



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
Approved Minutes Notes (Hybrid)
Oct 09, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Public Location: Waterbury State Office Building, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT

Attendees: Karen Vastine, Jessica Barquist, Donn Hutchins, Kate Hayes, Stu Berry, Paul Groce, Mike Loner, Sparks, Laurey Burris, Katherine O'Day, Zoe Souder, Amy Davenport, Matt Wolf, Linda Johnson and J Brand

Absent: Peter Brown, Mercedes King, and Hudson Ranney

Partners: Tyler Allen and Sheri Lynn (DCF)

The meeting was called to order by Karen at 10:35 with a quorum present.

Welcome and Updates:

1. National, State, and Local Updates:

- Delay in OJJDP issuing Title II NOFO.
- Minimal impacts from the Federal Shutdown; funds can be drawn, but no contact with OJJDP project manager.
- Vermont's FFY 24 grant award reduction was rescinded after appeal.
- Annie E. Casey Foundation launched Family Engaged Case Planning second cohort.
- Casey Foundation revalidating an assessment tool for sexually violent youth and they will be presenting at the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) annual conference.
- Registration for NCJFCJ Juvenile Justice Conference in March 2024 is open and the council will consider sending members after reviewing budget.

2. November Meeting Discussion:

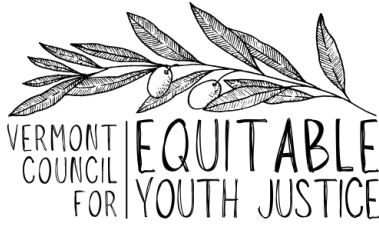
- Consideration of an in-person meeting in Randolph this Nov.

Council Operations Votes:

1. Approval of August 20 minutes with one abstention.
2. Approval of the CEYJ Bylaw amendment Article IV – Membership Attendance to allow attendance waivers in appropriate circumstances (refer to page 3 for details)

CEYJ Business:

1. Contracts Update and Overview discussed; plan to create an informational graphic.
2. In-person meetings scheduled for 2026; Council members agreed to wait until 2026 to start in-person.
3. Approved reallocation of FFY22 budget for Youth Services and Ethnic and Racial Disparities projects (refer to page 3 for details)



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High End System of Care (Tyler Allen):

1. History and future plans for a secure facility discussed.
2. Facility to host 14 beds which includes secure facility for youth involved in the justice system; partnership with National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) and other stakeholders to gather input, research national and state practices and develop recommendations.
3. The NCJJ work and contract with Marc Wennberg consulting on Woodside staff and youth healing process may be integrated to create a secure facility for youth.
4. Red Clover (4 beds) and other facilities (out of state placement in Florida,) discussed challenges with current placements.
5. Plans for new programs and facilities underway like the Windham West River Haven in Brattleboro.

Committee Report Outs:

1. **Ethnic and Racial Disparities:** Recruitment of new members and RFP bids discussed.
2. **Governance:** Recruitment efforts for new council members.
3. **System Improvement:** Reviewed juvenile probation and diversion; planning future projects.
4. **Youth Services:** Reported completing the RFP for youth engagement and asked council to provide suggestions of who to invite to the RFP process. Wrapping on a youth recruitment fact sheet and will share soon.

Other Business:

- All committees voted on their chairs in September.

Meeting Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded at 12:30.

Karen called the meeting to order at 10:35 with a quorum.



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Additional Details

By-Law Change:

Attendance: Members are expected to attend meetings of the full Council and shall actively participate on at least one Council committee. Active Committee Participation means that members are fully engaged during committee meetings and from time-to-time volunteer to do some of the work in between meetings, e.g., research, drafting, outreach, etc. A committee chair may assign work to members as appropriate.

If a member is unable to attend a Council meeting, the member shall notify the Juvenile Justice Specialist in advance of the meeting. If the member has not participated in full Council meetings more than four times in a 12-month period, the Executive Committee shall notify the Governor's Office about the member's lack of participation and request that the Governor consider the member's position to be vacant due to the member's lack of attendance.

Proposed addition to the end of the second paragraph: *"The chair shall review member attendance annually and with the approval of the Executive Committee may waive the annual participation requirement for a member in appropriate circumstances."*

FFY22 Re-allocation:

YS Proposal: To amend the grant funding for the Youth Services Committee's proposal on Youth Engagement to Address the Juvenile Justice System, originally approved by CEYJ on July 17 and revised and approved on Aug 20, for a total of \$187,649. This project shall be funded through the following OJJDP grant allocations:

- \$50,000 from FFY 21,
- \$65,117 from FFY 22, and
- \$72,532 from FFY 23
- for a total of \$187,649.

ERD Proposal: To amend the grant funding for the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Committee's proposal on Reducing School Suspensions, originally approved by CEYJ on July 17 and revised and approved on Aug 20, for a total of \$250,000. This project will be financed through the following OJJDP grant allocations:

- \$50,000 from FFY 21,
- \$74,157 from FFY 22, and
- \$125,843 from FFY 23
- for a total of \$250,000.