

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 June 16, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Teams Meeting Invite, Phone, or in-person at the Waterbury State Office Complex

Please notify Elizabeth.morris@vermont.gov if you would like to attend in person

Members: Katherine O'Day, Julia Brand, Linda Johnson, Donn Hutchins, Stuart Berry, Christopher Lukasik, Karen Vastine, Matt Wolf, Mackenzie Mazza, Laurey Burris

Partners: Elizabeth Morris, Alona Tate, Tyler Allen, Kimberley Diamond

Approval of May Meeting Notes. Motion. Seconded. Pass.

Budget Takeaways

- Approximately \$14,438 left in SAG operating
 - o It cost approximately \$2,500 per person to attend the June CJJ conference
- \$56,894 left in subgrantee dollars
 - o These dollars are budgeted for projects that are categorized as "Juvenile Justice System Improvement" - Programs, research, and other initiatives to examine issues or improve practices, policies, or procedures on a systemwide basis (e.g., examining problems affecting decisions from arrest to disposition and detention to corrections).
- Approximately **\$600,000** from FFY2021 to be budgeted (if manual is approved).
- Dollar amount for the FFY2022 grant is not available yet.
- Full review of the Budget will occur in September

Upcoming Conferences

- August 1-2: [CJJ Youth Conference](#)
- November 1-2: [CJJ ERD Conference](#)
- December 13-15: OJDP Annual Conference

Only have enough funds to send approximately 5 people to the August and November CJJ conference, since we will most likely not have FFY2021 available to spend down in time. There is some interest by youth members in the conference, subject to their schedules.

Motion to send up to 2 youth members to the CJJ conference, and up to 3 members to the ERD conference, including one community member. Seconded. Passed. All yes.

Systems Improvement Update:

Discussed the final report from Bennington College for a recommendation for a DV emerging adult program. Some Key Highlights below:

- Limits of Effectiveness of Existing Interventions: Although intervening with offenders is not new, there are two significant challenges faced by this work in Vermont:
 - o Abusive partner interventions designed for adult offenders are not known to be very successful in stopping abusive behavior.
 - o There are very few existing interventions targeted to the age group that is the focus of this initiative.
- Age Range:
 - o The large age span of this initiative (16 to 26) makes it difficult to make suggestions based solely on a tiered approach. The developmental differences between 16 and

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26 year old's is profound, let alone the influence of gender and other identity differences.

- Group Work:
 - o Group work, which is the hallmark of existing abusive partner intervention, is often contraindicated for offenders in the Raise the Age cohort. Peer pressure and influence is at its height before full adulthood and much research has shown that this can work against positive change for young offenders. Groups may be better used after some individual consciousness change or, for older participants, especially those who are parents.

Youth Services Update:

VT Afterschool subgrantees update from Matt.

- The Barra School – \$14,999.60 for year one (this number is not confirmed)

Intensive forest and wilderness therapy program for at risk LGBTQ+ and other underserved and marginalized youth in Vermont in order to reduce criminogenic and substance use issues by improving confidence and self-esteem, teaching life-skills and foster resiliency and healthy engagement with community, supporting youth to manage and overcome stress and adversity in healthy and productive ways.

- BHS Expanded Learning – \$11,000 for year one (this number is not confirmed)

Expanding My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper afterschool programs. These programs provide a virtual space for youth of the global majority to foster deeper relationships with each other, their school and the broader community while engaging in activities focused on career paths, identity exploration, academic support, and community activism.

- Center for Restorative Justice – \$6,119.72 for year one (this number is not confirmed)

The Lounge Mentoring Program will provide mentorship, meaningful connections and support for youth involved in the juvenile justice system as well as those at the greatest risk for engaging in delinquent or risky behaviors focusing on group and individual sessions around relationship development, recreational activities, craft projects, volunteerism in the community, connecting with nature and building positive peer relationships.

There will be leftover funds once the cost negotiations are finalized, Matt has been encouraging VT Afterschool to think about another RFP to use the dollars for small delinquency prevention grants.

SAG Retreat

- Naomi Evans, Executive Director of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice, will be travelling to Vermont to facilitate the retreat, free of charge.
- Please bring a shareable dish for a potluck lunch during the retreat!

CJJ Day Takeaways

- Liz Ryan's comments as the new administrator were very hopeful
- Successful meetings with Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders office
 - o There is now a bill that would solve the ERD programming limit issue
 - Some issues with SAG membership regarding youth that are in or have been in secure detention. [S.4398 – Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System Act of 2022](#)

Compliance Monitoring

- We have submitted the updated [manual](#) to OJJDP

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- There have been issues with compliance, we are not sure what the future will look like for Vermont's title II formula grant. It is possible in the coming years we will be out of compliance with jail removal.
- We do have some stakeholders questioning how DCF presents the core requirements of the federal law, and reminding LE that there is no consequence for them to not abide by the below.

Jail Removal:

- No adjudicated juvenile delinquent shall be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults (this includes Court Holding Facilities, VSP Barracks, Municipal Police Stations, DOC adult correctional facilities, County Sheriff Offices, etc.). Accused juvenile delinquents can be detained for no longer than 6 hours for purposes of processing and release.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO):

- Juveniles who are charged or who have committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult are not to be placed in secure detention facilities (this included Woodside and includes areas of jail or lockups that are residential (equipped with sleeping quarters)).

Separation:

- Juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent, status offenders, and juveniles who are not charged with an offense and who are aliens or alleged to be dependent, neglected, or abused may not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have contact with adult inmates.

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