

CEYJ Minutes May 21, 2026 via Zoom

Council Members Present: Peter Brwon, Kate Hayes, Karen Vastine, Donn Hutchins, Sparks, Laurey Burris, Mike Loner, Jessica Barquist, Stu Berry, Julia Brand, Zoe Souder, Linda Johnson

Council Members Absent: Paul Groce, Mercedes King, Hudson Ranney, Mike Lone, Katherine Hayes

Staff Present: None

Public Present: None

Karen called the meeting to order at 10:04 am without a quorum present.

Welcome and Introduction:

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no public comments.

Updates:

- **Legislative:** Jessica gave a brief legislative update. H642 which deals with Youthful Offender Proceedings, has gone to Conference Committee with what are perceived as minor differences over youthful offender participation in their proceedings.
- **Other:** Stu gave an update on the Anne E Casey selection for the 2026 cohort of the Family Engaged Case Planning Project for which DCF has applied. Four of six 2026 cohort participants have been selected, and Vermont is in the running for one of the two remaining 2026 cohort positions. Stu reported that the proven ability to fund stipends for program participants in the program was a critical factor in the selection process.

A Quorum was established.

Council Business:

- **Motion:** Karen requested and received a motion to approve the CEYJ's April 16th Meeting Minutes. The CEYJ unanimously approved the motion.
- Karen confirmed that the Annual Planning Retreat will be Thursday, August 6th at Silver Lake State Park in Barnard.
- **Motion:** Karen overviewed and responded to questions on the need for retroactive approval for a Pass-Through Waiver Request for the FY25 Title II Formula Grant Program that had been reviewed by the Officers and submitted to OJJD on May 1st. The letter outlining the Waiver Request was included in the meeting materials. Karen asked for and received a motion and a second to retroactively approve the Pass-Through Waiver Request. The motion passed unanimously.

- Karen overviewed and led a short discussion on CEYJ Feedback Survey included in the meeting materials.

Mathematica:

- Karen gave an overview and led a discussion about extending Mathematica's current contract to cover additional work with the CEYJ as outlined in the meeting materials. Mathematica will provide up to three additional workshops and related technical assistance for the CEYJ's Racial Equity work and Roadmap Development. Discussion centered on the need for additional focus on governance practices and internal council processes in the work. It was also suggested that the project management costs be reviewed.

Karen left the meeting and Jessica assumed the chair.

Roadmap Discussion and Committee Reports:

- Kate gave the Systems Improvement Committee update. The Committee is focusing on diversion; usage, opportunities and inconsistencies. The Committee has also begun work on developing a data dashboard. During discussion the concept of "Second Chance Diversion" was mentioned and Kate spoke of potential progress on the HESOC program and related efforts.
- Zoe gave the Youth Committee Update. The committee continues its work to strengthen internal governance processes. She mentioned the need to consider optional future CEYJ meeting times. She mentioned Elevate Youth was supporting the HESOC youth survey and three listening sessions and working with DHS to resolve participant compensation procedures. The Youth Voice RFP was recently awarded to the Moss Group and initial contract work will begin soon. The Committee is also interested in diversion practices and ensuring that there is equal access to diversion through a racial equity lens.
- The ERD Committee has not met in April and did not report.
- The Governance Committee is continuing to work on developing a succession planning process for the CEYJ.

Adjournment:

There being no further business Jessica adjourned the meeting at 10:58 pm.