

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 a.k.a. Children and Families Council for Prevention Programs

May 18, 2023: Meeting Notes

Members Present: Mike Loner, Kreig Pinkham, Laurey Burris, Amy Davenport, Kirsten Kersey, Sparks, Stu Berry, Linda Johnson, Katherine O’Day, Christopher Lukasik, Karen Vastine

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Mackenzie Mazza, Julia Brand, Matt Wolf

Partners Present: Tyler Allen

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:35 am

Updates:

Amy advised that the Chair was participating in an offsite conference and intended to join the meeting later in the agenda.

Approval of April Minutes:

The April meeting minutes from the Council’s March meeting were unanimously approved as moved by Kirsten and seconded by Laurey.

Legislative Update:

- **H. 175:** Amy advised that she had testified at recent Senate hearings on H. 175. Both the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees and then the full Senate approved the bill. H. 175 has been forwarded to the Governor and is awaiting his signature. No further issues are anticipated at this time.
- **S. 4:** Christopher reported multiple changes to S. 4 as the result of negotiations between the House and Senate to address differing viewpoints. Attached is a summary Christopher prepared on the final “S. 4 Bill as agreed by the Senate and House” that is part of these minutes.

In general, the House modifications to S. 4 have reduced the impact of the Senate’s version of S. 4 concerning additions to the “Big 12”. Raise the Age for 19 year olds is delayed until July 1, 2024. \$5 million is included in the final bill for Community Violence Prevention Grants; the Council is named in the bill to “consult and collaborate” in the funding of these grants. S. 4 has been forwarded to the Governor for signature.

Committee Updates:

- **ERD Committee:**

Sparks reported that the ERD Committee is moving forward with the development of goals. The Committee is working with Stephanie Segino to build and develop better youth race data for youth engaged in the juvenile justice system. The lack of accurate race data has been a continuing problem.

The Council engaged in a robust discussion of issues, challenges, and differing perspectives of the parties involved when collecting youth race data when youth are engaged in the juvenile justice system. Tyler summarized a key point: depending on the conditions when the race data is being Grants collected, it seems clear that a person might answer questions on race data differently.

- **YS Committee:**

Katherine reported that the Committee is still awaiting communication from the DHS grants department on grants in progress.

The Committee has a working draft of an agenda/work plan for the Youth Delinquency Prevention Conference which is planned for the second quarter of 2024.

- **SI Committee:**

In addition to the updates in H. 175 and S. 4 earlier in the meeting, Christopher stated the Committee is discussing an interest in funding a grant to develop a lower level of engagement (graded approach) for diversion in restorative justice programs for situations that may not need BARG or probation involvement. Stu expressed support for this work.

CEYJ Annual Officer Elections:

The Vice Chair turned the meeting over to Kreig, as Immediate Past Chair, to lead the Annual Officer Election process. Kreig reviewed the election process to date and presented the 2023/24 Officer Slate of Karen Vastine for Chair, Amy Davenport for Vice Chair, and Donn Hutchins for Secretary/Treasurer. All three candidates have been duly nominated, are unopposed, and standing for a one year term of service beginning at the end of this meeting.

Kreig offered an option to vote on the entire Officer slate as opposed to individual electing each officer. Christopher moved to vote on the three Officer positions as a slate and Katherine seconded. There was no discussion. Kreig called the question and the Council unanimously **voted** to elect the slate of officers as presented.

Kreig turned the meeting back to the Vice Chair.

Annual Retreat:

The Chair joined the meeting at 11:20 am and assumed leadership of the meeting from the Vice Chair.

The Annual Council Retreat is tentatively planned for August 2nd, 9th, or 10th. Karen asked for feedback on the dates.

The Chair asked for the Council's input on potential agenda items for the Retreat:

- A component of the Retreat should be a celebration to recognize the accomplishments of the last year.
- Stu suggested that part of the retreat explore the SI Committee idea of a pilot program to implement a graded approach to diversion.
- Kreig suggested that the Council should explore what the Council's role/impact should be in supporting the \$5 Million that is proposed in S. 4 for violence prevention.
- Amy suggested that the Council should engage in a mission/vision review given the changes in H. 175 and our current level of engagement.

Karen asked for volunteers for a Retreat Committee to develop a plan for this year's event. Amy, Kirsten, Kreig, Donn, and Katherine volunteered.

The Chair asked Tyler to check on the availability of a state park, like Silver Lake, on the tentative retreat dates.

There being no further business Karen adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.