



Our mission is to: prevent youth legal system involvement, shield youth from the adverse impact of a criminal record, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, and reduce the risk of reentering the system.

Council for Equitable Youth Justice

Draft Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting

Public Location Waterbury State Office Complex, 280 State Drive, Waterbury

June 18, 2026, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance

- Karen Vastine, Paul Groce, Sparks, Kate Hayes, Donn Hutchins, Stu Berry, Katherine O'Day, Mike Loner, Linda Johnson, J Brand, Jessica Barquist, and Peter Brown

Absent

- Mercedes King, Zoe Souder, Hudson Ranney

Call to Order

- Karen called the meeting to order at 10:37

Welcome and Introductions

- Public Comments: no one

Updates

- [Goddard College Event](#) with Artist & Abolitionist Patrisse Cullors
- Legislative – Governor signed H 642 that had revisions to youthful offender program.
- DCF update –
 - Vermont accepted into Family Case Engagement Planning Cohort: Stu will be the coach for Vermont with other youth and family experts with Anne E Casey Foundation. Asked how council feels about Stu being the coach for Vermont for 1 or 2 years and role on council?
 - Decision: Discuss the implications at the executive committee.
 - Action Step: Arrange quarterly updates from DCF
 - New compliance monitor starts June 29 and will meet with the council at the next meeting.
- Ken Schatz and Karen will present at the Oct 13 – 15 in Pittsburgh PA at the CJJ Youth Justice Action.



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Council Business

- Votes:
 - May 21 Minutes: Motion to approve May 21, 2026, minutes (handout) The motion passes (1 abstain).
 - Mathematic Amendment Scope of Work (handout): Motion to approve the Mathematic scope of work through Sept 30, 2028. The motion passes (2 abstain).
 - Leadership Model (handout): Motion to move that the CEYJ act to amend its bylaws to establish a new Leadership Pipeline Model as presented to the full Council at our meeting on June 18. This includes the addition of an optional Chair-Elect position.
 - Discussion about the process to create a chair elected position that would be elected and then they would shadow the current chair before taking over. Limit of 3, one-year terms
 - We could amend the bylaws to extend terms
 - Discuss possible barriers although the concept intends to open doors for those who feel they don't have the knowledge and they receive (support).
 - Recognition that the board does not have full-time staff and the value of leadership support.
 - Next steps: Donn, Mike and Karen will work on the bylaws. Once it is ready, council members will receive a notice over email and plan to vote on the retreat.
- July schedule: decision to skip the Council meeting in July and encourage committees to take off in July or August.
- Retreat: Aug 6, Silver Lake, Barnard, VT
 - Discussed rescheduling date to have time to develop 3 or 4 priorities for the High-End System of Care (HESOC).
 - Youth members have opportunity to provide input on HESOC through focus groups and as youth members on the Council.
- Officer Nomination Process/Timeline
 - Vote at retreat and warn it 30 days in advance.
 - Nominations by July 2 to Donn and Sheri. Please talk to nominee beforehand.
 - Warn the vote by email 1 month before the retreat.
- Council Survey: reminder to complete by June 24 to provide input about what is working well and areas to improve upon. Report on results of retreat.

Committee Report Out

- Governance: Worked on the succession leadership pipeline plan. Have not been able to meet recently as a committee.
- Youth Services: Decided to meet monthly with the youth engagement contractor. Shared about the HESOC focus groups.

- System Improvement: Met with Hartford Restorative Justice and DCF about the Circles of Peace for Youth (Domestic Violence and Accountability Program) which have more referrals and some youth completing the program. Grant ends Sept 30, 2026, and a small group will discuss what to do last. Will discuss the work of the HESOC project and follow through on the data dashboard. Meeting with Willa Ferral to discuss diversion in July.
- Ethnic & Racial Disparities: Cancel meetings due to a lack of quorum.

Other items:

- CCJ conference:
 - Council of State Advisory Group: good meeting about data youth crime going down
 - Action step: gathers the rest of the takeaways from the attendees and send them out to the Council

Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourn at 11:46