

**Gratiot County SSA Meeting**  
**November 10, 2020**  
**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order: 9:01 am via zoom
- II. Attendance: Sarah Bowman (GIHN), Richelle Davis (Child Advocacy), Andrew Fias (MSP), Traci Gavenda (Ashley Schools), Jennifer McKittrick (St. Louis Schools), Sarah Kettlehohn (Ithaca Schools), Dan Morden (911/Central Dispatch), Michael Morris (GCSO), Lexi Morton (Child Advocacy), Dave Nelson (Fire Chiefs Association), Danielle Payne (GIRESD), Richard Ramereiz (St. Louis PD), Kelli Sigafoose (GIRESD), Michael Soltis (Gratiot County EM), Steve Sopocy (GCSO), Heather Therrien (Child Advocacy), Mark Williams (Alma Public Safety), Jeff Yonker (MSP-Homeland Security)
- III. New Business
  - a. Handle with Care Update- there have been 12 referrals, all from one department. Other departments indicated they have not had a situation that required a HWC referral.
  - b. [OK2Say Contact Information Update](#)- update contact information to include anyone needed to be contact in case OK2Say has a referral.
  - c. [Safety Drill Update](#)- schools are still required to perform safety drills. If there are any questions about requirements or interpretations, schools may contact Jeff Yonker at MSP.
  - d. [School Safety Resource Officer Information](#)- no schools have a SRO at this time.
  - e. Radio Checks- Central dispatch is continuing to do radio checks on First Thursday of each month. If your radio is on the SSA network, please make sure to have someone available that can check the radios and respond to central dispatch.
- IV. Gratiot-Isabella RESD-no updates
- V. Emergency Management- EM was busy with the election. Please make sure to send drill schedule to EM.
- VI. Sherriff's Department/City Department
  - a. Sheriff's Department-There is an officer that has completed the team training and is able to teach in the schools, but will wait until Covid-19 slows down. Additionally, this person will serve as the School Resource Officer for Gratiot County. Unfortunately, there have been Covid-19 cases in the courthouse and department.

- b. St. Louis PD- have hired new staff. Department has staff that can train in Stop the Bleed, First Aid/CPR, and ALICE. Officers are not doing much in the classroom, but can work with small groups of teachers for training.
- c. Alma PD- hiring new staff and will be fully staffed
- d. Michigan State Police- Trooper Scutter will be the community service trooper for Gratiot County. However, the department is currently short staffed so his availability will be limited.
- e. Homeland security-The updated safety drill guidance was sent out. Please contact Jeff for any questions.

VII. Local Districts

- a. St. Louis- K-12 has gone virtual until after Thanksgiving due to staffing shortage.
- b. Ithaca-K-12 will be virtual until after thanksgiving. This will be Sarah's last meeting as Steve Netzley will be returning in January.
- c. RESD programs- RESD programs have closed until November 30 (alma programs until November 20) due to busing shortage and having to close classrooms for quarantining.
- d. Ashley-still open face to face

VIII. Old Business- None

IX. Roundtable

- a. Child Advocacy-Child Advocacy is moving into the new building. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, they will not be hosting a large open house for visitors.
  - i. Abuse cases are extremely high and have doubled the highest number ever in October. Thank you to St. Louis City Hall for allowing the CAC to conduct forensic interviews while the new building was being built.
  - ii. Richelle has been able to conduct the *Protect Yourself* program virtually since she is unable to get into buildings right now.
  - iii. Above the influence has been meeting virtually afterschool. They will be hosting a virtual student summit on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. 911/Central Dispatch- There are a few staff members out with Covid-19/quarantined. They may have to reduce services due to lack of staff.
- c. Alma Public Safety- Thank you to school administrators.
- d. GIHN-GIHN is continuing to provide services face to face. The Children's Mobile Crisis Team is available weekdays from 12pm-8pm. This service can be used to help deescalate a crisis and help prevent families from ending up in the hospital.

X. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am

XI. Next Meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am via zoom