

CEYJ Approved 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.