

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 January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:30-1:00  
Approved March 20, 2025**

Attended:

- Members: Donn Hutchins, Laurey Burris, Zoe Souder, Linda Johnson, Matt Wolf, Henri Sparks, Katherine O'Day, Karen Vastine, Julia Brand, Amy Davenport, Stu Berry, Paul Groce, Mike Loner, Christopher Lukasik, Jessica Barquist
- Guests: Tyler Allen, Alissa Shethar,

Not in Attendance:

- Hudson Ranney

11:15: Welcome/Updates

- OJJD Related Updates
- 22 Budget Approved.
- Consultant RFP Draft is underway with technical edits remaining.
- 23 Budget also approved.
  
- Annual Report – Check-in
- End of Year Report.
- Executive committee will review next month prior to Council vote. February submission goal.
  
- Coordinator Hiring
- Tyler updates status of Coordinator. Candidate found to be in good standing and DCF has offered the position. Tyler will update Karen with the outcome of offer.

General Updates:

- SB: Listened to Lael providing overview of data and values associated with JJ initiatives in SI committee. Casey Family Engagement Project is well aligned to values. Would encourage Vermont to apply to be a part of the second cohort for Casey project. Can provide an opportunity to embed some of the needed changes in practice. Will be 6 modules in person over one week- a training team 6-8 people total. Stu will keep group updated. Committee updated that Lael Chester met with SI committee to share her thoughts and grounding related to VTs efforts to address Juvenile Justice Jurisdictional changes.
- CL: On February 7, Christopher will leave position Windham Cty SAS to go to federal position. He will remain on with Council as long as it is allowable.
- LJ: PCAVT Hiring for a new ERD. Linda is hoping to stay on to CEYJ as long as possible too.

11:30 Notes Approval – November and December

- DH moves to approve Nov Minutes. SB 2nds. Hudson Ranney must be added as not attending. Karen Abstains. Minutes Approved
- DH Moves to approve December minutes. LB Seconds. CL and SB Abstain. Minutes Approved.
- Needs to Engage Hudson, suggests texting as an effective communication.

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### 11:35 Mathematica Session

Question- what were some highlights, or things to change for session with Mathematica?

- MW- Some technical challenges for the team. but the process was helpful. Reflecting on Experience at the start. Small group reflection. Overall, felt like there wasn't enough time for the depth of conversation.
- KV- In debrief- tech issues were discussed. The tech became distracting.
- LB- Acknowledged that different people process things differently. The Group did well to process verbally.
- ZS- Open to the idea of more homework heavy assignments. Formative work done outside of meeting.
- CL- Doesn't disagree with ZS but offers counterpoint that we need to be aware that some members are using worktime only. There may be a challenge to heavy homework.
- KV- This was personal and deep information. Pre-prompt may work for well for some members.
- MW- Agrees that some time to process would be richer
- DH- Concerns about the length of time between meetings. It is hard to "put down and pick up". Can we have other creative strategies- it may be too late to condense meetings. It's planned for even numbered months? That would interfere with CEYJ business.
- SB- Agrees that training should be more frequent. For some trainings space between is helpful for "practice". RE doesn't work that well. However. Too late to shift schedule
- TA- suggests including some RE time in each odd numbered month meeting with any homework or prompts.
- ZS- Suggests one document with resources included in one place to help jog memories.
- KV Reflects on the courage of CEYJ members in showing up with Authenticity.

### 12:05 Legislative Session

H.2 Dropped last week. Proposes raising Min age from 10 to 12. HJ is taking testimony on that this week. They will also be discussing RTA. It has been requested that RTA to include 19 year olds from 201 be repealed.

SB- Do they have to offer rationale?

CL- Short answer is no- but the legislative process needs to happen.

SB- What is the cited evidence that including 19 year olds is a threat to public safety.

LJ- Acknowledges that the executive branch employees need to speak the executives position

CL- Speaks to DCFs capacity to properly serve at a high level of care the entirety of the population that may come to the sole supervision of DCF. On the other side- It is also counterproductive to mace emerging adults into older adult services. There is valid public safety risks. It is not just governors, there are also many legislators who express concern about public safety. These recommendations are not coming to SAS- this is probably coming more from DPS.

KV- Strong headwinds right now regarding JJ. Recently LA has actually lowered the age of maximum Juvenile Jurisdiction. Representation of a prosecutor and Victims advocate are important for the CEYJ of the future.

### 12:20: Committee Report-Outs

- System Improvement

Updates included in Leg Session above.

Lael Chester and Marshall Paul met with committee and had a productive meeting.

- Ethnic & Racial Disparities

No update yet. ERD committee meets next week

- Youth Services

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Officially holding an election at the next Meeting J and Zoe will be running for Co-chair. Last meeting was about getting acquainted with the members. In planning and transition phase.

12:50: Adjourn

Donn, Laurey, Zoe, Lind Johnson, Matt, Sparks, Katherine, Karen, Julia, Alissa