

St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

October 24, 2025 | 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

- VPC Team: Jessica Meyers, Serena Muhammad, Cameron Saari
- Attendees: Christina Bewington, Tamara Jones, Maggie Somheil, Deanna Jones, Karen Cloyd, Kimberly St. Clair, James Thompson, Karen Aroesty, Cat Pitman, Anjanette Washington, Courtney Hinton, Charlene Williams, Marley Gravis, Cynthia Davis, Vontriece McDowell, Ohala Ward, Jean Calandrio, Tony Cavaletti, Sarolyn Fox, Paula Gaertner, Tiffany Blanford, Sabrina Silvers, Chris Sullivan, Justin Mosley, Denise Carter, Sheila Strobe, Emeara Burns, Elizabeth McQuaid, Becky Smith, Anthony Franks, Poli Rijos, Mary Lisa Penilla, Damon Major, SmallK, Eboni Hooper Boateng, Kateri Chapman-Kramer, Sydney Theerman, Vanessa Hopkins, Destiny Green, Reggie Jones, Tashauna Parker, Rachel Rimmerman, Emily Stoinski, Hannah Sherrard, Matthew Holden, Jessi Larose, Aja Owens, Mykee Wilson, Robin Pokojski, Sarah Fieser, MaChelle West, Linda Anderson, Karen Bradshaw, Athurine Harris, Lisa LaGrone, Whitney Howland, James Verde, Felice McClendon, D'Markus Thomas-Brown, Koran Bolden, Michael Doos, Chiamaka Onuoha, Vanessa Hopkins, Sabrina Silvers, Chris Sullivan, Teona McGhaw, Michael Doss, St. Louis CHW Coalition, Sal Martinez, Lette, Precious Jones, Gloria Gooden

2. Guidance for Organizations Serving High-Risk Youth

- This is just a DRAFT
- High risk youth are defined as youth with a large number of risk factors, low number of protective factors, from high violence areas, possibly juvenile-justice involved, history of trauma, and school issues
- People (How You Equip Your Staff)
 - Feedback:
 1. Need training on their own trauma, secondary trauma
 2. Missing cultural diversity training
- Programs (What You Offer)
 - Based on the Risk Need Responsivity Report
(https://www.stlareavpc.org/_files/ugd/afc6b1_1405ecd179d44a57b233cf9ebf259cd7.pdf)

- Life Skills and Decisionmaking Skills can be thought of as what youth in high-functioning families/environments learn but other youth might not
- All of these programs, especially the severe substance use programs, require strong referral and partner networks
- Feedback
 1. Every organization should have mental health programming for their staff, youth, and families
- Place (How Your Space Is Set Up)
 - We realize not everyone has an unlimited budget, but these are recommendations. Uptake can vary based on the space.
- Policies & Procedures (What You Need to Have in Place)
 - Youth, especially boys, are often focused on fairness, so policies help ensure that
- General Feedback:
 - How will we involve youth (and compensate them) in this process?
 - Using data when making decisions and evidence when choosing programs and evaluating what is working going forward
- Next Steps: VPC will review the feedback, finalize the guidance, and identify needs for supporting agencies to implement recommendations

3. Community Health Improvement Plan Mini Grants

- Action Teams
 - Intersection of Health & Economic Mobility
 - Chronic Disease
 - Maternal and Child Health
 - Behavioral Health
 - These all relate to root causes of violence
- VPC has been given funding to make mini grants to support the other action teams to move forward some part(s) of their action plan
- https://www.thinkhealthstl.org/content/sites/stlouisco/CHIP_report_2023.pdf
- If you want to get connected to one of these groups, contact:
 - Sarolyn Fox sfox@stlouiscountymo.gov - County CHIP Coordinator
 - Cat Pitman - City CHIP Coordinator pitmanc@stlouis-mo.gov

4. VPC Staffing Update

- <https://www.stlareavpc.org/join-our-team>
- Currently interviewing for 3 positions. Hope to complete by end of October and engage consultants in November.

5. Partner Announcements

- From Dr. Terry Daily-Davis: Supporting St. Louis



SUPPORTING ST. LOUIS

Learn how local agencies provide critical human services that support and strengthen St. Louis communities.

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

presenters include:

- Keyway
- Mission: St. Louis
- Places for People
- Preferred Family Healthcare
- Independence Center
- Fathers Support Center
- Assisted Recovery Centers of America
- Harris-Stowe State University Office of Admissions
- Pretrial Services - 22nd Judicial Circuit
- The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis

JOIN US! FREE EVENT!

Nov. 6, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

William Clay Early Childhood Center, Professional Development Auditorium
Room 204, 3026 Laclede Ave.

Presented by the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in partnership with Harris-Stowe State University's Institute of Community Advancement and Engagement

Questions? Call 314-622-5685 or email joel.currier@courts.mo.gov

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- From UMSL:
 - **Neighborhood Leadership Fellows 2026 Application is Now Open**
 1. The NLF program is for individuals residing or working in St. Louis City and parts of North St. Louis County. NLF is now open to an increased set of neighborhoods, beyond the Promise Zone. Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is a nine-month leadership training for community leaders aimed at increasing the voices of St. Louis City and North County residents at civic decision-making tables in order to produce stronger regional policies for neighborhoods. The program, set to convene on January 16, will meet one weekend a month in-person, and for mini-sessions one Wednesday a month virtually, for nine months from January through September 2026. All participants who complete the program will receive a \$2,000 stipend and UMSL Chancellor's Certificate in Civic Leadership.
 2. **Apply here by November 14:**
<https://forms.gle/qQwab7vndmzufZZK7>
 3. **For more information, click here:**
<https://www.umsf.edu/recd/ecd/community-development/neighborhood-leadership/neighborhood-leadership-fellows-st-louis.html>
- **Safe Connections**



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Metro St. Louis

EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

Elephant in the Room- The Reality of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

 Wednesday, Oct. 29 | noon-1 pm via Zoom

Survivors of domestic violence may not identify their experiences of sexual violence, yet the impacts of these experiences can be significant and may go unaddressed. This session will discuss the experiences of intimate partner sexual violence survivors and will share information on how to provide compassionate support.



Baylee Mammenga
YWCA Metro St. Louis



Emily Stoinski
Safe Connections



To register, go to this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/885RIMdTTaj-lQtGTM23w>, scan the QR code, or email
emily@safeconnections.org.

This complimentary workshop is offered in partnership with YWCA Metro St. Louis and Safe Connections



PREVENTION EDUCATION GUYS GROUP

Help us **empower the youth** at your school to **build healthy relationships!**

What is Guys Group?

A small group led by a trained facilitator that uses activities and guided discussions to provide a space that helps boys/masculine-identified students explore and challenge their beliefs about teen relationships, respect for girls and women, and what it means to be masculine.

Why is Guys Group important?

Guys Group encourages young people to use what they learn to navigate their own relationships, support peers to make healthy relationship decisions, and advocate against a culture of violence.

When & Where is Guys Group?

- Groups meet once a week for an hour
- Groups meet at a time decided upon by your school and the group facilitator
- Groups last around 8-12 weeks
- Groups are held at your school in a consistent & confidential meeting space



Who is Guys Group for?

- Students ages 12-19
- Boys/masculine-identified students

Interested in hearing more about Guys Groups? Reach out to Destiny at destiny@safeconnections.org or Lauren at lauren@safeconnections.org



PREVENTION EDUCATION GIRLS GROUP

Help us **empower the youth** at your school
to **build healthy relationships!**

What is Girls Group?

A small group, led by a trained facilitator, that uses activities and guided discussions to provide a space for girls/feminine-identified students to explore and challenge their beliefs about self-respect, interpersonal relationships and societal norms, and expectations of those who embody femininity.

Why is Girls Group important?

Girls Group encourages young people to use what they learn to navigate their own relationships, support peers to make healthy relationship decisions, and advocate against a culture of violence.

When & Where is Girls Group?

- Groups meet once a week for an hour
- Groups meet at a time decided upon by your school and the group facilitator
- Groups last around 8-12 weeks
- Groups are held at your school in a consistent & confidential meeting space



Who is Girls Group for?

- Students ages 12-19
- Girls/feminine-identified students

Interested in hearing more about Girls Groups? Reach out to Destiny at destiny@safeconnections.org or Lauren at lauren@safeconnections.org

Safe Connections | 2165 Hampton Avenue | St. Louis, MO 63139 | safeconnections.org | 24-Hour Crisis Helpline: 314.531.2003



Project HART Elementary Level Programming

Project HART is a relationship violence prevention program that offers young people skills to build healthy relationships with themselves and those around them.

Elementary programming for youth in grades 3-5 assists young people in defining what a healthy friendship looks like, identifying when boundaries are being respected, advocating for an environment where people are not bullied, and finding safe adults to talk to for support.

Project HART Elementary Level Workshops Include:

- Healthy Relationships
- Conflict and Bullying
- Consent and Boundaries



Contact lauren@safeconnections.org or destiny@safeconnections.org for more information or to schedule programming.

- From Precious Jones- Breaking Generational Poverty Foundation is hosting a Job & Resource Fair on November 4 from 10am-2pm at O'Fallon Rec. If you

want to participate, contact Precious at letsbgp@BGPDaily.org or 417-943-0757

- From Jean Calandrino with Women's Voices Raised: will host a discussion titled Tackling Gunshot Trauma with Dr. Punch Nov 13, 7-8:30pm at Center of Clayton. Register greatly encouraged at <https://womensvoicesraised.org/>
- From Damon Major with County Health Department: Dr. Cunningham would like to host a canned food drive during November. If you're interested, please contact him dmajor@stlouiscountymo.gov
- From Sarolyn Fox at County Health Department: We are inviting you to sign up as a vendor or volunteer for the CHIP Passport to Community Health Resource Fair on Saturday, December 13th, from 10 AM-2 PM at the Deaconess Foundation. This event will engage city and county residents of all ages and backgrounds, providing a great opportunity to provide programs, services, and resources. Please complete the short form below by November 14th to confirm your participation and share within your network:
 - Vendor/Volunteer Registration:
https://qualtricsxm7cvmh37sz.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_es0S0jqOdJ7fl6C
 - For those who expressed interest in hosting a workshop, please click the link below:
 - Workshop Form:
https://wustl.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4Pgthh0ew7gPIQ
- From NSEC



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- From St. Louis Artworks

Young at Art 30th Celebration

ST. LOUIS ARTWORKS
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

a community of artists
helping each other grow.

30th Anniversary

Join us in commemorating
30 amazing years
of empowering our youth through
the *transformative* power of art!

 **Saturday, December 13**

6 - 9 PM CST | Doors at 5:30 PM
St. Louis ArtWorks | 5959 Delmar Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63112



Sponsors

- ✦ Mary & John Wolford, Patron of Progress
- ✦ Lauren Cohen, Provider of Possibilities
- ✦ Reedy Press, Aspiration Ally

- From Prevent Ed





ti 2025!

NOVEMBER 13-16, 2025
CAMP WYMAN • EUREKA, MO

Since 1980, PreventEd has led Teen Institute (TI). A powerful camp that equips high school students to prevent substance misuse among their peers and communities while also cultivating leadership skills.

WHY TI IS FOR YOU...

- Learn meaningful information to advocate for real change in your community
- Earn volunteer hours for attending
- Make lifelong friends (seriously)!
- Have fun!



Scan to sign up for TI updates and reminders!
prevented.org/teeninstitute

Contact Grace DeClue,
gdeclue@prevented.org
or Ali Stambaugh,
astambaugh@prevented.org,
314.962.3456

- From Eboni Hooper Boateng from St. Louis County Health Department

Glasgow Village

Community Trauma Response and Care with Dr. LJ Punch & Violence Reduction Meeting

When: Wednesday October 29th 5-6:30 PM

Where: 607 Shepley Dr, St. Louis, MO 63137

What: From 5 pm- 6 pm Community Trauma Response & Care with Dr. LJ Punch

During this class each participant will learn how to recognize and respond to injuries that can cause severe bleeding and/or severe stress. This includes learning how to place a tourniquet and "stop the bleed" as well as an understanding of how trauma impacts our hearts, bodies and minds. Each participant will receive a trauma first aid kit and stress relief packet.

From 6 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Louis County Violence Reduction Director Tom Crees will discuss violence reduction efforts in North County and the Save Lives Now! initiative. Open discussion will proceed after.

Why: With the recent tragic incidents of gun violence and trauma, we want to provide resources to Glasgow Village and allow for discussion on how we can all work together to create a safer Glasgow Village.



- From Tashauna Parker with Gamers Island



- From Paula Gaertner at Thomas Dunn Learning Center
 - <https://tdunn.org/>
 - The Place is open as a drop in space
 - They offer help with high school equivalency and wraparound services
- From St. Louis Story Stitchers

SAINT LOUIS STORY STITCHERS

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 28 **STITCHCAST LIVE SEASON FINALE**
5:30pm-9:00pm
High Low
3301 Washington
Live Podcast w/
Guest Bo Dean
Youth Open Mic

OCT 31 **HALLOWEEN OPEN STUDIO**
4:00pm-9:00pm
DJ Battle
Movies
Costume Contest
Open Mic
Food
Games

NOV 8 **STL SYMPHONY OPEN HOUSE**
2:00pm-2:30pm
Powell Hall
718 N Grand Blvd
Live Performance
Free To Attend

NOV 10 **STL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**
6:00pm
St. Louis County Library
Florissant Valley Branch
195 New Florissant Rd.
Live Performance
Free To Attend

FOLLOW @STORYSTITCHERS

- From Annie Malone:

SAFE Halloween for Children

Friday, October 31st
4pm-6pm
5355 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112

Did You Know?
On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

TRUNK OR TREAT WITH US

TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 31st, 4-6pm
Candy, Costumes, Magician, & More
Our Page Campus, 5355 Page Blvd.
To become a sponsor, email us at amcfs@anniemalone.com

Scan Here to Help Purchase Candy for Children

Walmart

St. Louis Community Credit Union

sam's club

- From Gateway Region YMCA:

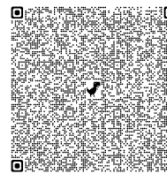


LEVEL UP: Achievers Edition

Are you a high school student? Come hang out with the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) and Us! We're hosting a panel discussion featuring a UMSL representative and student leaders. **Got questions?** There'll be time for Q&A, so bring your curiosity and come get the inside scoop!

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge regarding UMSL's majors and academic pathways
- Learn about student support and campus resources
- Get tips on applying for and securing scholarships
- Set themselves ahead for their future



Where: Bayer YMCA (5555 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112)
When: Wednesday, October 29th 4:00pm-5:00pm

For more information, contact Dominique Oglesby
dominique.oglesby@gwymca.org | (314) 367-4646

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Makers Monday UPCYCLED STREETWEAR LAB

Mondays at
the
Bayer YMCA

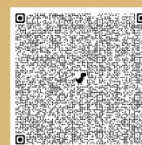


TURN OLD CLOTHES INTO ONE-OF-A-KIND STREETWEAR

- RE-IMAGINE USED CLOTHING INTO CUSTOM FITS
- SEW, DESIGN, AND BRING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE!
- ADD YOUR OWN LOGOS AND GRAPHICS USING CRICUT
- MAKE FASHION SUSTAINABLE - YOUR WAY!



For more information, contact Dominique Oglesby:
dominique.oglesby@gwymca.org (314) 367-4646



- <https://bit.ly/vpcces2025>



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2026 Quarterly Meeting Dates

January 22, 2026 from 1-3pm, Virtual

April 24, 2026 from 1-3pm, Virtual

July 24, 2026 from 1-3pm, In Person, Location TBD

October 23, 2026 from 1-3pm, Virtual