

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 Notes March 21, 2024, 10:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

Met via zoom (members able to be present at WSOC if they desire)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85334702349?pwd=a5wx9ur3u9PvBZM2FZte6MEgScFyw1.1>

Members present: Karen Vastine, Linda Johnson, Donn Hutchins, Matt Wolf, Laurey Burris, Stuart Berry, Katherine O’Day, Mike Loner, Christopher Lukasik
Partners present: Kreig Pinkham, Elizabeth Morris, Tyler Allen, Matthew Bernstein, Zoe Souder, Lauren Higbee, Jessica Barquist
Members missing: Amy Davenport, Julia Brand, Sparks

Welcome, Agenda Review, introductions & updates:

- July 18th – Tentative Retreat Date. This doesn’t work for Jessica and Stu. Other alternatives suggested at the time for July weren’t immediate resolutions for everyone present – this is still TBD. Ideally, we won’t meet in August.
- CJJ Conference Update: VOTE to send an individual to the upcoming youth conference. CJJ merged the annual conference with the youth one, so while they are two separate tracks, they are at the same dates and in D.C. Given that, and the discussion last month for the intend to send 2 people to the youth conference, we should increase how many go to both conferences at the end of May. **Motion for up to 7 people to attend CJJ’s May conferences. Motion Seconded. Unanimous. Approved.**
- Other updates:
 - Stu – has been working on a tool for youth and family violence for years. A Lucas County Juvenile Justice team was formed to explore the notion of developing and validating a Typology/Classification tool. The most relevant risk factors were defined and molded to create a typology tool for juvenile’s engaging in sexual crimes. The team completed the first draft of the typology in late 2015. Recognizing the lack of a comparative tool, help was enlisted by academic researchers from the University of Colorado and Bowling Green State University who assisted with the validation process. This is a significant movement for JJ as it has now been validated.
- April is child abuse prevention month and May is youth appreciation month.

Meeting notes approval:

- **Motion to approve February meeting notes. Seconded. Unanimous. Approved.**

Legislative Education Proposal Sheet:

Please see the proposed questions that would be required to be answered for CEYJ movement on legislation.

**Council for Equitable Youth Justice
Legislative Proposal**

1. Describe the opportunity or issue to be addressed.
2. Provide the current language in legislation.
3. Describe our proposed change or addition to the legislation.
4. Describe the rationale.
5. Describe priorities or any relevant current/past work that the Council is doing connected to this.

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Some additions/comments:

1. Can we specifically call out a DEI question about how this impacts the most marginalized populations?
2. What is the timing of the request?
3. This should not only be for legislation, but also for policy changes.

With the changes that we've discussed, making it legislative/policy, and the addition of the two questions, do we agree?

Motion to approve the form with the additions. Seconded. Passed. Unanimous.

Proposal of Funds for Consultant:

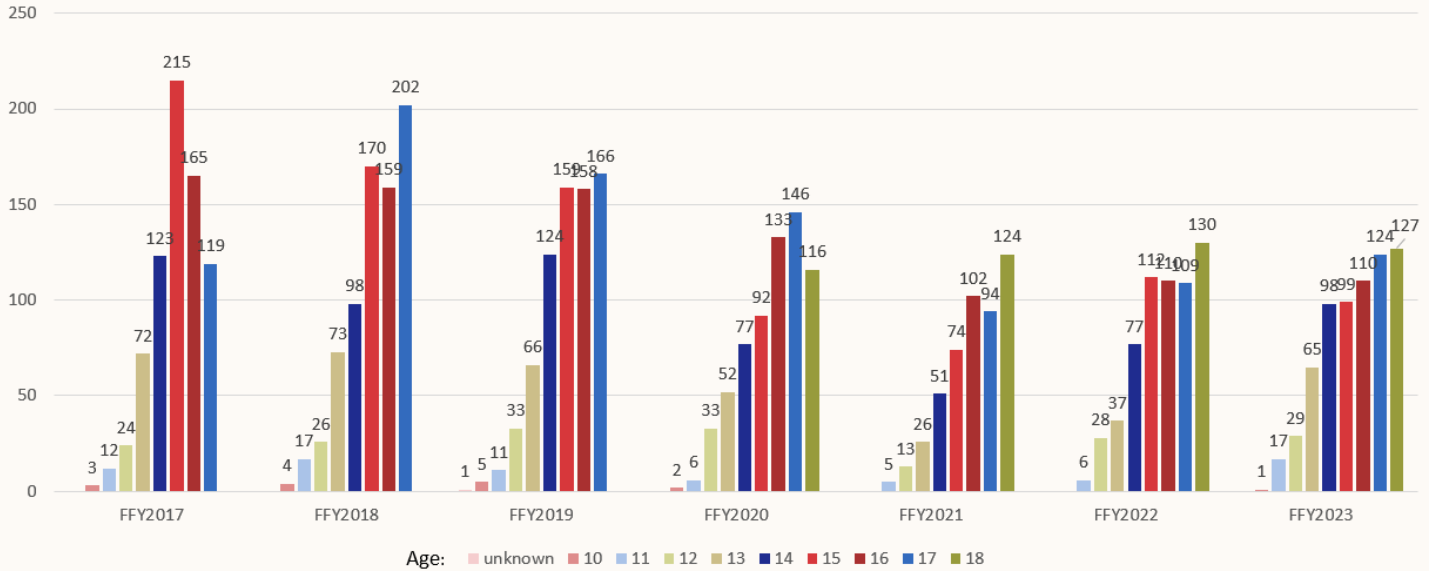
- For background, we are required to spend \$241,570 "addressing" the problem of sight and sound separation in Vermont. Please see the proposal in the meeting materials.
- When RTA passed, DCF was provided with about \$125,000 to hire a consultant (This was the justice lab with Lael Chester).
- Stu: The focus should be on the least restrictive and avoiding the pitfall of "if we build it they will come." If we can be the conscience of that, recognizing that our interest is not in building places for youth to be, The danger with placements, legal requirement.
- While System Improvement did review this and approved it during their March meeting, this was theoretically brought to the group a little out of order in that it wasn't organically from the SI committee.
- Have we been out of violation since? We were out of violation for FFY2021 (which impacted FFY2022 funding), not out of violation for FFY2022 (so FFY2023 grant was in full), unfortunately for FFY2023 time period we only have a .66% violation rate per \$100,000 youth ages 10-18, and we know we have one violation to report, so we will be out of violation for FFY2023 (and thus impact the FFY2024 grant).
- Are we working in step with the state on this? I think this is the intent, but just want to make sure. Yes, we are.
- This not only helps prevent S&S issues with delinquent youth who keep going accidentally to adult facilities, but also helps address our issue with the new IOJ hearings. We are federally required to have these hearings within 6 hours for a youth charged as an adult, but the state can only accommodate the next business day. In the future there is a risk that we will see more issues with penalization of those violations. This addresses the S&S issue with DOC but also will help with that issue as well – if there is a juvenile secure location for juveniles charged as adults, they won't need to go to an adult facility in the immediate.

Motion to approve the proposed use of funds. Seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

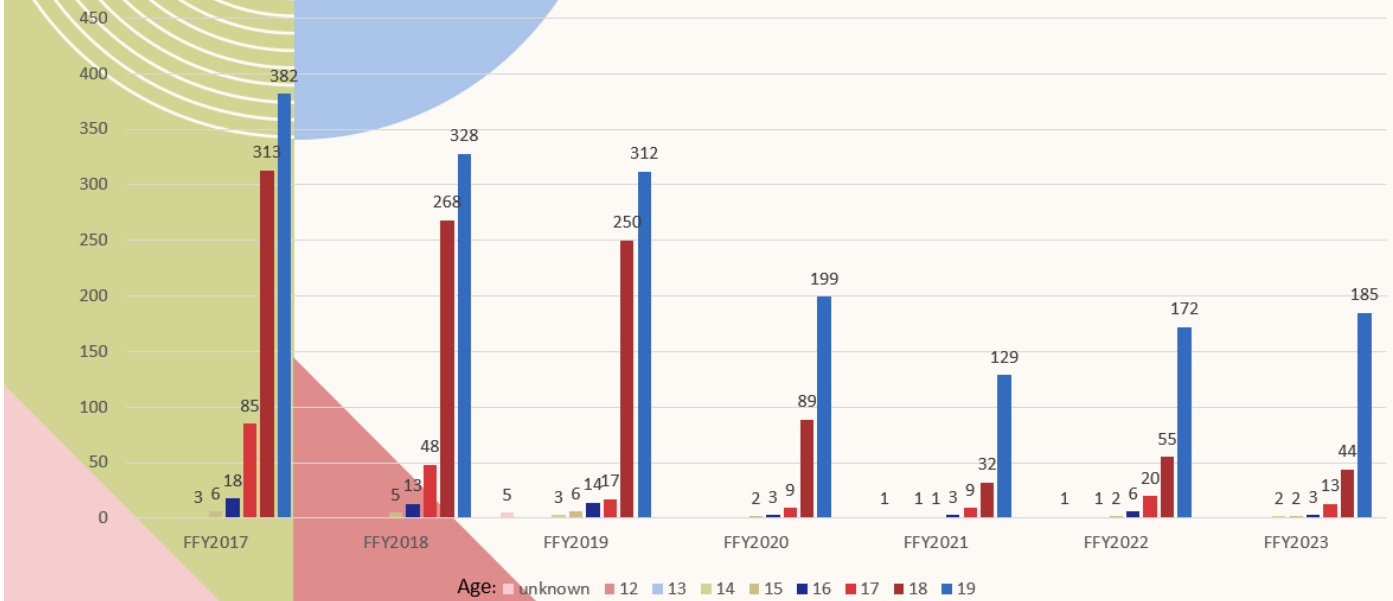
Youth Judiciary Data Continuation:

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DELINQUENCY FILINGS OVER TIME



CRIMINAL FILINGS OVER TIME



- Request for next month to have the total of the filings over time, instead of separating it out by age as part of the data review.

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- There are a lot of things to keep in mind when reviewing the data – including implementation of 18-year-olds in juvenile court jurisdiction, a new judiciary database in the middle of this time, the fact that this is court filings and not individuals, and that there were Youthful Offender law changes that could have implications for how State’s Attorney’s made charges. Finally, don’t forget COVID!

Three Year Plan Template:

Committees can take this and work with it going forward. Members felt like this was a great format for continuation of mapping out the goals.

Goals: broad statements that identify the proposed plan’s intended short- and long-term results, are derived from the crime analysis, and respond to the identified needs and problems.	Objectives: specific, actionable, and quantifiable statements that further define each goal and specify the means to measure program performance.	Path for achieving goals: (1) describe goals and objectives, (2) indicate the priority ranking for each goal, and (3) briefly explain how the state proposes to accomplish them.	Activities and Programs: describe the activities, services, and projects proposed over the course of the 3-year plan to attain each goal and its subsidiary objectives.
Improve Juvenile Justice System/Improve sustained compliance with OJJDP Core Requirements		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	
Juvenile Justice system is more racially equitable. (Our RED plan will specify this further.)		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	
Youth are actively engaged in their communities— participating in initiatives and programs that promote civic participation, social responsibility, and community development.		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	
		1. 2. 3.	

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Committee Updates:

1. ERD Committee
 - a. Working on their goals (recruiting new members, gathering feedback directly from youth regarding the current programming to BSD).
2. YS Committee
 - a. Working on Youth Resource Map
 - b. The DCF Youth Summit will be focused on truancy, so the YS will no longer be holding their conference in the fall given that the target attendees and topic were the same.
 - i. Some feedback – while this might feel like a letdown/concerning development, you guys will find a great way to move forward with this work in a different avenue.
3. SI Committee
 - a. Reviewed the proposal for a consultant as discussed earlier in the meeting.
4. Governance Committee
 - a. Two things will be coming to you in the next month for a vote.
 - i. The biggest is the recommendation that the by-laws state that officer elections occur at the Council's summer retreat in person – this will mean a much easier process than trying to do it virtually.
 - ii. The Committee section of the Bylaws has new language, nothing revolutionary but answers the question of “when do we need the committee to vote,” what that looks like, etc.