

CEYJ DRAFT Minutes April 16, 2026, via Zoom

Council Members Present: Peter Brown, Kate Hayes, Karen Vastine, Donn Hutchins, Sparks, Laurey Burris, Mike Loner, Katherine O’Day, Jessica Barquist, Stu Berry, Julia Brand, Linda Johnson, and Zoe Souder

Council Members Absent: Paul Groce, Mercedes King, and Hudson Ranney,

Staff Present: None

Public Present: None

Karen called the meeting to order at 10:35 am with a quorum present.

Welcome and Introduction:

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no public comments:

There was no legislative update.

NCJJ High End System of Care Project:

The Council discussed retaining NCJJ to quickly produce a list of short-term actions that could be taken to reduce the youth sight and sound violations that have increased dramatically and have resulted in a reduction in the SAG’s Federal funding. The recommendation is to amend an existing contract with NCJJ to add this work. NCJJ would function as a lead on the project and bring in consultants to support the work. The CEYJ has up to \$40,070 in FY 2022 dollars that can be utilized for this work; these funds must be utilized quickly. The CEYJ has a robust discussion of the pros, cons, and challenges of this work.

Motion: After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the use of up to \$40,070 in FY 2022 funds for consulting with NCJJ to quickly develop strategies to eliminate sight and sound violations as recommended by the Executive Committee. The CEYJ unanimously approved the motion with Sparks and Stu abstaining.

Mathematica:

Karen updated the CEYJ that Vanessa has left Mathematica and that Lauren will be assuming the project lead. Karen will be meeting with Lauren in the near future to discuss the transition and next steps.

Anne E Casey Application by DCF:

Karen and Stu overviewed the Family Engaged Case Planning Probation Transformation Project funded by the Anne E. Casey Foundation (Casey). Stu is a principal investigator for Casey on this project. DCF will be applying to be selected as a current cohort in this project. If successful in the selection process, DCF is asking for support to send staff, youth and family members and to fund stipends during the training led by Casey. The estimated cost to support DCF training is up to \$25,000 (see meeting materials). The CEYJ discussed the Casey project details and expenses, the importance of DHS's commitment, and the potential for the project to have an impact on probation practices in Vermont.

Motion: After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the use of up to \$25,000 of FY 24 funds to support DCF and program participants travel and related expenses as presented to participate in Family Based Case Planning Probation Transformation Project funded by the Anne E. Casey Foundation. The CEYJ unanimously approved the motion with Stu and Peter abstaining.

CEYJ Annual Planning Retreat:

Karen provided an overview of the 2026 Annual Planning Retreat. After discussion, CEYJ members were asked to hold Wednesday, August 5th and Thursday August 6th for the CEYJ Annual Planning Retreat.

CEYJ Road Map Part 2:

This discussion was postponed and CEYJ Committees were asked to review the alignment between the Road Map and their goals and objectives in the CEYJ Three Year Plan and identify any misalignment. The goal is for all committees to complete this work and report on it at the May Council meeting.

FY 2025 Place Holder Budget:

Donn overviewed exhibits in the meeting materials related the FY 2025 Place Holder Budget which needs to be submitted as part of the application to OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) by May 1st. He noted that due to Vermont's sight and sound violations, the CEYJ's FY 2025 funding levels of \$488,929 had been reduced by 20%, with 50% of the remaining funds to spent exclusively on addressing sight and sound violations.

Motion: After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the FY 2025 Place Holder Budget. The CEYJ unanimously approved the motion.

March 19 CEYJ Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion and second was made to approve the March 19, 2025 CEYJ Meeting minutes with the meeting attendance added. The CEYJ unanimously approved the motion with Sparks, Catherine and Mike abstaining.

Committee Report Out:

- **Governance:** Mike reported that the Governance Committee had not formally met since the last Council meeting. A Succession Planning Subcommittee of Mike, Karen and Donn has been formed.
- **Youth Services Committee.** Nothing to report. The Committee is meeting next week.
- **Systems Improvement Committee:** Kate reported that the 2 legislative bills the Committee is watching were stable. The Data Dashboard project will be part of the sight and sound compliance fund allocation in the FY 2025 Place Holder Budget.
- **ERD Committee:** Sparks reported that the committee has not met and will be meeting next week.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Karen adjourned the meeting at 12:09 pm.

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Agency of Human Services

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May 1, 2026

Eileen M. Garry, OJJDP Acting Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
999 N. Capitol St. NE
Washington, DC 20531

Subject: Pass-Through Waiver Request for FY25 Title II Formula Grant Program

Dear Administrator Garry,

The Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, request a pass-through waiver for our FY25 application. Our program aims to address noncompliance issues related to sight and sound separation violations. We plan to utilize a combination of pass-through subawards to local governments, nonprofits, and private agencies operating juvenile justice or delinquency prevention programs, alongside contractors or consultants with expertise in data systems and compliance monitoring training, and technical assistance. We believe this approach will effectively address and sustain the four core requirements of the JJRA.

Justification:

- a. In FY24, there was \$63,672 state expenditures and \$82,795 local expenditures. This was achieved because the awards for FY20 and FY21 were fully funded, while FY22 was reduced due to noncompliance.
- b. DCF maintains strong relationships with local nonprofits serving youth, such as Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ), Youth Development Program, and COMPASS. These organizations work directly with youth in foster care or youth involved in the justice system. Agreements are developed annually in consultation with these partners. For example, BARJ agencies participated in a three-part training series to address chronic absenteeism in schools, to address delinquency prevention. Additionally, DCF consults with the State Advisory Group (SAG/Council for Equitable Youth Justice), whose members represent various local agencies, including schools, youth services, advocacy groups, nonprofits, and businesses.
- c. DCF collaborates closely with the Judiciary and the Department of Corrections. The Judiciary provides data and coordinates the Interest of Justice hearings, while the Department of Corrections informs DCF about youth entering





their facilities and their ability to comply with the JJRA core requirements at the time of placement in the facility.

- d. At the time of this application, we informed the SAG Chair that we are slightly below the 66 2/3 percent funding requirement for local agencies. Formal discussions and a vote regarding the waiver will occur after the application submission. When programs are developed to address both the compliance plan and pass-through requirements, we will inform you promptly.

Regardless of whether funds are obligated for contractors/consultants or local agencies, the SAG and DCF ensure alignment with the SAG three-year plan while adhering to JJRA compliance requirements. Vermont receives the smallest (base) allocation which also factors into meeting the requirement. When non-compliance arises, expert advice is essential to help us, and community partners develop solutions that local agencies and state partners can implement.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri Lynn".

Sheri Lynn
Juvenile Justice Specialist, R/ED Coordinator
280 State Drive
Montpelier, VT 05671
802.798.6512

Cc:
Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner
Lindy Boudreau, Adolescent Services Director
Karen Vastine, Chair Council for Equitable Youth Justice



Council for Equitable Youth Justice Member and Committee Feedback



1. Please select from the list.

- I am a member of the CEYJ.
- I am a community member or a representative of an organization on a CEYJ Committee.

2. Please rank the following statements.

	Very Effectively	Somewhat Effectively	Neither Effective nor Ineffective	Somewhat Ineffective	Very Ineffective
How effective is CEYJ in its role to guide the CEYJ mission?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How effective is CEYJ in its role to guide strategic direction?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. What is CEYJ doing well (e.g., the Council's strengths)?

4. Where could the CEYJ improve?

5. Is there anything we should stop doing or do differently?

6. What additional resources of support would help you fulfill your role on the CEYJ?

7. Please recommend an individual to recruit to the council and add their name and contact information.

8. Please review the list and select all the times you are available to attend the Council's monthly meeting. The Council is considering changing the traditional schedule, which has been the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

- Tues AM
- Tues mid day
- Tues late afternoon
- Weds AM
- Weds mid day
- Weds late afternoon
- Thurs AM
- Thurs mid day
- Thurs late afternoon
- Sat AM
- Sat mid day
- Other

9. Please indicate the CEYJ committees you are a member of. Select all that apply.

- Executive Committee
- Ethnic and Racial Disparities
- Governance
- System Improvement
- Youth Engagement

10. Please rank the following questions about your role on CEYJ committee(s).

	Very effectively	Somewhat effectively	Neither effectively nor ineffectively	Somewhat ineffectively	Very ineffectively
How have the strengths you bring to the committee been utilized?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. What strengths do you bring to the committee?

12. What is the committee doing well (e.g., the committee's strengths)?

13. What areas do you feel could improve to better support the committee's effectiveness?

14. What additional resources or support would help you fulfill your role on the committee?

15. What brings you joy in your role on the committee?

16. Please add any additional information pertaining to your role as a member of the CEYJ or CEYJ committee.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

 Microsoft Forms

Memo

To: Karen Vastine and Sheri Lynn
From: Lauren Amos
Date: 5/1/2026 [REVISED: 5/12/2026]
Subject: CEYJ Consulting Services Contract Modification

The purpose of this memo is to outline the additional services and associated costs for a contract modification for Racial Equity consulting services (Contract #48466) for the CEYJ. The proposed activities, detailed below, will add up to \$129,976 to the current contract between May 2026 – September 30, 2027 (16 months).

Additional CEYJ Training

Upon request, Mathematica will conduct **up to 3 racial equity trainings** and **up to 2 data workshops**. Trainings will be led by Dr. Lauren Amos and Dr. Lama Hassoun Ayoub. The content of each training will be determined in collaboration with CEYJ and may include the development of pre- and post-meeting material. This training will build on previous sessions and cover topics to be determined in collaboration with the Council.

Technical Assistance

Upon request and as the need arises, TA activities conducted by Mathematica may include one or more of the following activities to support the work of the full council and committees such as:

- **Committee roadmap implementation** (such as the System Improvement Committee's development of a centralized, public-facing data dashboard to be hosted on the CEYJ website)
- **Strengthening and restructuring internal governance** (such as decision-making and clarifying roles and responsibilities)
- **Strengthening coordination and collaboration with key system partners.** Mathematica will provide consultative and coaching support to help the Council develop stronger relationships with key system partners such as local law enforcement and the courts to improve the quality of data collection on the demographic characteristics of justice-involved youth in Vermont. This might involve joining full council or committee meetings to brainstorm and develop stakeholder engagement and communication strategies.
- **Conducting racial equity impact analyses.** Mathematica will facilitate a racial equity impact analysis process to help the Council assess the potential positive and adverse impacts of prospective policy or program changes. The team will use an equity impact analysis process and tools developed by Mathematica. This process and tools were developed with funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services and so, the tools may be used by the Council at no cost. The process assumes that Mathematica will **facilitate up to 6 virtual sessions** to walk the

To: Karen Vastine and Sheri Lynn
From: Lauren Amos
Date: 5/1/2026 [REVISED: 5/12/2026]
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Council through each stage of the process and that Council members will complete the tasks associated with each stage in between sessions.

- **Participating in a CEYJ in-person retreat.** This modification will cover the cost of **one Mathematica team members participating in up to 2 in-person retreats or two Mathematica team members participating in one in-person retreat** on topics to be determined with the Council. Participation will include supporting retreat planning, developing materials, and travel costs (2 days, 1 night per retreat).

Reporting

Upon request, to support the Council's implementation of the road map developed under the current contract, Mathematica will **develop up to 3 deliverables** such as briefs (up to 5 pages each) or an end-of-project report (up to 30 pages).

Project Management

Under this modification, Mathematica's project management activities will continue to include:

- Ongoing client communication (such as a monthly client check-in call)
- Preparing a quarterly progress report (using a template provided by DCF) and invoice
- Contributing to DCF's Yearly Federal Programmatic Performance Report, as needed

Budget Presentation

Our budget for this add on modification totals \$129,976. We based the fixed unit prices used to estimate costs on prices set each calendar year. We also assume that we will be reimbursed based on our fixed unit pricing.

Task	Year 2	Year 3	Total Budget
Project Management	\$6,523	\$20,577	\$27,100
Training	\$10,838	\$24,753	\$35,591
Technical Assistance	\$17,025	\$41,214	\$58,239
Reporting		\$9,046	\$9,046
Total	\$34,386	\$95,590	\$129,976

This memo contains proprietary data which may be used only for evaluation and award purposes.

Mathematica

CEYJ Racial Equity Roadmap One Pager

Purpose

This roadmap synthesizes CEYJ's 2024–2025 equity learning series with Mathematica and outlines key priorities to advance racial equity across Vermont's youth justice system. It supports subcommittee planning, alignment with the 3-year plan, and near-term implementation.

CEYJ Pathway

- **Foundational (Sept 2024–Nov 2025):** Trainings, retreat, and 1:1 conversations built shared equity understanding.
- **Current (Nov 2025–Present):** Synthesizing learning and finalizing recommendations.
- **Future (Next):** Reducing disparities through governance, policy, data, and youth-centered strategies.

Mathematica Partnership

Mathematica supported CEYJ in building shared understanding of systemic racism and white supremacy culture, refining values, delivering seven equity trainings with accompanying member reflections, and reviewing policies, practices, and CEYJ's 3-year plan.

Key Areas of Future Work

1. Racial Equity Practices

Strengths: Deep commitment, willingness to learn, shared language development.

Challenges: Varying comfort discussing racism; inconsistent vocabulary.

Recommendations: Refresh glossary; apply racial equity impact analyses; use an intersectional race-poverty lens.

2. Internal Effectiveness & Governance

Strengths: Strong leadership, momentum on initiatives, successful RFPs.

Challenges: Role clarity, accountability, visibility of impact.

Recommendations: Onboarding packet; annual self-assessment; embed equity in decision-making; develop public dashboard.

3. Youth Justice Data Infrastructure

Strengths: Commitment to improving data quality; readiness for improved systems; strong cross-agency relationships.

Challenges: Incomplete race/ethnicity data; fragmented systems; limited actionable insights.

Recommendations: Partner with NCJJ; automate Judiciary transfers; strengthen law-enforcement reporting; build public dashboard (some options may not be feasible).

4. Youth & Family Engagement

Strengths: Expanded youth membership; leadership opportunities; youth-led surveys.

Challenges: Inconsistent inclusion; barriers such as transportation, scheduling, childcare.

Recommendations: Co-design tools; expand online programming; enhance diversion supports.

Next Steps

Short-term (0–6 months): Finalize roadmap; develop onboarding packet; refresh glossary.

Medium-term (6–18 months): Pilot equity impact analysis; automate data transfers; co-design engagement tools.

Long-term (18+ months): Launch public dashboard; integrate engagement practices statewide; evaluate and scale pilots.