



SOCCEED, Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters

Meeting Summary for 7-21-26

Next Meeting is: 8-18-26

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. 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:

- Our guest speaker was ill and unable to attend today so I (Jennifer) put together a slide show on the topic that was scheduled.

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D., Chief of Children's Community Operations, NW,
Missouri Department of Mental Health-Division of Behavioral Health.

Phone: 816-482-5775

Email: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Website: <https://dmh.mo.gov/>

My slide deck will be posted to the SOC's website.

In general, we discussed statistics related to education, summer regression, and how that can hit low-income populations harder sometimes, why, and what we can do. Reviewed strategies to implement prior to school starting to foster a better start. Discussed briefly some topics pertaining to children's mental health and students with disabilities.

- The following resources were shared during or after the meeting:
 - Hilda Guijarro, Mattie Rhodes Center: hguijarro@mattierhodes.org. Hilda talked about the multiple after-school activities that will be happening at

her organization. She will share the flyers once available. The website for additional information at this time is: <https://mattierhodes.org/>.

- John Ezell, Jackson County Public Health Department: John.Ezell@uhkc.org. John discussed the Back-to-School Clinics being offered through the health department. For more information, please contact him or go to: <https://jcph.org/school-vaccines/>.
- Grief-Sensitive Schools Leadership Initiative information was shared after the meeting and a few additional things:

[View as Webpage](#)



Grief-Sensitive Schools Leadership Initiative

Lead with empathy. Respond with expertise.

The [Center for Applied Research Solutions](#), in partnership with the [National Center for School Crisis Bereavement](#) and the [New York Life Foundation](#), is excited to announce the launch of Grief-Sensitive Schools Leadership Initiative (GSSLI) in September 2026.

Brought to you by the team behind the [School Crisis Recovery & Renewal Project](#), GSSLI is a new, no-cost community that equip school and district leaders with the knowledge, tools, and peer support needed to guide students, staff, and communities through grief and loss with confidence and compassion.

GSSLI provides access to advanced training, practical resources, and a national network of grief and school leadership experts dedicated to strengthening grief-sensitive leadership in schools.

Leading a school community through grief is a complex. No school leader should have to navigate this work alone.

GSSLI provides the support, connection, and expertise leaders need to respond with confidence and care.



» Who Is This For?

GSSLI is designed for school and district leaders who want to strengthen their grief-sensitive leadership, including:

- State and county education leaders
- District leaders (superintendents, initiative directors)
- School leaders (principals, vice principals, and deans)
- Student support and instructional leaders (counselors, coaches, social workers, and educators)

GSSLI welcomes school leaders nationwide, with a special invitation to school leaders participating in the [Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative](#).



***Grief-sensitivity leadership starts here.
Welcome to your new network.***

griefsensitiveleaders.org



**Want to learn more?
Join us for a GSSLI virtual open house**

» From Disenfranchised Grief to Collective Care

Join us in reimagining schools as communities where grief is recognized, dignity is upheld, and healing is woven into the fabric of educational leadership.

Schools are uniquely positioned to foster supportive environments where students, families, educators, and staff can experience belonging and compassionate care in the face of loss. Yet many forms of grief—including racialized, collective, ambiguous, and other disenfranchised losses—often remain unseen or unacknowledged.

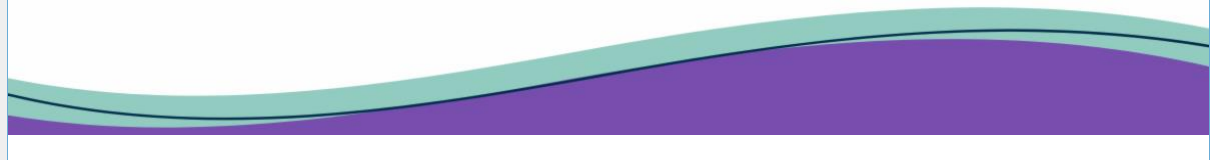
During this virtual open house, school and district leaders, educators, counselors, and community partners will explore how healing-centered, culturally responsive, and equity-focused leadership can transform school communities. Participants will learn more about GSSL, connect with others who are committed to cultivating grief-sensitive schools, and discover how collective care can strengthen resilience, deepen relationships, and create more compassionate, affirming learning environments.

- **July 30, 2026 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. PT/ 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET**
- **August 12, 2026 | 2:00–3:00 p.m. PT/ 5:00–6:00 p.m. ET**
- **August 25, 2026 | 1:00–2:00 p.m. PT/ 4:00–5:00 p.m. ET**

[Register and join us for any of the sessions listed above](#)

Together, we can build school communities where grief is not carried alone, but met with understanding, connection, and hope.





- The SOC can help to meet back to school needs such as backpacks, supplies, and more. Please email Jennifer at: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov with what is needed.
- It was noted that the Ray Way Resource Directory has a “Back to School” category with a comprehensive listing of area school supply distributions. This can be found at: www.jacksoncountysoc.com.

Our next SOC meeting is on August 18th 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

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