

St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

April 26, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Virtual

Mission: The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) works to reduce violent crime in the region by promoting and advocating a coordinated, well – resourced support system, policies, and interventions among area governments, institutions and agencies that serve individuals and families most at risk of violent crime.

Vision: VPC envisions a St. Louis region where communities enjoy quiet nights and the sounds of children playing during the days. St. Louis is a safe and desirable destination for businesses and residents. All community members feel protected and served by law enforcement and empowered to have a voice in important regional issues.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. VPC Team: Jessica Meyers, Serena Muhammad, Lisa Potts
- b. Erich von Almen, Dr. Kelvin Adams, Deanna Jones, Sabrina Silvers, Karen Cloyd, Susan Kabat, Sal Martinez, Sheila Strode, Marley Graviss, Craig Schmid, Susan Colangelo, Kimberly Rey, Reggie Jones, Kateri Chapman-Kramer, Claudine Allen, Justin Storie, Colleen Cunningham, Paula Gaertner, Kristen Mueller, Emily Hunter, Anjanette Washington, Sydney Theerman, Kristin Watt, Molly Imming, Don Logue, Leslie Muhammad, Charise Baker, Courtney Hinton, Deidre Griffith, Antoine Brantley, Sheila Webster, Eboni Boateng, Lakesha Robinson, Josephine Smedley, Arthurine Harris, Chris Sullivan, Emeara Burns, Meaghan Bailey, Vontriece McDowell, Jessi LaRose, Rorke, Shannon, Hannah Sherrard, Carey Cunningham, Shante Lampley, Bolanle Ambonisy, Mary Leopold, Lena Chapman

2. Youth Safe Spaces (<https://www.stlareavpc.org/funded-youth-safe-spaces>)

- a. Introduce New Safe Space Vendors
 - i. What About Us/Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

What About Us



"Stand Firm Even When The World is Cheering For You To Slink"

We Teach Young Men to Stand Firm:

✚ We educate and provide life skills to young men who are looking for help to make a positive lifestyle change within their community.

✚ We foster a positive family atmosphere for young men to thrive and create a safe place to gather together and empower one another.

✚ We host a platform for community leaders and motivational speakers to provide resources for participants to create successful steps to improve themselves daily.

For more information, contact: Mrs. Belinda Rogers

Cell: 314-327-6514

Email: whataboutus2022@gmail.com

Meeting Location: 2153 Salisbury * St. Louis, MO 63107

We Care About Our Men.

AGES: 18-25 JOIN US EVERY

Mon. and Wed. from 5:30 - 9:00 pm



VPC | YVPP



ii. DOCY/Employment Connection

Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth presents

Beats with Impact

Free
hands-on music
production classes
Space is limited!

Beats with Impact is an interactive music production class designed specifically for youth 13+ who have an interest in music and are eager to explore the world of music production. Through an 8-week hands-on experience, participants will learn the fundamentals of music production and create their own original tracks.

Thomas Dunn Learning Center · June 5th–July 31st
Every Wednesday evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Contact Caitlyn at dorionc@employmentstl.org / 314-766-2853 for more info

DUTCHTOWN OPPORTUNITY COALITION FOR YOUTH
employment connection
This event is made possible by a partnership with the City of St. Louis using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
VPC YVPP

b. Application Reminder-

- i. Due 7th of each month.
- ii. <https://www.stlareavpc.org/youth-safe-spaces>

3. Youth Events

a. Rec Center Programs & Teen Parties

i. Late Night Hours at City Rec

1. Last summer, in response to a shooting in which multiple youths were injured downtown, Mayor Jones prioritized late night hours at City Rec Centers.
2. VPC is again supporting late night hours at two rec centers.
3. The tentative plan is:
 - a. Day & Time: Friday & Saturdays, 8pm-midnight (allowing Rec Center staff to have a break between normal hours and late night) starting June 14.
 - b. Locations: 12th & Park and Tandy
 - c. Ages: 13+
 - d. This is a drop in model, not something where there will necessarily be the same kids there every week.
 - e. If you have programming/activities and would like to partner on one or more of these events, please email jessica@stlareavpc.org

ii. Teen Parties

1. Last summer, VPC also partnered with staff at two Rec Centers on teen parties.
 2. We have had Safe Streets/Safe Neighborhoods and Show Me Peace at these events to talk to make connections with youth.
 3. Those will continue this summer with the tentative locations being Wohl and Cherokee
 4. These are about building social cohesion and providing a safe environment where adults are around to build trust so youth can come to them with problems.
 5. If you have a group that would like to volunteer at these parties, email jessica@stlareavpc.org
- iii. STAR Challenge
1. Another goal is to familiarize youth with the resources that are available to them.
 2. VPC created a QR code scavenger hunt where youth can visit websites then answer a short survey about them.
 3. Everyone who completes the survey is entered into a monthly drawing to win a giftcard.
 4. If you would like to have a packed of these QR codes and survey link for your agency, please reach out to jessica@stlareavpc.org
- b. Application Reminder
- i. Due 7th of each month.
 - ii. <https://www.stlareavpc.org/youth-events>
 - iii. We are always recruiting youth reviewers who can get paid to review applications for youth events and safe spaces.

HELP DECIDE!
Grant Review

HELP SELECT YOUTH PROGRAMS & GET PAID TO DO IT!

Apply to be a youth reviewer!

The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission is looking for youth and young adults to review grant proposals to help identify high quality programs and events. Eligible reviewers must be City residents between the ages of 16-25.

Scan to apply or visit bit.ly/vpcyouthreviewer

iv.

4. VPC County Strategy

- a. Where is the crime happening? What types of crime are happening? Who is doing the work on violence prevention/root causes?
 - i. Reggie Jones- unincorporated areas, Glasgow Village, Castle Point, Spanish Lake, mostly stolen cars by juveniles, don't know who is doing the work, but Dellwood has worked on their outdoor skating rink and youth center and would be happy to partner.
 - ii. Leslie Muhammad- Blackjack, Spanish Lake, Hazelwood have a lot of car break-ins often related to social media rings, doesn't know any large scale initiatives
 - iii. Craig Schmid- VPC used to work with a church in Spanish Lake
 - iv. Courtney Hinton- lots of youth fighting in Spanish Lake & Jennings, Urban League and Better Family Life are doing work
 - v. Eboni Boateng- Spanish Lake has a community association
 - vi. Susan Colangelo- Melanie Randels with Michael Brown Jr. Chosen for Change Foundation
- b. There is a youth listening session planned in Jennings that will cover topics like safety.



The poster for the 2024 City of Jennings Youth Listening Session features a vibrant background with a group of diverse youth. The text includes: '2024 City of Jennings Youth Listening Session', 'We want to hear from you!', 'FREE TO ALL YOUTH', 'Violence Prevention Fears, strategy, hopes', 'JOIN US! FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES', 'Talk Openly, Share Opinions & Ask Questions with Precious Berry', 'SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024', 'Jennings City Hall 2120 Hord Ave, Jennings, MO 11:00am - 1:30pm', and 'Raffle to win an oculus'. Logos for sponsors like the Department of Public Safety and Lutheran Foundation are also present.

5. VPC Website Updates

- a. What works? What doesn't work?
 - i. Landing Page (<https://www.stlareavpc.org/>)
 1. The attendees liked the video/movement on the main page.
 2. The group was split about whether adding music to the front page would be helpful
 3. Susan noted it looks different on phone vs computer
 4. Arthurine suggested making the objectives bigger.
 - ii. Get Involved (<https://www.stlareavpc.org/get-involved>)

1. Paula asked if VPC could create hashtags and list them under promotion so groups that are sharing VPC events/messages could use hashtags
2. Susan said there is a gap under “Interventions” when viewed on a phone
3. Hannah suggested organizing it by Individuals vs Institutions rather than levels of prevention.
4. Colleen suggested adding a general statement at the top of the page letting people know there is a role for them with VPC
5. There was consensus that the language needs to be made plainer/accessible
6. Several people suggested adding more images or videos
- iii. More Engagement Opportunities
(<https://www.stlareavpc.org/engagement-options>)
 1. The folks in the meeting did not know the status of the Alive & Well Ambassadors program since the merger with the Regional Health Commission. VPC staff will reach out.
 2. Kateri suggested using the statement about “our partners” at the top to link to the full membership list.
- iv. If your organization is not listed on the Who We Are page (<https://www.stlareavpc.org/who-we-are>), email jessica@stlareavpc.org

6. Wellness in Neighborhoods

a. Billboard feedback

- i. St. Louis MHB and VPC are making presentations in selected St. Louis City Wards (1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13). Next year, we will cover the rest of the City wards.
- ii. There are three components to the presentations in Wards:
 1. Normalizing conversations about mental health
 2. Engaging in self-care
 3. Accessing resources
- iii. Learn more at <https://www.stlareavpc.org/wellness-in-neighborhoods>
- iv. After the presentations, each Ward can apply for up to \$5,000 for mental wellness event(s)
- v. If you have a program/site in one of the selected wards, please reach out to let us know so we can include it in the presentation.
- vi. We are also speaking to County partners about a similar effort in St. Louis County.
- vii. There will be billboards in the selected Wards and attendees were invited to give feedback on the options.
 1. Themes that resonated with the attendees were “It’s OK not to be OK”, “Don’t worry alone,” “Don’t wait, call or text 988”
- viii. MHB is also partnering on a Children’s Mental Health Day at the Magic House space on Delmar on May 9.

7. July Quarterly Meeting Location Announcement

- a. Friday, July 26, 2024
- b. 1-1:30pm- New Member Orientation, 1:30-3pm- Full Meeting
- c. Missouri Foundation for Health, 4254 Vista Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110

8. Partner Announcements

THE ETHICS PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HOSTS

The State of Public Safety in St. Louis

Free & Open to the public
REGISTER @ [Bit.ly/CrimeSummitSLU](https://bit.ly/CrimeSummitSLU)

April 27th
10 am - 2 pm
Lunch provided

Tegeler Hall
3550 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
REGISTER @ [Bit.ly/CrimeSummitSLU](https://bit.ly/CrimeSummitSLU)

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Law enforcement & Legislation: Senator Angela Walton Mosley, Chief Melinda Heikkinen, Fredrick Echols, M.D.

Education and Business: Maxine Clark, Dr. Art McCoy, Dr. Gary Ritter, Stacey Fowler, Sr. Vice President SLDC, Minority & Small Business Empowerment.

The Role of Non-profits: Dr. Kelvin Adams, Dr. Howard Fields

Youth, Mentoring & Parenting: Dr. Flint Fowler, Kenya Brumfield-Young, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Mental Health: Douglass Petty, Precious Jones

Mass Incarceration & Re-entry: April Ford Griffin, Executive Director, Affordable Housing Commission, Courtney Exereth, Program Coordinator, Prison Education Program, Saint Louis University

LAW ENFORCEMENT & LEGISLATION

Commissioner Robert Tracy, Chief, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
Gretl Cook, Esq. Prosecuting Attorney, City of St. Louis
The Honorable Angela Walton Mosley, MO State Senator
Fredrick L. Echols, M.D., Osborn Foundation, Leaders Inaugural Cohort, Saint Louis University
Melinda Heikkinen, Asst. VP / Public Safety

MENTAL HEALTH & NON PROFITS

Dr. Kenneth Holmes, President & CEO, Affinia Healthcare
Dr. Kelvin Adams, President and CEO, STL Community Foundation
Flint Fowler, Ph.D. President, Rays & Clarks Club STL
Sai Mar'inez, CEO, Employment Connection
Precious Jones, Mother, Founder, Breaking Generational Poverty

EDUCATION & BUSINESS

Maxine Clark, Founder, The Delmar, Divine and Dulka & Dear Corp.
Dr. Art McCoy, Founder of SACES, Distinguished Fellow
Dr. Sharonica Harbin, Superintendent, University City, St. Louis District
Dr. Gary Ritter, Dean, School of Education, Saint Louis University
Howard Fields, Ph.D., Founder, Black Males in Education St. Louis

a.

Mental Health Awareness March

Stepping Out for Our Youth!

MAY 4 - 10AM

May your voices be heard, your dreams be realized, and your contributions shape a better tomorrow.

W. Florissant & Jennings Station Rd EAST to Goodfellow

Mental Health Matters

b.



c.



Take the St. Louis Area Health Needs Survey

Do you live in the greater St. Louis Metro area? St. Louis area hospitals and health systems are looking for your input! Please tell us about the health of your community. Complete this 5 minute survey and help us prioritize our community health efforts. Share with friends, family and neighbors to have them participate. Every voice matters, and the health of our communities will benefit.

All responses are anonymous.

Take the survey by visiting
<https://bit.ly/2024HealthNeedsSurvey> or
scan the code with your smartphone camera.



d.





Mental Health Access for Youth

Virtual Focus Groups



Make your voice heard and earn \$125

Sign-up today!
www.surveymonkey.com/r/STLMentalHealth

- e.
- f. OJJDP FY24 Arts Programs for Justice-Involved Youth
 - i. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojjdp-2024-172072>
 - ii. "OJJDP seeks to support and strengthen collaborations between arts-based organizations and juvenile justice systems to develop, expand, or enhance promising and effective interventions that provide access to high-quality arts programs with and for current or previous justice-involved youth to reduce juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and/or other problem and high-risk behaviors."
- g. St. Louis Artworks Spring Art Sale, Saturday, April 27th from 10am-3pm, 5959 Delmar Blvd.
- h. Saturday- 4/27-11AM- Vigil of Remembrance for Homicide Victims- Hosted by Crime Victim Center and Homicide Ministers and Community Alliance. 2401 N Grand St. Josephine Bakhita Church
- i. The next Office of Violence Prevention Kickback is May 18 in Laclede Park.



i.

j. Thomas Dunn Learning Center will host a Health Fair on Wednesday, June 12 from 11am-1pm. If you want to participate, email paula@tdunn.org

9. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

- a. Reminder: While we appreciate everyone who attends the VPC Quarterly Meeting, the committees are where most of the work of VPC is done. If you haven't joined a committee, visit <https://www.stlareavpc.org/join-a-committee>
- b. surveymonkey.com/r/VPCApril24

2024 Quarterly Meeting Dates

July 26, 2024, 1-3pm (In Person, Missouri Foundation for Health)
October 25, 2024 (Virtual)