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Caring for Kids

CCRB Monthly News

September 2026

Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and remind our communities that help is available. One of the most important resources is 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which provides free and confidential emotional support from caring, trained counselors by phone or text 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

While crisis services are essential, suicide prevention starts long before a crisis occurs. It begins by helping children and youth develop strong relationships, healthy coping skills, and supportive connections. Research shows that positive experiences and access to mental health services help build resilience and can reduce risk factors associated with suicide.

We are proud to partner with agencies throughout our community that work every day to support the mental and emotional well-being of children, youth, and families. The dedicated staff at our Partner Agencies help young people navigate challenges and build the skills needed to thrive.

This Suicide Prevention Month, we encourage everyone to learn the warning signs of emotional distress, talk openly about mental health, and share the 988 Lifeline with family and friends. Together, we can help build a community where every child feels valued, supported, and never alone.

If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 for immediate support.

Melinda McAliney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
mmcaliney@scckids.org

Staff Updates

Staff have been preparing for the FY2028 funding cycle for renewal programs. Program staff will meet with organizations that have one-year contracts to discuss funding expectations, answer questions, and help them prepare for the upcoming funding cycle. These meetings will help ensure that organizations understand the renewal process and are positioned for a smooth transition into the FY2028 funding cycle.

Melinda attended the Greater St. Louis Area Special Districts Governance Education and Resources Summit, which invited fire protection, developmental disability services, library, children services, senior citizen services, and ambulance district stakeholders to come together to gain perspective on their operational and governance needs.

Happy 9th work anniversary to Jeanne Spencer! From Administrative and Grants Assistant to Data and Communications Manager, Jeanne Spencer has worn many hats during her time at CCRB. Her dedication, creativity, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our organization.

Monthly Board Meeting

The CCRB Board of Directors meets monthly. Meetings are open to the public and the **meeting agenda** is made available on the Friday preceeding the meeting.

September 28, 2026 | 8:30 AM
Meeting Host:
Community Living, Inc. Family Center
107 Sheriff Dierker Ct.
O'Fallon, MO 63366

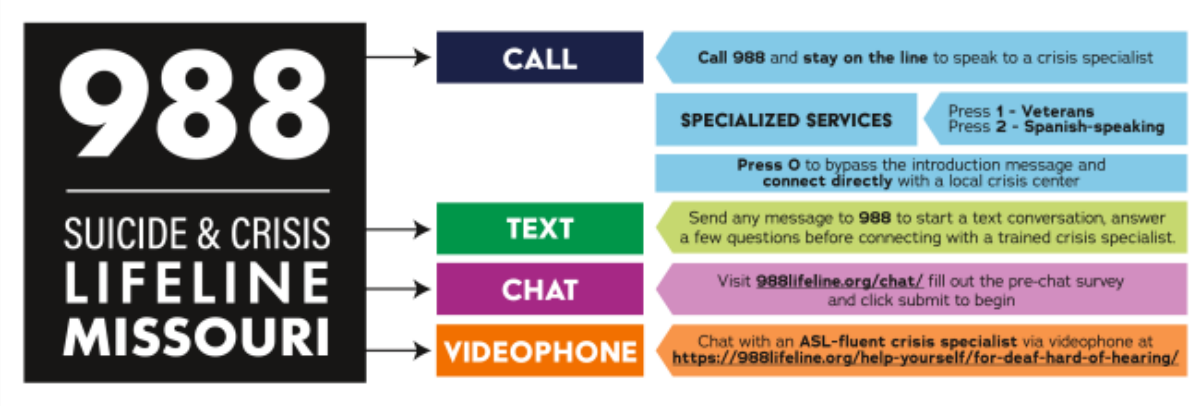
Services Spotlight: Suicide Prevention

This Suicide Prevention Month, we're shining a light on the CCRB-funded programs that help save lives every day. From mental health counseling and crisis intervention to family support and substance use treatment, these services provide hope, connection, and care for St. Charles County youth. Suicide prevention begins with access to support, and our network of providers ensures that children, teens, and families know where to turn before

a crisis becomes a tragedy. Learn more about our available resources at **StCharlesCountyKids.org**

Youth In Need's **Safe Place and Street Outreach Programs** are a critical safety net for youth ages 10 to 19 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, abuse, trafficking, sexual exploitation, or mental health crises. By meeting youth where they are and connecting them to supportive services, such as emergency shelter and mental health services, the Crisis Intervention team helps stabilize vulnerable young people, promote safety, and build pathways to long-term well-being.

If someone you know is in crisis, a friend, family member, or loved one – but you don't know what to do – reach out to 988 for support to get them the help they need. Crisis specialists are available to help you navigate the situation and get them connected to resources. Text, call, or chat at **missouri988.org**



Suicide Prevention Webinars

The American Association of Suicidology (AAS) is proud to present a full series of free webinars all month long, led by researchers and practitioners tackling prevention work as it actually happens — in clinics, schools, workplaces, and more.

They invite you to discover the full series and sign up today. CEs are available. **Explore the series.**

4ht Annual Community Convening at Webster University

Saturday, October 3
Join Webster University for a day of workshops with mental health professionals addressing key regional mental health issues. The **Community Convening** conference expands our understanding of trauma by examining the roles of systems and communities in supporting healing and improving access to care. The event provides a shared space for learning, reflection, and connection across disciplines. **Explore the event schedule and register.**

Substance Use Prevention Conference

October 27-29

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
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.**

Missouri Begins Work Under Federal Grant to Strengthen Data Tools for Child Welfare Professionals

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) is beginning a three-year effort to support the Children's Division (CD) in using data collected through its case management systems to provide team members with clearer, more timely information. The work is supported by the federal Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare Demonstration Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Missouri is one of 10 jurisdictions nationwide selected to participate in the demonstration project and will receive $600,000 over the three-year project period. **Continue reading**

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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Community and Children's Resource Board | 2440 Executive Drive, Suite 214 | Saint Charles, MO 63303 US

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