary for 10-20-2026

Next Meeting is: 11-17-2026

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. Thank you also for the many great questions and comments that generated some excellent discussions.

The following is a summary of today's meeting and information shared after the meeting:

- The meeting began with a brief presentation on SAD or Seasonal Affective Disorder. That slide deck will be posted to the SOC's website when available. There was some great discussion about what agencies are experiencing regarding SAD, especially as more families are struggling this season because of the economy.
- Maria Rollison, Senior Specialist at Connected with Evergy
maria.rollison@evergy.com
evergyconnect@evergy.com (Can assist via email with determining what program may be the best fit for a consumer).
<https://www.evergy.com/>
 - Maria presented on new and existing programs to keep consumers connected, safe, and warm over the upcoming cold winter months. Her slide deck will be posted to the website once available.
 - Maria is checking to see if the program to assist people who have experienced domestic violence is still in the design stage or is operational. This program helps consumers remove barriers to housing after having experienced domestic violence. More to come!
 - Discussed qualifications for various programs and if past non-compliance could impact new participation in assistance programs.

- Discussed how household size impacts eligibility as does income for some programs.
- Maria discussed the Rehousing Program.
- Carmen Tomez is now who you go through to set up third party payments when organizations want to assist. The following is the email address used to place a pledge/grant on a customer's account: ssagency@evergy.com.
- Any agency partners that offer financial assistance and need help with anything or access to the agency link can email at: evergyconnect@evergy.com.
- Vonda Cotton, Specialist, Community Outreach, Community and Agency Services with Spire.
vonda.cotton@spireenergy.com
<https://www.spireenergy.com/>
 - Vonda also presented on programs available to help consumers who are struggling as well as some less known programs. Vonda's slide deck will be posted once available.
 - The Cold Weather Rule was discussed and clarified.
- The following resources were shared during or after the meeting:
 - The SOC is helping with holiday needs. Please email Jennifer at: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov with what is needed. Reiterated was the fact that there are fewer resources available to help individuals and families in need this holiday season. Also reiterated that the Ray Way Resource Directory is an initiative of the SOC and is a weekly directory with 24+ categories of help including "Holiday Help." This is updated weekly and uploaded on Sunday evenings.
 - A flyer was submitted by Pam Harris who is the Headstart Workforce Coordinator and NW Regional Community Leaders Partner at MARC. This flyer pertained to additional resources to help people struggling this holiday season. That flyer will be posted to the SOC's website.
 - An additional flyer was shown highlighting some of the resources available in Kansas and Missouri to assist with holiday needs.

Our next SOC meeting is on November 17th at 1 p.m. on Webex.

Thank you everyone for your time today and please never hesitate to reach out if the SOC may assist you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

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

Chief of Children's Community Operations-MO DMH-DBH

Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

816-482-5775