

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**  
**a.k.a. Children and Families Council for Prevention Programs**  
**Meeting Agenda July 20<sup>th</sup> 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

In- Person at WSOC Cherry A 24 RmA209 or virtual

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Please notify [elizabeth.morris@vermont.gov](mailto:elizabeth.morris@vermont.gov) if you would like to participate in person

Members Present Virtually: Donn Hutchins, Julia Brand, Laurey Burris, Linda Johnson, Sparks, Karen Vastine, Katherine O’Day, Christopher Lukasik, Amy Davenport, Matt Wolf (Quorum 10/15).

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Stu Berry, Kirsten Kersey, Kreig Pinkham, Mike Loner

Guests Present Virtually: Elizabeth Morris (EM in-person at WSOC), Dave Richards, Kara Doherty, Jessica Barquist, Naomi Evans, Alona Tate, Wendy Love, Taylor Welch, Tyler Allen, Addie Lentzner

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Vote to approve the June Council Meeting notes. Motion. Seconded. Passed Unanimously.**

**Per Diem:**

[No. 134. An act relating to boards and commissions.](#) Gives the Council the ability to set a per diems, the act requires it to be **no less** than \$50. Conversations about a per diem rate for regular monthly meetings will continue at future meetings.

**Vote to set a per diem rate of \$100 for attendance at the August Retreat, given that members are not being paid by a different organization. Motion. Seconded. Passed Unanimously.**

**Mission Discussion:**

“What does it look like when we’re doing our best work?” OR “What would it look like when we’re doing our best work?”

Each Story should have each of the following aspects:

1. Who/What/Where
2. Action
3. Impact

Two Examples:

*The Council will implement an Intimate Partner Violence Accountability Program for Vermont emerging adults, providing crucial services to youth who have engaged or are at risk of engaging in violence, sexual violence or power and control behaviors in intimate-partner relationships. This program will fill a hole in programming and will reduce domestic violence charges.*

*In response to the DCF Proposed High End System of Care Plan, the Council collaborated quickly to effectively advocate/educate the legislature on concerns regarding the delay of the Raise the Age legislation.*

Members broke out into 4 different groups to discuss each of their stories and pick one salient story to report out to the full group on. The Council Retreat planning group will be taking the notes from these groups and drafting a Mission statement for review at the retreat.

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Please see notes from the groups below:

Group 1:

- In 2024 the Council will establish an effective youth voice protocol by analyzing alternatives and selecting a youth voice protocol so that unfiltered youth input from youth impacted by the juvenile justice system is received by the Council and its Committees prior to important decisions being made.

Group 2:

- Dave- Exploring interests of the kids and finding peer group mentors – find their passions and use that to model/ provide services
- Taylor- community mentorship program which focuses on shared lived experiences to help prevent recidivism with youth
- Jess- The council will advocate for evidence based best practices aligned with the principles of our work in the development of any new juvenile facility.
- The council will partner with other entities like the network to advocate for sustainable state funding for prevention programming across the state.
- Tyler: working on pulling together a stakeholder group and will think about adding council representation to that as well as providing updates on process in these meetings
- Tyler- Advocate around legislation to change the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction from 10 to 12. More than half of 10-11 youth charged are youth of color.
- Final report out:
- The council could focus on prevention broadly and advocate for sustainable state funding for a wide variety of prevention work with an emphasis on supporting mentorship programs that align youth with mentors who have shared lived experiences and/or shared interests

Group 3:

- Alona: the group struggled to find youth engagement- doing our best work would be exploring avenues to expand youth membership.
  - More engagement/advertisement
  - More community involvement
  - Inherent power dynamic- youth need to join based on their own will, not forced involvement.
  - Share their story- value.
- Kara:
  - Annoyed with the system and frustrated- youth isn't aware committees like ours exist so they can voice their experiences and concerns.
  - If they are feeling helpless in the system they aren't going to seek change unless they know their voice is valid in an organization
  - Agencies that connect with adolescents in different capacities
- Linda:
  - Communications person at DCF- to help get the word out
  - Ending racism- have coaches access to intensive self-reflective group work
  - Council will fund outreach to mentors... about how to help youth identify their goals- connect youth to CCV for free and extra support.
  - More youth will be on a path to adult hood.

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- The council will fund project selfie, which helps reduce the likelihood of abusing technology.
- Julia:

- ensuring there is affordable housing for domestic assault victims in VT.

Group 4:

- Amy: “The Council does its best work when, through advocacy and grants, it connects youth to age-appropriate services that reduce the risk of recidivism; reduce racial and ethnic disparities; and shield youth from the adverse impact of a criminal record.”
- Katherine liked it, but suggested that it should also include preventing youth from coming in to the system to begin with.
- Katherine felt that the Council does its best work when it engages in state level policy work using data and perspectives (of youth?) to advocate for policy change, e.g. the Council’s work on raise the age.
- Christopher felt that the Council does its best work through programming, policy work and systemic advocacy.
- Karen felt that the Council did its best work when it collaborated to form a response to DCF’s proposal for a high-end system of care. She was particularly proud of the fact that the Council called out the racist statements in the last paragraph of the proposal.
- Wendy commented on the importance of using data to effect change.

**Please remember, the August retreat is a potluck! Please bring a non-dessert food option.**