

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 October 19th, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

In- Person at WSOC Lobby or virtual at

<https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/92743086807?pwd=dGITVzJtdmdkTlpsRnNCN2hQQ0ZlQT09>

person

Members Present: Kreig Pinkham, Julia Brand, Donn Hutchins, Mike Loner, Karen Vastine, Stu Berry, Christopher Lukasik, Sparks, Amy Davenport, Laurey Burris, Matt Wolf, Wendy Love, Linda Johnson

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Kirsten Kersey, Katherine O'Day

Partners Present: Elizabeth Morris (in person at WSOC), Tyler Allen, Matthew Bernstein, Lauren Higbee, Taylor Welch

Updates:

- **Reminder to apply for re-appointment here:** [Boards and Commissions | Office of Governor Phil Scott \(vermont.gov\)](#). All members except for Julia, Christopher and Matt need to re-apply. Please notify Elizabeth when you have completed the application!
- Racial Equity RFP – the executive committee has spent a lot of time reviewing and making edits on this, and we are looking to posting this next week!
- Community Violence Prevention RFP Update: Amy, Karen, Elizabeth and Christopher all provided input into this process and spent a lot of time thinking through the parameters, focus and overall reach that the RFP will have. The end results of the RFP were very exciting, and the end result was funding that was not solely focused on law enforcement, but also youth services. You can find the currently open bid linked here: [Vermont Business Registry and Bid System - Bid Detail](#).

Motion to approve meeting minutes. Seconded. Unanimously Passed.

Mission/Vision/Values Discussion:

The Executive Committee is suggesting the below list of values based on the brainstorming activity completed at the September meeting.

Inclusivity: <i>including people on our membership who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.</i>	Equity: <i>identifying and addressing inequity in the juvenile justice system.</i>	Commitment: <i>dedicating ourselves to improving the juvenile justice system.</i>	Courage: <i>Forging anti-racism in Youth Development Work by combining humility and bravery –</i>	Innovation: <i>continuing to educate ourselves on new ideas, methods, products, services, or solutions that have a significant positive impact and value to youth</i>
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While we did not vote on the above today (we are going to vote on the entirety of the mission, vision and values as one cohesive package), the group was in support, and there were no issues with the above values or the description of each of them. The group then moved into talking about the last piece – Vision!

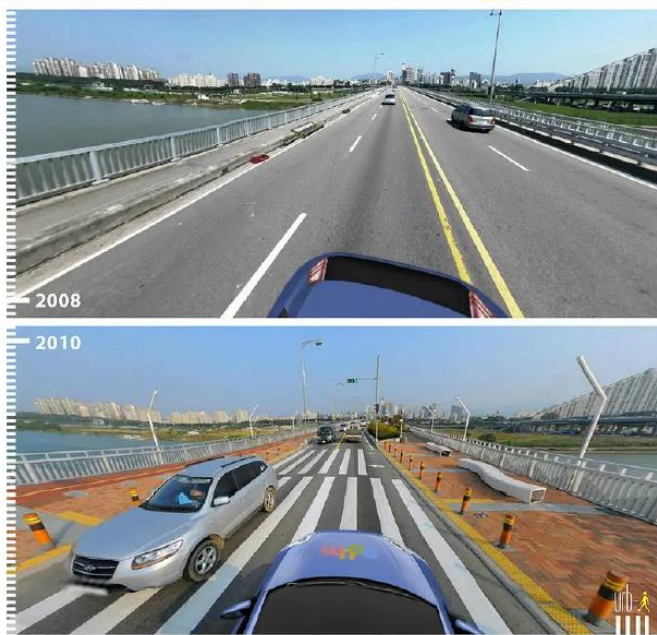
Karen walked us back through Katherine's strategic overview presentation to refresh the group on what exactly a vision is – some salient slides below.

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VISION: Overview

- **Requires Ambitious Thinking:** It needs us to think beyond what our organization can do right now.
- **Clear and Inspiring:** It's straightforward and motivates everyone.
- **Boosts Teamwork:** It sparks enthusiasm and unity within the team.
- **Clearly Defined Goal:** There's a specific endpoint, so the organization knows when it's succeeded.
- **Captivating:** It grabs people's attention and keeps them interested.
- **Concrete and Exciting:** It's something you can see and feel, and it's very focused.
- **Easily Understood:** People get it right away without needing much explanation.
- **Applies to Everyone:** It's relevant to the entire organization and takes a decade or more to achieve.

VISION: Sidewalks in Seoul



We envision a future where pedestrians in Seoul are safe and protected. We strive to create pedestrian-friendly environments where individuals of all ages can walk and cross streets without fear.

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VISION: Population Results

Population or Subpopulation

+

Geographic Area

+

Condition of Well-Being

=

VISION STATEMENT

- Use simple, plain language.
- Avoid referencing data or “improvement.”
- Avoid referencing specific services (those go in our mission statement).

VISION: Putting it All Together

All People in New Zealand are Healthy

All Seniors of Brooklyn are Safe

All Children in the L.A. Unified School District Enter School Ready to Learn

We envision in who are

Population *Geographic Area* *Condition of Well-Being*

The Council then split up into groups to discuss their vision and discuss what we view as our population, geographic area and condition of well-being.

Report outs from each group below:

Group 1: All Vermont youth have the opportunity to thrive, prosper and reach their potential with a trusted and strong circle of support that includes whenever possible family.

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Group 2:

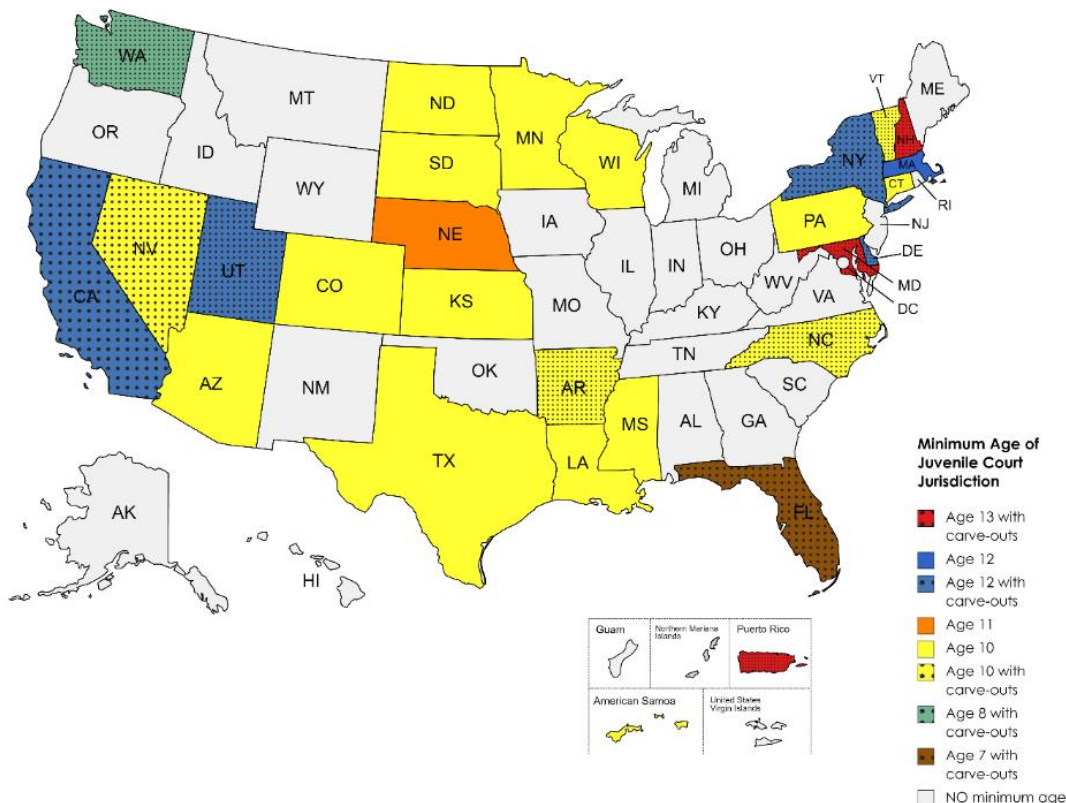
- Resiliency: Our vision doesn't need to include a utopic statement where everything goes perfectly for youth and young adults – however, our vision does include that youth are supported in healing when things do go wrong.
- A Vermont that delivers on the sense of promise that youth and young adults naturally carry.
- Communities where youth are valued as their authentic self.
- We struggled with how to define the population – it seemed like there was some need to have a qualifying adjective that would define our focus on youth who represent some degree of vulnerability, but we acknowledge that that particular concept was problematic.
- We also struggled with concepts of Justice – really wanting a way to talk about authentic, equitable or holistic justice in a way that avoided the problematic connotation and reality of that word. The closest we were able to get is that we could envision systems of holistic justice that allowed for differential response informed by individuals, families, and communities.

Group 3: Any youth in Vermont is met with a system that is trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, fair, and just. Youth are supported in healing when things go wrong.

System Improvement Committee update:

Raising the Minimum Age:

**Map of U.S. State Laws on Minimum Age Limits
Updated June 2023**



Reminder that at the February 2023 meeting, the Council discussed and voted on H.142.

H142: This was a bill introduced last session to (1) increase the minimum age at which a child may be subject to juvenile delinquency proceedings from 10 to 12; (2) prohibit the use of solitary confinement and corporal punishment on children placed in secure facilities; and (3) require that when a defendant who is under 18

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years of age is sentenced for a crime, the court must consider whether the child was subjected to any early childhood trauma or adverse childhood experiences as potential mitigating factors. After discussion, the Council:

Passed a Motion: To support H142 with an intent to propose a definition of solitary confinement that does not include sight and sound separation. Motion made by Amy, seconded by Stu. Unanimously approved with no abstentions.

Youth Services Update:

- YS cancelled their October meeting, as Katherine is now out on maternity leave! She will be joining us again in the new year.
- We are working on scoring the Youth Drop-in center RFPS – We have an ask for members to recruit youth who would be interested in providing feedback during the thanksgiving break! **Please reach out to Kirsten and Elizabeth about this.**

Update on the HESOC report:

DCF's Raise the Age & High-End System of Care Status Update was submitted to the legislature in September. Please find the link [here](#). Tyler isn't able to join us today, but questions will be sent to him for our next meeting.

Questions from the Council to DCF:

1. Where is the state on addressing the needs with youth with sexual behavior problems? In the context of treatment services for PSBs.
2. How is DCF approaching staffing issues that are related to this issue?
3. How can we continuously stay updated on the status of the facility? In a more proactive way, instead of Tyler reporting out once a report has been finalized and sent for submission. This might mean more substantial conversations in each of the committees.

Karen, Laurey and Linda are all participating in Aryka/Tyler's HESOC Stakeholder group in some fashion.

ERD Committee Update:

- The committee assigned the next steps and members to each of their goals. They have charged these subcommittees with meeting at least once before their next meeting on November 21st. The Data committee has been meeting frequently already, if you are interested in reading the Vermont Judiciary's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion First Report to the Vermont Supreme Court, you can find it [here](#).

Remember to fill out the meeting feedback survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LCJ6QX>