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Caring for Kids

CCRB Monthly News

October 2026

Prevention Is Just the Beginning

In October, we're highlighting the importance of prevention programs for children. At CCRB, we believe that prevention helps equip kids with the knowledge, skills, and resilience they need to make healthy choices and successfully navigate life's challenges before problems arise.

However, prevention is just one part of the mental wellness equation. CCRB takes a comprehensive approach, investing in prevention, crisis intervention, early intervention, and treatment services for kids. Through our funding and partnerships with local service providers, we support programs that promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen protective factors, and provide therapeutic support.

Our commitment reflects a simple belief: every child deserves the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life. By investing in prevention, we can reduce future challenges. By investing in intervention and treatment services, we can help people heal and thrive. Together, these efforts strengthen our entire community and create a healthier future for generations to come.

Staff Updates

Staff began meeting with Partner Agencies in preparation for FY2028 Renewal Funding Applications that opens in late October.

On September 15, CCRB staff shared information about CCRB-funded services at the Community Services Summit. The event brought together educators, social workers, first responders, health and mental health professionals, and other community partners for a day of learning, networking, and resource sharing to better support children and families.

Honoring a Legacy of Service

CCRB is proud to recognize Larry Marty as a Board Member Emeritus in appreciation of his outstanding service and dedication to our organization from 2013 to 2026.

Over the years, Larry has shared valuable insight, provided thoughtful leadership, and helped guide important decisions that have strengthened support for children, youth, and families in our community. We are pleased to award this honor in recognition of his exceptional service.

Services Spotlight: Prevention Education

Research continues to show that prevention works. A **report** from the National Academy of Medicine highlights more than 30 years of evidence demonstrating that early, evidence-based prevention strategies can reduce the risk of mental health challenges, substance use, violence, and other behavioral health concerns before they become more serious problems.

This approach aligns closely with CCRB's investment in programs that help children, families, schools, and communities build protective factors and strengthen mental wellness. Through funding prevention education programs focused on suicide, substance use, child abuse, human trafficking, mental health, and violence, CCRB is helping build safer, healthier communities and while improving outcomes for children and families. From July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, CCRB will invest $1.5 million across 10 prevention programs, strengthening community efforts to promote well-being and reduce risk factors for children and families.

Child Abuse Prevention
- The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri

Crisis Intervention/De-escalation
- NAMI St. Louis

Human Trafficking Awareness
- Gateway Alliance against Human Trafficking

Mental Health Awareness
- Ending the Silence

Suicide Prevention
- CHADS Coalition for Mental Health
- Kids Under Twenty One

Substance Use Prevention
- PreventEd
- Preferred Family Healthcare/Centerstone of Missouri

Violence Prevention
- Compass Health Network

Prevention not only improves outcomes for young people but also strengthens families, schools, and communities. As research continues to demonstrate, investing early is one of the most effective ways to support lifelong health and well-being.

Learn more about our **Prevention Education programs**.

The First Years Matter: Mental Health, Ages 0-4

The First Years Matter: Mental Health, Ages 0–4 is a short video from the **Chiron Community Giving Foundation** that explains how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) during the earliest years of life can affect brain development and contribute to lifelong mental health challenges. Research emphasizes the importance of nurturing relationships, supportive environments, and early intervention to create healthier outcomes for children, families, and communities.

Raising healthy, resilient children takes all of us. *Beyond the Convening: A Community Learning Journey Toward Prevention, Healing, and Hope* is a virtual learning series that brings together trusted voices and practical tools to support the well-being of children, families, and caregivers. Topics include attachment, emotional regulation, resilience, self-care, and trauma-informed practices, with an emphasis on building hope and strengthening connections. Remaining sessions dates are October 29, November 12, and December 3. **Learn more about the sessions** and **register for training**.

Substance Use Prevention Conference

October 27-29, 2026
The Missouri Prevention Resource Center Network invites you to attend the **2026 Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference**, which brings together prevention professionals, educators, community leaders, and public health partners from across Missouri for three days of learning, networking, and collaboration. Hosted at the Wyndham Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri, the event will feature evidence-based strategies, practical tools, and opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention efforts statewide. **Learn more about the event and register.**

MO Coalition for Children Conference

November 17-19, 2026
You're invited to attend the Missouri Coalition for Children's annual conference and training which brings together child-, family- and community-serving professionals and organizational leaders who are eager to learn about promising and best practices in direct care, advocacy, leadership and community change. The 2026 conference theme is "Shared Purpose. Bold Action." **Register to attend.**

Community Open House

November 19, 2026
Tours at 9 AM, 1 PM, and 4 PM

Join St. Louis Children's and KVC Health Systems for a Community Open House of their new 77-bed children's mental health hospital and renovated intensive outpatient treatment

center. Guests can tour the new spaces, learn more about the continuum of youth mental health care and meet some of the dedicated teams working to expand access to critical care for children and families across our region.

Learn more and RSVP for the Community Open House

Trauma Awareness Training

NAMI TraumaInSight is a virtual training that covers the principles of trauma awareness. When working with youth and young adults, using trauma-informed practices creates safe and secure environments for them. This self-paced course is designed for youth-serving professionals, can be completed in three hours, and is completely free.

Enroll in TraumaInSight Training

Saint Louis Crisis Nursery operates a Helpline that provides immediate support to families experiencing a crisis. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Helpline is staffed by trained and compassionate professionals who offer crisis intervention, resources, and community referrals to help families navigate difficult situations and access support. **Call 314-768-3201 to connect.**

Children's Data Center

The first five years of life are critical to a child's growth and development. Early screenings can help identify children who may benefit from additional support—and connect families to the resources they need as early as possible.

Since 2019, **Vision for Children At Risk** has tracked early childhood screening efforts across our region. More than 15,000 screenings have been recorded, providing valuable insight into how children are being connected to supports that promote healthy development.

This data is available to help the community better understand screening efforts, identify opportunities, and strengthen connections between children, families, and the resources they need to thrive.

Explore the Children's Data Center

Ethical AI in the Social Sector

The social sector is often mischaracterized as "behind the curve" in the adoption of AI. Data Social Impact (DSI) believes that social sector organizations bring unique strengths by approaching AI with a commitment to mission, ethics, and community.

DSI developed a free online self-paced course designed for social sector organizations seeking strategies and frameworks for integrating AI in a responsible manner. No matter where you are on your AI journey, there is something in this short course for you. Data for Social Impact is an initiative of the Center for Social Development at Washington University.

Learn more about the Ethical AI course

CCRB Dates & Reminders

CCRB monthly Board of Director meetings are open to the public and the meeting agenda is made available on the Friday prior to the meeting on our website, **StCharlesCountyKids.org**.

October

Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2026, 8:30 AM
- Preferred Family Healthcare, 2120 Parkway Drive, St. Peters

November

Board of Directors Meeting
November 16, 2026, 8:30 AM
- Youth In Need, 1815 Boone's Lick Road, St. Charles

Office Closures
- November 11, 2026, Veterans Day
- November 26-27, 2026, Thanksgiving

December

Board of Directors Meeting
December 14, 2026, 8:30 AM
- United Services for Children, 3420 Harry S. Truman Blvd., St. Charles

Office Closures
- December 24-25, 2026, Christmas
- January 1, 2027, New Years Day

CCRB
the community and children's resource board of st. charles county

Using a voter-approved 1/8 cent sales tax, the Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) funds local nonprofits to provide essential mental health and substance use treatment services for children 19 years of age or younger in St. Charles County. Our mission is build and sustain a comprehensive system of services for children and families in need, preparing them for a brighter future. CCRB is an independent political subdivision of St. Charles County.

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