

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 November 16th, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88472955387?pwd=J2OxK8WRlXjUbNnu1dwMeLF2XcwXDB.1>

In- Person at the WSOC lobby focus room or virtual.

Members In attendance: Amy Davenport, Karen Vastine, Donn Hutchins, Laurey Burris, Linda Johnson, Kreig Pinkham, Kirsten Kersey, Sparks, Matt Wolf

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Julia Brand, Stuart Berry, Katherine O’Day, Mike Loner, Christopher Lukasik

Partners In attendance: Elizabeth Morris, Tyler Allen, Lauren Higbee, Jessica Barquist, Taylor Welch-Plante

Re-appointment Notification:

- Most Council members have terms expiring in February 2024, and will need to re-apply. Only members who do NOT need to re-apply are Matt, Christopher, and Julia. Please click [here](#) for more information on applying.
- This process is significantly more detailed than previously, so please plan accordingly!

Racial Equity Consultant RFP Update: Karen and Elizabeth just need to review the quarterly programmatic reporting that will accompany the invoices, and then the Council will have completed everything needed for it to be posted!

Agenda Review: There has been a lot going on in our system since we last met, much of which has been publicly reported on in the news. We are looking to discuss and think through how that impacts our priorities, especially given the requirements from OJJDP to focus on addressing our violation of sight and separation.

Motion for approval of October Meeting Notes. Seconded. Unanimous. Passed.

High End System of Care (HESOC) Update and Discussion: For reference, please see the Council’s response to last year’s HESOC plan [here](#).

- Tyler Allen to present on the HESOC. Tyler used the PowerPoint found [here](#), which was also used on October 26th by Commissioner Winters and Deputy Commissioner Radke in testimony to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the newly formed Facility Planning for Justice-Involved Youth Public Meeting.

Some Questions that were raised to Tyler during that conversation:

1. Feels like we’ve been waiting forever for the supreme court decision regarding Newbury, what is the timeline?
Tyler: We were expecting a decision this month.
2. What is the ideal length of stay at one of these stabilization programs versus the rest stop?
Tyler: The rest stop is less than an hour. We’ve had situations where we are staffing an in perpetuity and it is a huge issue. Kids aren’t getting their needs met. Crisis stabilization is probably 14 days or less. Depot programs should be 30 days or less. Short term secure treatment means 4-6 months. That is still short term in the residential world, since 8-12 month is a typical placement.
3. Will there be any legal/court requirements for placing children/youth in these new locked facilities? Knowing that we have some laws in place for the first level, what are the requirements for other placements?
Tyler: They have to be delinquent youth, it can’t be a CHINS case, they need to be post dispositional placement. Before we had the 8-day requirement that said it was appropriate that the youth is in place, I think that’s got to be part of the process.

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4. Would be helpful if we could see the breakdowns of the alternative stuffings (i.e. rest stop). Who is a delinquent youth versus a CHINS youth?
5. Elevate youth has been working to transform the DOC to DCF agreement and look at a lower age group by July. Trying to narrow in on what program DCF needs. Karen: Maybe it would be appropriate for Elevate Youth to be part of the HESOC task force?

Discussion After Tyler left:

- There are a lot of different contractors and programs, and lots of concerns about who is overseeing the quality of the work of that work.
- Also, conversation about how contractors can say no to youth in their programming, but DCF staffs couldn't.
- RLSI is a unit that does licensing within the state, but it can be a conflict of interest when they are monitoring a program run by the state.
- Hire a consultant for this work!
- Seems like we are in general consensus that we shouldn't be fighting OJJDP regarding the requirement to address our sight/sound issues (i.e. the high end system of care problems), and instead be assisting the problem? What we can spend the money on will all depend on what OJJDP views as "addressing the problem." Verbally, we've been told that there will be flexibility, but never know for sure.
- Perhaps we should have a couple of us join a conversation join a grant officer/Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (OJJDP's Technical Assistance Provider).

Current Events and their impact on our priorities:

- FFY2022 Funding Review and Compliance requirements with Elizabeth. Please see the below PPT!

Council FFY2022 Overview

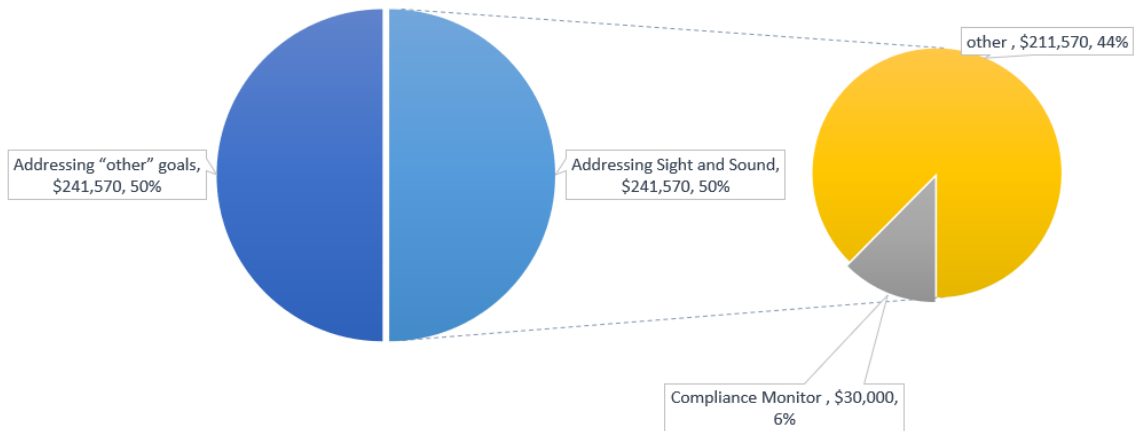
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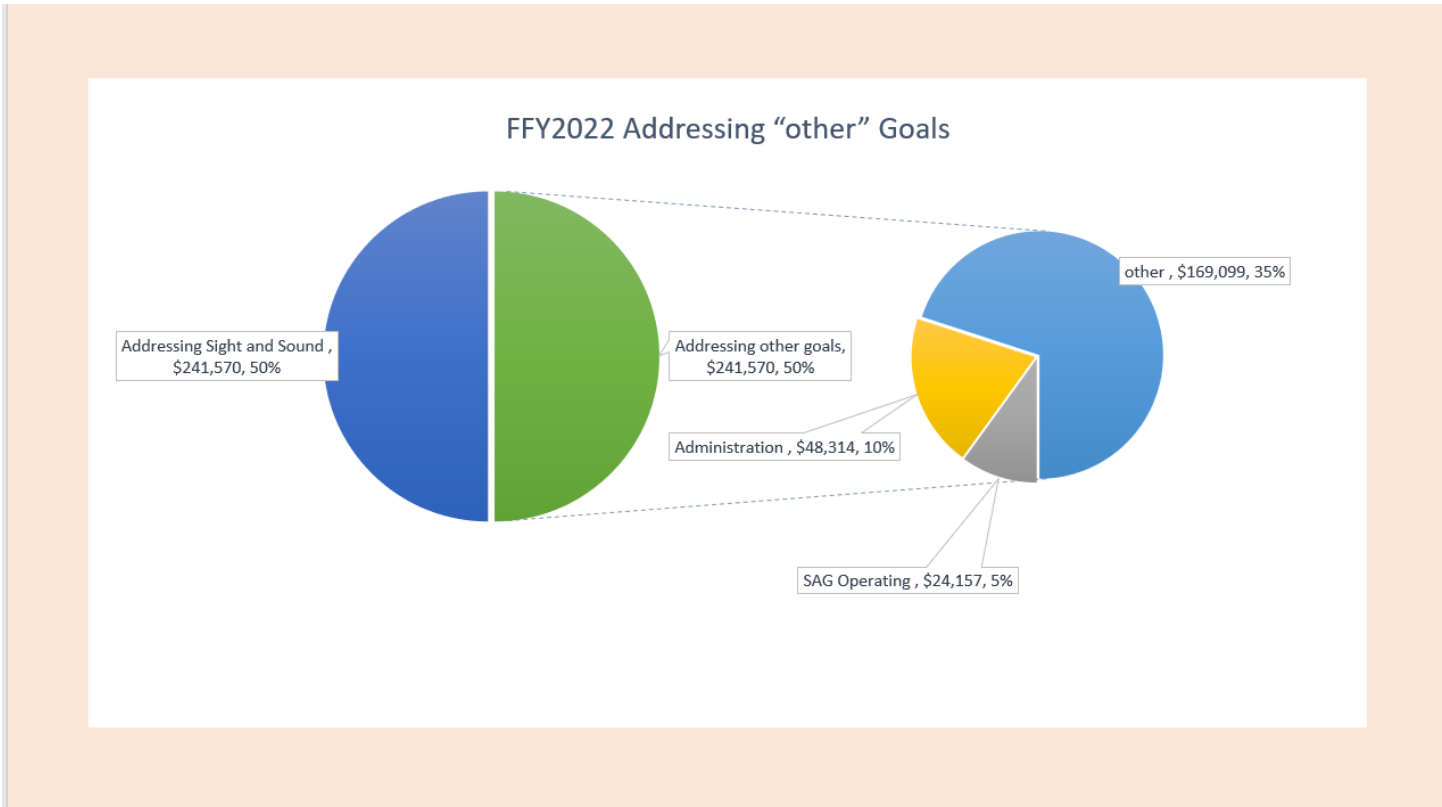
FFY2022 Title II Funds



FFY2022 Sight and Sound



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- Overall, it looks like we will have approximately \$211,000 to “address” the HESOC, and \$169,000 for our other goals.
- It was noted that the \$211,000 is not a lot of funding when it comes to talking about facility building, etc. How can we address the problem creatively?
- With our next three-year plan due to the Department of Justice in the spring/summer, it may mean refocusing our priorities and even creating a specific goal on this – just because we have to spend a minimum of \$211,000 on this, doesn’t mean we can’t spend more on it.

Committee Updates

Youth Services Committee Update:

- Youth Drop-in scoring is moving forward! We received bids and are now working with a group of youth to score the bids that we received.
- We already approved a \$100 per diem for the Council retreat in August. YS is suggesting a \$100 per diem for Council meetings, given that this primarily will be for youth.
- **Motion to increase the \$50 per diem for Council Meetings to \$100.** Since the state statute now says that per diem has to be a minimum of \$50, and the Commissioner’s office has advised that we set our own rate while a legislative group researches the new per diem amount that will be recommended (maybe in this upcoming session?)
Seconded. Unanimous. Passed.

System Improvement Committee Update:

- H.142: Raising Minimum Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction & Solitary Confinement update on the discussion with Rep. Small. Rep. Small had a very successful meeting with

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the group, gave background information on to why she was initially so passionate about the language proposed.

- Christopher even sent her the appointment information to see if she would apply to become a member.

ERD Committee Update:

- What is the current role of the Council in responding to the situation with the 14-year old? Both the prosecutorial decisions and the decision by VBM to post his address and put him in danger. [Teen homicide defendant released to parents | Vermont Business Magazine \(vermontbiz.com\)](#)
- General Consensus that the CEYJ was supportive of a letter highlighting these issues would be phenomenal for the ERD committee to put together.

Please note: Vision work will continue at our December meeting. Please review the October meeting notes to see the most recent discussion on this topic.