

St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

July 28, 2023 | 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Missouri Foundation for Health

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
- Attendees: Poli Rijos, Precious Jones, John Lattier, Megan Sobolewski, Tanisha Durrah, Ashley Rottler, Bruce Sheridan, Colleen Cunningham, Kyn Radford, Charise Baker, Brittini Gray, Tyrone Dennis, Lakeisha Turner, Debra Irons El, Craig Schmid, Treena Thompson, Wolf Smith, Ted Simpson, Arthurine Harris, Raven Pugh, Paula Gaertner, Shaurice Irons, Kenan Morrison, Imani Robinson, Don Logue, Marley Graviss, Lynne Lang, Monica Ezue, Marty Casey, Bryson Banks, Sal Martinez, Erica Oliver, Lena Chapman, Stephanie Herbers, Asia Johnson, Kristen Mueller, Casey Ringenberg, Lashaunda Johnson, Rhoda Peprah, Susa Kabat, Jessi La Rose, Emily Stoinski, Konjit Avent, Matthew Maniaci, Francine Strain, Sheila Webster, Kofi Ansa, Stacy Bernaigh, Matthew Holden, Ryan Pierce, Kimberly Long, Wil Pinkney, Kortni Blackmon, Cauzae McCall, Adrianna Blakemore, Mo Farrell, Jamie Vergano, Alina Ainyette, Lisa Wheeler, Ifeoina Ifediba, Chris Fahy, Eboni Hooper Boateng, Katie Dalton, Branden Lewis, Felice McClendon, Damon Major

2. New Opportunities for Wellness (NOW) Experiential Preview

- Konjit Avent and Brittini Gray demonstrated a breathing technique accompanied by a sound bowl and chimes.
- Brittini Gray presented on NOW: NOW is training up to 25 community healers in Walnut Park East & West and Baden neighborhoods. They will be trained in healing techniques that are nonclinical but have a long history in Black and brown communities. They will host a healing salon for their neighbors at the culmination of the training. These community healers will also be able to use the skills they learned for future traumatic incidents in their neighborhoods. A video featuring Rebecca Bennett of the Black Healers Collective is posted along with the meeting notes.
- Lena Chapman, Haven of Light: They have begun training pastors on grief so that they can respond to people in their church who are grieving, whether due

to violence or other loss. They will start a grief group next month. Pictures from their training are on slide 16 of the meeting PowerPoint.

3. Office of Violence Prevention CVI Grant Q&A

- Serena Muhammad from VPC presented a document that showed the differences between VPC and the City of St. Louis Office of Violence Prevention. It is available at <https://www.stlareavpc.org/vpc-ovp>
- Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Request for Proposals <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/violence-prevention/documents/rfp-community-violence-intervention-prevention.cfm>
 - Wil Pinkney went through the RFP and highlighted the relevant sections.
 - It is important to note that this is a reimbursement grant, so small agencies may need to work with a fiscal sponsor.
 - They are looking for agencies to serve the hardest to serve which may require flexibility on hours and locations.
- OVP's funded agencies host a Kickback monthly in a different priority neighborhood.



4. Youth Events & Engagement

- Downtown & Rec Center Weekend Events

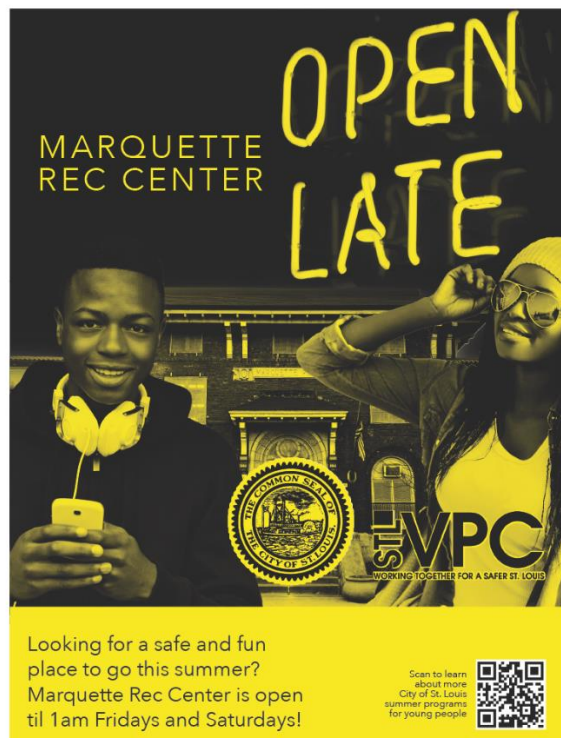
o VPC has partnered with the City of St. Louis and the recreation centers to offer late night programming on Fridays and Saturdays at two rec centers.

1. Friday Nights

a. Wohl Rec Center (1515 N. Kingshighway) Teen Party



b. Marquette Rec Center (4025 Minnesota) Open Gym, Games, and Other Activities



2. SATURDAY NIGHTS

- a. Wohl Rec Center (1515 N. Kingshighway) Open Gym, Games, etc.
- b. Marquette Rec Center (4015 Minnesota) Open Gym, Games, etc.



- o On Saturdays, VPC has partnered with SLACO and the Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District for a Downtown Youth Zone at 9th & Chestnut. It will have revolving events like game trucks, foam party, DJs and food trucks.



- Safe Spaces Programming RFP
 - <https://www.stlareavpc.org/youth-safe-spaces>
 - The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations to provide safe space programming for St. Louis youth ages 15-25 as a measure to reduce at-risk behaviors. This is one-time funding for consistent programs taking place for up to 12 months. Subcontracts will range from \$1,000 - \$25,000 depending on the scope of the project. *This is not pop up event funding.*
 - **We are looking for fun, safe spaces for youth, not workshops, training, etc.**

5. Technical Assistance Partnership RFP

- VPC has an open RFP for a consultant to offer Technical Assistance to grassroots organizations who are doing violence prevention work. The RFP closes July 31.
 - <https://www.stlareavpc.org/open-rfps>
- Once a consultant is selected, VPC will announce the opportunity for TA to our member agencies.

6. Speaker's Bureau & Media Training

- VPC regularly gets requests for media interviews that we cannot accommodate. Also, we acknowledge that our valuable members have vast expertise to share. We are asking for members to volunteer to be part of our Speakers' Bureau. We will provide media training to those who are selected as well as VPC talking points to add to your interview. To sign up, fill out the form on the site below:
 - <https://www.stlareavpc.org/speakers-bureau>

7. Voice of the People Update

- Voice of the People, a local online news source, does interviews with residents of St. Louis. They post them to their social media:
 - https://www.instagram.com/votp_news/?hl=en
 - <https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofThePeopleStl>
- The cameraperson who does these interviews reached out to VPC about a partnership for connecting folks he interviews to resources. He said he has tried to give resources to folks, but they are often not available in a timely manner.
- VPC would like to create a cohort of agencies who will receive videos as they are shared on Voice of the People. Agencies can volunteer to be connected to the interviewees to offer the services they need. We will follow up with an email about signing up, but in the meantime, agencies willing to partner on this can email Jessica (jessica@stlareavpc.org).

8. Partner Announcements

- Poli: The [St. Louis Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition](#) will host **Dr. Caitlin Ryan** from [Family Acceptance Project](#). Dr. Ryan has agreed to speak regarding family perspective on support/acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth.
 - When: Friday, October 13th, 2023
 - Time: Around noon

- Where: Virtual
- To access past trainings/lectures, visit:
<https://www.stlsuicideprevention.org/training>
- Dr. Marty Casey: [UnGun Institute](#) will host Black Son Day on August 13. She also announced UnGun's billboard campaign. An image is below. She offered a potential partnership for organizations who want to put up more billboards with their agency's logo.



- Clippers & Cops has an upcoming event on August 9. Flyer below.



- Breaking Generational Poverty Foundation will host a job fair on August 15 from 10am-2pm. They also host a youth panel on the 2nd Monday of the month.

- [St. Louis Story Stitches](#) is hosting Karaoke Couture on August 5. The Saint Louis Story Stitches Center is open and free for youth and young adults ages 16-24.



9. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

- bit.ly/vpcjuly2023

2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates
October 27, 2023 from 1-3pm