

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**  
**Approved Minutes November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 10:30-1:00**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89385950274?pwd=nMDtlybmyWf3UY6iuUfN7bvSHcaaAb.1>

Meeting ID: 893 8595 0274

Passcode: 358078

**Members:**

- In Attendance: Christopher Lukasik, Donn Hutchins, Henri Sparks, Jessica Barquist, Julia Brand, Katherine O'Day, Laurey Burris, Linda Johnson, Matthew Wolf, Michael Loner, Paul Groce, Stu Berry
- Not in Attendance: Amy Davenport, Karen Vastine, Zoe Souder

Guests: Tyler Allen, Lindy Boudreau

**10:30: Welcome/Updates**

*Icebreaker- What is something you are looking forward to?* Attendees all share, responses not recorded in minutes

**Announcements:**

- Linda shares update that she will be stepping down from her executive role at the end of December- But will remain on in consulting role. She has not made a decision about how this may impact future Council involvement.
- Stu Announces December that starting in December Family and Youth Voice Project begins- 5 sites, including one state system. engage families in probation, equity concepts. For more information- contact Stu.

**Reminder: December Meeting – Mathematic – 2<sup>nd</sup> Training**

- Committee discusses being able to reflect/process on training a bit sooner next time. There is some followup needed from the last session.
- Karen and Amy met with Mathematica and shared some detail about the JJ system in Vermont- so that she could understand the context.
- Reflection about the ease of white skinned people being complicit to systemic injustice in the work we do
- Reflections about the changing of federal administration and the insecurity that can be felt among various populations. Members have experienced colleagues who've expressed worry.
- Reflections about insularity of industries and systems- and the importance of connections between people advancing meaningful work.
- Proposed that we schedule some future time to consider administration change and the impact on this work. Perhaps this theme can be incorporated into the Mathematica training.

**Attendance – Will be tracked along federal fiscal year**

- Updated Bylaws over the past 15 months and updated attendance policy. If you miss 4 meetings a year- you will not be recommended for reinstatement.
- Executive committee determined that we are measuring starting September.
- There are no current attendance issues.

We will go through it during October or November meetings

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#### **10:45 Notes Approval – See attached**

Amy Moves, Mike seconds  
Unanimous passage.

#### **10:50 News from DCF**

##### Hiring

- An offer has been made to a highly qualified candidate, who has other competing offers. The state bargaining plan allows for some flexibility in hiring, but this process requires some additional process, which is underway.

##### OJJDP News –

- Three Year Plan, Grant, Approval for Compliance Funds for HESOC work
- Tyler does not have an update on the OJJDP Three Year Plan, Grant and Compliance approval- but will get that update in writing for the group in a written email.
- Good news- we were not selected to be part of an audit in 2025.
- However, we received feedback that there were some administrative items that needed addressing as a part of the review. Primarily, the recommendation is regarding establishing a system of regular oversight of the subgrantee awards.

##### HESOC

- Red Clover Program- The program is operational with a 2 bed capacity- set to rise to three beds shortly. There have been no incidents in the program, and youth feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- New facility- The Green Mountain Youth Campus is a long term project and the design is still underway, given revisions of scope based on stakeholder feedback. DCF needs to make a determination on whether or not to include an 18+ secure transitional program on the campus.

#### **11:10 Committee Reports**

##### System Improvement

- Systems Improvement has not met this month. No update on Chair appointment
- Met With Authors of YASI revalidation study. Not concerning results from the study. The State data systems have severe limitations- this made it very challenging for the researchers.
- Some follow up work will come from SIC regarding alignment on data collections. Likely will be a years worth of work to get to a vision.
- The Court has in its CM system an ID number assigned to each individual. DCF doesn't have the court number, so it is difficult to match data.
- Amy and Karen met with M Lalonde and two other legislators in committee to talk about JJ issues. Rep. LaLonde sees house judiciary as "taking the lead" in JJ issues.
- Council gave them tweaked version of Council Memo that lays out three priorities:
  - Raising Min age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 10-12- this will likely pass house committee easily
  - Race data collected by Judiciary. This problem is more challenging because there isn't a solid understanding or even Judiciary recommendations on how to solve the issue of data inadequacies.
  - Raising the Age to 19 is the other issue discussed. HJ is standing firm on April RTA date. Looking at transfers "ping-pong effect" between courts. HJ approach is to think everything should start in Family.

##### Ethnic Racial Disparities

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- Met Yesterday. Small meeting- no votes taken. Didn't take votes on Committee chairs.
- Working on goals identified in three year plan
- Working on SMART goals over the next few meetings. The objective is to identify funding for next activities.

#### Youth Services

- Didn't know that they were supposed to be Chair elections.
- Katherine is not running again. The committee is small, but next month there
- Youth Engagement/Voice feedback project has begun.

11:30- Adjourn

Reminder to group to do homework for Next months meeting with Mathematica.