



Missouri Department of Social Services

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Director, Division of Finance
& Administrative Services

Agency Name:

North Central MO Childrens' Advocacy Center

Review Date:

5/13/2025

DSS Reviewer(s):

Angela Hutson

VOCA Contract No:

Agency has two active VOCA contracts: #ER130220139 and #ER130220140.

Definition of Terms:

Opportunities for Improvement: Suggestions for agency consideration to strengthen the existing program, policies, and/or practices

Findings: State and Federal program requirements that were not being met at the time of the review.

Purpose, Scope and Methodology:

Purpose: The Department of Social Services (DSS) entered into a contract with the above stated agency for the purchase of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) project services. Monitoring performed by the DSS Operations Unit is to provide training and technical assistance. It is also performed to provide reasonable assurance contracted entities administer Federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of grant agreements. This monitoring visit was only to review the program, and not fiscal compliance.

Scope: The scope of this report covers contractual compliance and program performance during the stated period under review. An Operations team specialist interviewed agency staff and reviewed the agency's programmatic policies and procedures, victim services, personnel files, and timeliness of report submissions. Additionally, questionnaires from the above stated agency were collected and reviewed. The result of this review is the basis of the recommendations contained in this report.

Methodology: To complete this review, VOCA Monitoring Specialist(s) review the following components:

- 1) Agency Staff Interview
- 2) Policies and Procedures
- 3) Victim Services
- 4) Personnel Files
- 5) Timeliness of Report Submissions

Agency Overview

The North Central MO Childrens' Advocacy Center serves abused and traumatized children in nine counties throughout Northwest Missouri. They are a Child Advocacy Center accredited by the National Children's Alliance. They work to ensure child victims are able to disclose information without being further victimized by legal and medical intervention services. A large part of that is accomplished by offering a service where the child victim is interviewed by a specialist and that interview is recorded. That recording is available to the court and certain investigative and medical personnel when necessary, thus restricting the number of interviews a child victim must endure. Additionally, the agency offers those same professional entities involved with the child's victimization an opportunity to watch the interview "live" as it happens, without the child being able to see or hear them. The North Central MO Childrens' Advocacy Center provides a safe place where child victims can share their experience in a trauma-informed and child-friendly atmosphere. Services include; child victim forensic interviews, child and family advocacy, child trauma therapy, and prevention education.

Findings and Required Actions

There are no Findings or Required Actions at this time, for either of the North Central MO Childrens' Advocacy Center's VOCA contracts #ER130220139 or #ER130220140.