

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.

**Children and Family Council or Prevention Programs
Meeting Notes July 14, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Silver Lake State Park, Pavilion**

Members: Karen Vastine, Stuart Berry, Mackenzie Mazza, Christopher Lukasik, Katherine O’Day, Laurey Burris, Kreig Pinkham, Linda Johnson, Mike Loner, Julia Brand, Amy Davenport, Sparks
Partners: Elizabeth Morris, Alona Tate, Tyler Allen, Kirsten Kersey, Rachel Larsen

Outline of Council’s State Statutory Responsibilities:

Statutory Definition of Primary Prevention

- “Primary Prevention” means efforts to reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, child abuse and other socially destructive behaviors before intervention by the authorities.

Council’s Statutory Responsibilities

- Assist 8 State agencies/departments to:
 - develop primary prevention (pp) programs
 - improve pp programs
 - coordinate pp programs
- Acquire and provide pertinent research data related to pp programs
- Provide technical assistance related to pp programs
- Develop a State Primary Prevention Plan that coordinates pp efforts of state agencies
 - State agencies/departments include: Education, Human Services, Motor Vehicles, Attorney General’s Office, Commerce and Community Development, Labor, Public Safety, Parks and Recreation.
 - Revise State Primary Prevention Plan every 2 years and send to Governor and Legislature
- Annually provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on pp policies and programs
- Apply for and receive federal and private funds
- Award grants from OJJDP funds to State and local organizations for pp activities

Per The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Key functions:

- Three-year planning
- Biannual report to the Governor
- Listen to impacted youth/families
- Be experts in the state’s jj system
- Title II funding distribution

Principles of an effective SAG:

- Is in compliance with the JJDA’s four core requirements.
- Has a positive impact on the status of juvenile justice
- Acts strategically to improve juvenile justice
- Has effective processes in place
- Collaborates effectively for maximum impact

What do members feel is our most important function?

- SAG needs to be knowledgeable and help with our system of care

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.

- Compliance issues have been increasing, we need to focus more on the ramifications of our system of care
- We need to step away from the focus on our funding and become experts on the system for family/youth
- We need to listen more directly from families/youth, and then take actionable steps
- We need to focus on dismantling racism – the ERD focus needs to be applied to everything.

Five Fingers Activity:

- 1- One thing they're hoping to get out of their time together today.
- 2- Why they are on the SAG.
- 3- The thing they're most excited that the SAG has accomplished within the past 24 months.
- 4- The thing they wish the SAG had accomplished in the past 24 months.
- 5- The one thing, above all else, they hope the SAG commits to accomplishing in the next 24 months.

Key common themes of things we need to do more of:

- Family Voice
- ERD Work
- Action plan, not just put out funding
- Integrate youth voice

Key themes of things we liked:

- Movement on the DV work in the SI committee
- Began the work of identifying goals and addressing them through funding

Mission Statement Discussion:

- Current mission statement is in need of action verbs, things we can measure
 - Monitor, advocate, change, collaborate, systems, inclusive
 - Advocating, advising, listening
 - Who, what, why is missing
- ERD is missing from mission
 - Make sure that those who are adversely impacted have a voice in the system
- Youth voice could be integrated into mission as well

Mission/Vision Madlibs:

Participants will be asked to use sticky notes to fill in the following MadLib exercises:

- 1- Within the next (time period) I hope the SAG will (action).
 - Have a functional and effective youth committee
 - Lay the foundation for meaningful statutory change
 - Change name, advance statute change
 - Change our statute
 - Establish a domestic violence accountability program
 - Publish resources on how child welfare jj system works
 - End racism and white supremacy
 - Complete a new mission statement
 - Have a new authorizing statute that reflects what we do
 - Increase engagement with youth and families
- 2- If I had a magic wand, I would change the SAG's (blank)

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.

- Name
- Statute
- Membership
- Outreach to new members
- Value to Governor
- Ability to meet in person
- Youth/diversity dynamic
- Change the name to reflect the statute
- Membership to include those directly impacted
- Capacity & impact

3- One day Vermont's young people will (future state dream).

- Make it to adulthood without being affected by the JJ system
- Set/advice policy that impacts reform
- All be treated fairly regardless of race or income status
- Receive the support the need to thrive
- All feel like they belong
- All be safe and thriving
- Motivate systemic change
- Have their trauma treated
- Thrive and free from criminal justice involvement
- Be fully educated on our justice systems and the process
- Be safe in talking about what happens to them
- Live free of racism
- Have opportunities to grow and prosper
- Have access to the supports they need and have connection to community
- Be involved in changing the state of Vermont

4- I think the SAG can help achieve this by (action).

- Incorporating youth voice and power including in particular youth of color and youth from marginalized communities
- Elevating youth voice and leadership opportunities
- Dismantling white supremacy
- Youth voice/"formal" opportunities for leadership
- Listening to youth voice
- Encouraging youth to join the council and making space for them to speak and enter leadership
- Focusing on kids and families
- Inviting youth in the JJ system
- Listening to the needs of our youth and taking action
- Talking to youth about where they feel the most safe
- Strengthening families and communities

5- Our most important function as a SAG is (role/action).

- Advise government on how to reduce juvenile delinquency
- Promoting productive change for youth and families
- Ending disparities
- Determine disparities and determine we have proper systems and responses
- To be recognized in Vermont as the voice of youth justice

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.

- To end racism in youth justice system
- Improve outcomes for JJ youth
- Keep youth out of the justice system
- Ending racism in the justice system
- Collect data that tells the story of VT's juvenile justice system
- Prevent youth from returning to the system
- Report to the legislature
- Protect youth from our systems

Name Discussion:

Please see the google docs [here](#) for an on-going list of names

- Our name needs to be inclusive of the work we do for system-involved youth
- However, the word justice does not represent how the legal system treats black youth. The system has never been “just” for those youth. This word can be alienating this crucial population from working with us
 - It's better to not do harm, then to use the word justice because it's simple

Next Steps!

- 1. Statute (purpose statement)**
 - a. Amy, Karen, Christopher, Elizabeth, Mackenzie and Stu volunteer**
 - i. Due Date: End of October**
- 2. Mission Update**
- 3. Name Change**
- 4. Values**