



December 31, 2023 ~ Edition 3 Volume 10

MCRSP/RCGSTL Conference

On December 8, 2023 MCRSP and the Recovery Coalition of Greater St. Louis held a regional conference focused on Community & Collaboration.

Jordan Hampton, RCGSTL Chair, kicked off the conference with a welcome that was heartfelt and extremely impactful.

Speakers and sessions included Senator Holly Thompson Rehder followed with her story as a family member who loves someone suffering from substance use disorder. Executive Director at Assisted Recovery Centers of America (ARCA), Suneal Menzies, discussed SUD treatment progress in Missouri. Alicia Smith, Director of Strategic Engagement with PreventEd discussed the introduction of Naloxone Vending Machines in Eastern Missouri.

The Director of Recovery Support Services, Rosie Anderson-Harper, Department of Behavioral Health, DMH followed with some impressive numbers and information about recovery support services in Missouri. Michael King, Director and Creator of the Communities Projects did an insightful presentation on Community Collaboration explaining how collaboration allows us to more effectively change systems, forge new partnerships and embrace new ideas, approaches and experiences. Next, several Certified Peer Specialists formed a panel to have a discussion about how peers are helpful in all aspects of collaboration between treatment, recovery and recovery residences.

Paul Kalchbrenner, Public Health Advisor with the Office of Recovery, SAMHSA discussed SAMHSA National Recovery Agenda that includes inclusion, equity, peer services, social determinants and wellness. Concluding the day was Patty McCarthy, CEO, Faces and Voices of Recovery, and she walked the attendees through a RCO Bootcamp. This gave the attendees the basic knowledge of starting a Recovery Community Organization.

Conference attendees received up to seven continuing education units approved by the Missouri Credentialing Board. There were 130 individuals in attendance representing the State of Missouri.



Senator Holly Thompson Rehder



Michael King, Communities Project



John Burns facilitating a panel of Certified Peer Specialists



Patty McCarthy, FAVOR CEO

MCRSP Executive Committee Elections

The MCRSP Board of Directors held elections December 7, 2023 for the following Executive Committee positions: Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Chaplain. The following individuals assume office effective January 1, 2024:

Vice-Chair ~ Merna Eppick
Treasurer ~ Michael Rogers
Chaplain ~ Charles Stephenson

Continuing 2024 Executive Committee Members include:

Chair ~ Marsha Hawkins-Hourd
Secretary ~ Alon Fisch
Parliamentarian ~ Jordan Hampton
Immediate Past Chair ~ Ladell M. Flowers

Executive Director Update

MCRSP looks forward to 2024 and plans to roll out a new website, carry forward the December 8 theme of Community and Collaboration and ensure advocacy for RSS Services on a statewide and national basis.

We thank you for your work, support and leadership.

Happy Holidays from the MCRSP Team!!!!



State Legislators' Lookup

[House Members](#)

[Senate Members](#)

Legislative Priorities - 2024

The 2024 Legislative session is underway and officially begins Wednesday, January 3. Please contact [Ann](#) with suggestions/comments/questions. MCRSP lobbyists, Rich Aubuchon and Trent Watson, will assist with Capitol visits and statewide messaging.

~\$10m ask from Missouri Opioid Settlement Funds to support RSS Services

~ Benevolent Tax Credit

~ Support of DMH FY25 Budget Requests

MCRSP will show a presence at the Capitol when session begins January 3, 2024. Watch for more details for scheduling.

Other News

Community Outreach Mini-Grants

MCRSP has been awarded \$30,000 from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to assist community organizations in raising awareness about substance use through local events. Individual grants of up to \$1,500 each are available to organizations that are holding community events to raise awareness about substance use, breaking stigma and connecting people in need to local resources. Questions about this program should be directed to [Christa Harmon](#) at MCRSP.

[Mini-Grant Information](#)



MCRSP Contact Information

MCRSP Board of Directors Chair:
[Dr. Rev. Marsha Hawkins-Hourd](#)

Executive Director:
[Ann C. McGruder](#)

Housing Director:
[Wm. Andy Thomas](#)

Director of Administration & Outreach:
[Christa Harmon](#)



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