



February 17th, 2026 SOC Meeting, 1p.m., on Webex

In 2025 the overall crime rates in the Kansas City Metropolitan area decreased by 5% when compared with 2024, representing the lowest yearly total since 2018. That said, in 2026 thus far, there have been 11 homicides with the single largest contributing factor being an argument that included the use of a handgun (see <https://mediaweb.kcpd.org/CrimeStats/DailyHomicideAnalysis.pdf>). An argument often over minor things ended lives and have torn families apart. Our first presentation will be from a powerful local organization that assists individuals and families during this terrible time.

- Michelle R. Norris, President and Co-Founder of Corey's Network. Corey's Network offers a plethora of supports and services to people who have lost loved ones to homicide and for other reasons.

We often hear the saying that, "somebody knows something" when a crime has occurred but fear of reprisal or sometimes, apathy may discourage those with the knowledge of what happened from coming forward. The second presentation is from a local program that has been successful in addressing this and building stronger communities.

- Christina Ludwig, Coordinator, Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers Program. This program is further involved with youth and establishes Campus Crime Stoppers programs in area schools and districts.

Research indicates a strong link between crime and early childhood trauma, with studies finding that 97% of prisoners have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction (ACEs) create psychological and social deficits, increasing the risk of delinquency and violent crime. Early intervention and supportive relationships can mitigate risks.

- Diana Perry, Region 5 Area Director for Missouri First Steps. Diana will be speaking about Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and the MOAIMH-EC, or the Missouri Association for Infant Mental Health Early Childhood.

After our featured presentations, there will be time for updates and announcements from everyone in attendance. I will have a few about upcoming events and about an SOC initiative to support you as service providers.

