



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 Agenda
March 20, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Public Location: 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT
Approved April 17, 2025**

Members Present:

Karen Vastine, Jessica Barquist, Donn Hutchins, Amy Davenport, Zoe Souder, Julia Brand, Linda Johnson, Mike Loner, Henri Sparks, Laurey Burris, and Paul Groce

Members Absent:

Katherine O'Day, Matt Wolf, Stu Berry, Hudson Ranney

Partners Present: Sheri Lynn

Reschedule June meeting

- June 19th is state holiday and Karen ask about moving the meeting to June 26 meeting and training with Mathematic.
- Next Step: Council members please send RSVP to June 26 invitation. If it doesn't work, we can look at another date.

Updates

- Solicitation FFY 2025: Sheri reports there is a possibility for an earlier release of solicitation which may be staggered: requested earlier information and then full solicitation.
- FFY 2024: There was one violation of sight and sound separation reported which means a 20% reduction and 50% of the remaining budget is delegated to corrective action. Karen notes because an immediate corrective action takes place there is no need to report this. DCF is worked to gain full funding.

Vote Meeting Minutes Jan 13 and Feb 20, 2025: Donn motions to accept both minutes and Amy seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

FFY 2021 Budget Overview and Vote

- Proposed projects for unobligated funds
- Committee's report on priorities:
 - Zoe reports the Youth Services committee wants to target youth centers with existing contracts to obligate/ expend funds and send untapped funds to other committees like BARJ to address truancy issues. Karen reports the Hub would ask for \$10,000 for staff.
 - Amy reports the first study CRG completed was a benchmark for recidivism in the criminal system. This new study would look at what happens in the family system for 3-year periods following their disposition in the family system (e.g., did they commit another crime). The purpose of the study is to see if the 18-year-olds in the family system have lower recidivism than the youth in the criminal system. Cost projected at \$27,000- \$30,000. This requires a draft RFP and simplified bid process. The RFP could include other indicators to measure.
 - Karen shared goals across Ethnic and Racial Disparities (E/RD) and Systems Improvement (SI) committees: to correct challenges with collecting data, and the effort that the council has worked on for years. Youth filings in family court have missing race information. Build an IT solution so that

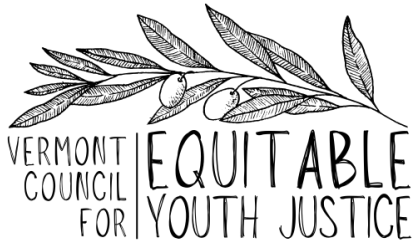


The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

- the race must be entered to file in the system. Amy talked to Justine Cohen who is supportive of this, and he will check with the IT division to be on board with this. Process is a MOU inter-governmental (MOU) and transfer of funds. Sparks reports there was a lot of enthusiasm among E/RD committee with some questions to consider in building the timeline/agreement.
- Sparks E/RD committee: reports the Burlington School District and Burlington Community Justice Center set out to reduce race and ethnic disparities among youth who are suspended. Based on the consultant's recommendations, the proposal is to look at youth threat assessment differently through racial lens and how it impacts conducting assessments (e.g., training staff).
 - Other proposals: Karen reports that originally Mathematic would provide training in year 1 and year 2. After speaking with Vanessa, it was decided that it is feasible to accelerate the year 2 training and sustainability work: additional training in June; 2-day retreat; action plan; toolkit; interactive website; data dive. The purpose of the 2-day retreat in August is to work in person and have more time with Mathematica. BARJ was another area to support raising the age efforts and truancy (training, etc.) – Lindy will follow up with information after speaking with the organizations this week.
 - Amy mentions at the Raise the Age Testimony someone testified the need for training in the field for working with emerging adults - possible training to DCF. Sheri adds, the original thought was training for her. Zoe Chats, our case coordinators, found the Youth Thrive training helpful for working with transition aged youth
 - Discussion Linda asks to look at all DCF contracts. Suggested contracts: VT Federation for Families and Children's Mental Health; residential treatment programs for youth with substance abuse addiction; Laraway and /or the Living Learning Center; Mentoring Programs; PCAVT for Trafficking Prevention Training and Project Selfie in High Schools and other programs for older youth; Capstone vocational training programs swerving older youth; Center for Health and Learning Suicide Prevention; Pride Center for school-based training for older youth.
 - **Action Step:** Karen will send an email to DCF with the table.
- Motion: To approve the conceptual framework for the expenditure of the FFY 21 funds with the understanding the Executive Committee will continue to work on details. Amy motion to approve and Jessica seconds. Donn, do we have the go ahead to spend the funds? Authority to act and implement and spend.
 - Amend the motion Amy first/Jessica second: To authorize, act and implement the FFY21 expenditure of the funds as indicated in the chart and authorize the EC to act on the council's behalf to resolve any issues to the exact amounts. Motion Passes (Amy abstains from the project Judiciary).
- **Recruitment for Council and E/RD Committee:** To reconvene the Governance Committee Karen ask who is interested in being on the committee. Zoe and Jessica are flexible after 4:30 if possible, Laurey, Mike if there is a number he can drop out, Donn, Katherine, Julia, and Amy. First meeting to determine a chair.

CJJ Conference Participation and Vote

- Proposal: four council members for the youth summit; four council members for the annual conference; plus, Sheri. Karen and Zoe met with 2 new youth summits.
- Motion Donn motions to approve to send four council members and four council members to the annual conference and Laurey second's the motion. The motion passes (all present in favor, Amy stepped away).



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.

- Hill Visits: Karen asks if we should do this. Linda, yes, they need our support. Donn agrees with government relations contact over time and continuing to stress issues. Suggestion, take new people. Jessica will follow up with Senator Welch to meet a group.

Debrief Exercise from Mathematica

- **Action Step:** Get together with accountability buddy in the next 2 weeks.

Any additional business raised by council members.

- J reports that half of the council has responded to the youth engagement survey. Everyone is encouraged to complete a survey.
- **Action Step:** Karen will send out the youth survey and reminder about the accountability buddy work.
- Zoe reports the YS committee discussed an orientation document (what could it include) and talked about storing information (where to store it). Amy experimented with software on other boards. Laurey, how independent can we be where we put the information given the statute? Karen responds the council meets the requirements by posting the minutes and agenda. These would be documents or orientation that do not live in a public space.
- Zoe talked about google drive and SLACK (team communication platform) or website member login in. Karen is prohibited from using google docs.
- Donn suggests the council deal with the FFY 22 and FFY 23 for the next 3 months.

12:00 Motion passes to adjourn.