

Our mission is to: prevent youth legal system involvement, shield youth from the adverse impact of a criminal record, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, and reduce the risk of reentering the system.

**Council for Equitable Youth Justice
Approved Meeting Minutes**

August 20, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Public Location: Outbound Stowe, 876 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT

Attendees: Karen Vastine, Jessica Barquist, Donn Hutchins, Amy Davenport, Zoe Souder, Julia Brand, Sparks, Mike Loner, Linda Johnson, Kate Hayes, Mercedes King, Peter Brown, Stu Berry, Laurey Burris, and Katherine O’Day

Members Absent:

Paul Groce, and Hudson Ranney

Partners:

Sheri Lynn

Call to order:

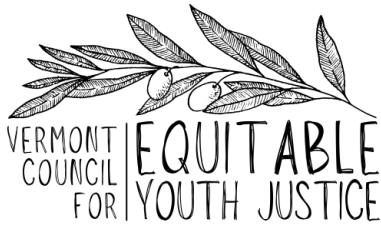
Karen called the meeting to order at 9:34 am

Welcome and Updates

1. Karen motioned to approve July 17 minutes. Amy motioned and Jessica seconded. No discussion. Motion passes. Katherine and Zoe abstain.
2. Updates
 - a. Discussion on the general state of youth, especially those not born in the country, focusing on their challenges and experiences.
 - b. State efforts to integrate restorative practices involving youth and opportunities to collaborate with council.
 - c. High End System of Care (HESOC) Discussion on the status of developing a new facility since Woodside closed for justice involved youth.
 - i. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program (OJJDP) decreases the grant award by 20% when there are incidences of youth not separated from adults. And with the remaining funds, require state to address the issue.
 - ii. Waiting for consulting firm and the state to finalize the terms of a contract and sign agreement that will support development of the facility and services with community, youth and stakeholder engagement.
 - iii. Contract to start Oct 1 and is on track.

Annual Meeting – Election of Officers

1. Mike asked for brief comments from the candidates. All officer nominations are uncontested.
2. Mike called for the vote as a slate. Amy motioned to approve and Laurey seconded:



Our mission is to: prevent youth legal system involvement, shield youth from the adverse impact of a criminal record, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, and reduce the risk of reentering the system.

DRAFT

- To elect Karen Vastine to a one-year term as Chair beginning Oct 1, 2025
- To elect Jessica Barquist to a one-year term as Vice Chair beginning Oct 1, 2025
- To elect Donn Hutchins to a one-year term as Secretary/Treasurer beginning on Oct 1, 2025.

Motion passes carried unanimously.

Vote on CJJ conference

1. Amy suggested sending up to 4 people to the CJJ Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Stu motioned to approve, and Peter seconded. No discussion. The motion passes.

Governance Survey

1. Mike explained that the survey focuses on skills, attributes, and OJJDP roles.
2. Purpose of the survey is to help with recruitment to meet OJJDP requirements and understanding skills members bring to the council and personal attributes.
3. Due by Sept 5.

Budget Votes

1. Review and vote on budget revisions related to July 17 CEYJ approval of proposals. Stu motioned to approve as written and Kate seconded. No discussion. Motion passes

1. **YS Proposal Motion:** To amend the grant funding for the Youth Services Committee's proposal on Youth Engagement to Address the Juvenile Justice System, originally approved by CEYJ on July 17, for a total of \$187,649. This project shall be funded through the following OJJDP grant allocations:
 - i. \$50,000 from FFY 21,
 - ii. \$40,960 from FFY 22, and
 - iii. \$96,689 from FFY 23
 - iv. for a total of \$187,649.
2. **ERD Proposal Motion:** To amend the grant funding for the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Committee's proposal on Reducing School Suspensions, originally approved by CEYJ on July 17, for a total of \$250,000. This project will be financed through the following OJJDP grant allocations:
 - i. \$50,000 from FFY 21,
 - ii. \$50,000 from FFY 22, and
 - iii. \$150,000 from FFY 23
 - iv. for a total of \$250,000.

Recidivism Study and High-End System of Care Update

1. Both contracts are in the process of being signed: Recidivism starts Sept 1 and HESOC starts Oct 1.
2. Sheri will email the contractors' names when the contracts are signed and executed.

Motion to adjourn for Mathematica Training 10:07