

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

Council for Equitable Youth Justice
Meeting Notes December 19th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86157832591?pwd=CCj9vo9uP8o23csY1C5NNGOdiOeAGP.1>

In- Person at the WSOC lobby focus room or virtual.

Members Present: Amy Davenport, Donn Hutchins, Laurey Burriss, Karen Vastine, Julia Brand, Linda Johnson, Sparks, Kreig Pinkham, Stuart Berry.

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Matt Wolf, Katherine O'Day, Mike Loner, Christopher Lukasik, Kirsten Kersey

Partners Present: Matthew Bernstein, Maria Leon, Lael Chester, Taylor Welch-Plante, Jessica Barquist, Elizabeth Morris

Re-appointment:

- Most Council members have terms expiring in February 2024, and will need to re-apply. Only members who do NOT need to re-apply are Matt, Christopher, and Julia.
- Please apply by submitting a resume and an indication of interest to exe.appointments@vermont.gov. Please make sure to include your current address, as that may have changed since your original appointment, and clearly indicate that you are already appointed to the council.
- **Please do this by the latest December 21st, 2023.**

Membership Update to DCF Commissioner and Governor, based on new by-law requirements as of February 2023 (please see the letter in meeting materials). This is a basic overview of all member's participation over the last year (since the by-laws change was made in February).

Approval of November Meeting Notes. Motion to approve with the added change of Matt Wolf's attendance. All in favor. Yes.

Mission/Vision/Values

- Trauma-educated language instead of trauma-informed given the implications that informed might mean we don't accept the information.
- Families could/should be added.
- Why does vision say trauma-informed and not vision? We should look into making either vision or mission less wordy, instead of both of them more wordy. Developmentally appropriate is also in the mission but not the vision.
- These recommendations/changes will be reviewed and an updated draft will be sent to the group in January for a vote.

DCF Report

You can find DCF's Raise the Age & High-End System of Care Status Update [here](#).

Salient comments from those present:

- Uncomfortable with an indefinite deadline.
- This is a common nationwide trend, departments in charge of big system changes like this never think that they're ready for them.
- This is an opportunity for us to advocate for the resources DCF needs to be able to do RTA effectively, we should push that it happens, but also push that it is resourced appropriately. RTA happened started being implemented without all the positions that were asked for.
- Question for Lael: Is there anything in the national conversation that could support? We're clear on the brain system and what the system needs to look like, but is there anything new?

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- A couple of things – researchers are catching up that treating youth in a separate system that tries to eliminate or minimize a harm.
- We need to be building a system for the youth, not system actors.
- There are concerns in the report: there's a focus on beds, when most systems have shrunk, and for good reason. Looking at data, they haven't disclosed data on caseloads for delinquency, they mixed YO and delinquency in one bucket. Why are oranges and apples being compared? I suspect that the reason is that the data actually doesn't support that much of a delay.
- Providing opportunities for the development of healthy young people IS the most effective pursuit of community safety.
- The 19-year-olds who would be coming into the family division would be more likely to go through diversion.
- Recidivism rate is important, we should be thinking of that and a future study following up for the first one we completed.
- The real question is what's the best for the kids? This is the right thing to do.
- Possible VOTE on sending a response to DCF leadership and the Legislature. **There was a motion to submit a letter in response to this report where we advocate that RTA not be postponed indefinitely.** Unanimous yes, but it was discovered Laurey and Linda left as vote was being taken. Need to retake a vote when they have returned.
- There was a re-do vote of above, the same vote above was still on the table. **Unanimous Yes (Amy, Donn, Karen, Kreig, Stuart, Laurey, Linda, Julia, Sparks). Motion Passed.**

FFY2022 Budget Update

Amy, Karen, Elizabeth will be working with CCAS (Training and Technical Assistance provider for the OJJDP), and OJJDP program manager to successfully ensure that we are submitting a budget that fits their requirements for "addressing the problem" while also utilizing the funding in ways that assists our system of care. They will be meeting in the new year.

Three-year plan

The FFY2024-FFY2026 three-year plan will need to be submitted to OJJDP with the next solicitation (most likely this spring/summer depending on when they post). When planning for a three-year plan, it's important to note that OJJDP ask for a Juvenile Problem/Needs Analysis, that the goals and objectives should be based on. It may be appropriate to review the current goals and objectives and make a change to include a high priority goal of assisting with the High End System of Care, given that the requirement violations are a result of a lack of secure juvenile facility.

Juvenile Problem/Needs Analysis in the last three-year plan solicitation:

1. Juvenile arrests by offense type, gender, age, and race.
2. Number and characteristics (by offense type, gender, race, and age) of juveniles referred to juvenile court, a probation agency, or special intake unit for allegedly committing a delinquent or status offense.
3. Number of cases handled informally (nonpetitioned) and formally (petitioned) by gender, race, and type of disposition (e.g., diversion, probation, commitment, residential treatment).
 1. Number of delinquent offenders and status offenders admitted, by gender and race, to juvenile detention facilities and adult jails and lockups (if applicable).
 2. Data related to the availability, scope, and accessibility of mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system and availability, scope, and accessibility of the prevention and treatment services in rural areas.
 3. Trend data and other social, economic, legal, and organizational conditions considered relevant to delinquency prevention programming

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Committee Updates

1. ERD Committee to meet right after the CEYJ (Afternoon of December 19th). They may be asking for the full CEYJ to submit a letter in support of RDAP's report at our January meeting.
2. SI Committee cancelled December Meeting
3. YS Committee meeting was also cancelled, but Kirsten facilitated a phenomenal youth focus group a few weeks ago to gather feedback from the Youth Drop-In Center RFP. This was wonderfully handled (so much kudos to Kirsten), and very successful.

Other topics:

1. The Community Violence Prevention Bids are in, it was a very successful response with many many youth organizations bidding.
2. Stu followed up on the CEYJ all email he sent earlier this week about the new Georgetown Probation Transformation cohort that will be selected via a RFP process in January, and said that there was interest in a Vermont candidacy. He said that Amy responded to him with interest, and Elizabeth responded to him with the feedback that this should originate with DCF, but Lindy and Tyler didn't respond. Karen expressed feedback that this really needs to be in concert with DCF, while the CEYJ could be supportive, not sure how the CEYJ would did this on their own.