

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 October 10, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Members Present: Stu Berry, Amy Davenport, Matt Wolf, Mackenzie Mazza, Katherine O’Day, Donn Hutchins, Christopher Lukasik, Sparks, Kirsten Kersey, Mike Loner, Linda Johnson, Bob Sheil

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Karen Vastine, Dorinne Dorfman, Kreig Pinkham, Laurey Burris, Julia Brand, Rachel Larsen

Partners Present: Elizabeth Morris, Chief Brian Peete

Meeting Minutes:

- **Vote to approve June, July and September meeting notes. All yes. Passed.**

FFY2022 Funding Determination Discussion

- We are out of compliance with the Sight or Sound Separation core requirement (we had 5 violations), and OJJDP has officially notified us that 20% of funding will be reduced, and 50% of the funds need to be spent “addressing the problem.”
- Should the Executive Committee look into an appeal?
 - o FFY2022 Title II grant would be frozen until the appeal is through
- **Vote for the executive committee look into an appeal and request DCF appeal the funding, with the caveat that we can rescind such appeal if necessary. Seconded. All yes. Approved.**

Draft Legislation for new statute

- Council was overall in support of all the new language changes in the proposed language. Only addition was that we should eliminate the language that set the terms for the officers, and terms should be set in the bylaws.
- **Language proposed by Amy should be approved, with the caveat that term limit language is removed. Seconded. All yes. Approved.**

Governance Committee

- Committee continued to work on membership position description
- Began the work of an onboarding process.

Systems Improvement

- Spent time discussing the System Report Card project. For example;
 - o What are systems we want this reporting on?
 - o Ex. Court, Prosecutor, Defender, DCF, etc
 - o How do we want to report on system work?
 - o What data point necessary for this to be useful?

Youth Services

- Youth Drop-in Centers RFP. See page 2 for full proposal.
- **Vote to allocate \$100,000 from the title II FFY2021 formula grant for the youth drop in center proposal as attached. Seconded. All yes.**

Spectrum Update

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Kayla Loving joined to provide an update from Spectrum – please see the more detailed report on page 5 for more details, and the data provided in the chart below.

	Suspension Rate			
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2021-2022
All Schools				
Asian	2%	4%	2%	2%
Black/African	8%	9%	9%	7%
White	8%	9%	5%	7%
Multiracial	7%	18%	13%	11%
Total	6%	8%	6%	6%

Will the Council use FFY2021 title II Funds totaling \$80,200 to allow Spectrum to continue their third year of work? Seconded. All yes. Passed.

Burlington Update:

Disparity data has not been submitted to the school board yet and will be recorded in meeting minutes afterwards.

Sparks leaves the meeting after providing an update with Karyn Vogel, data expert from BSD.

Yesterday, BSD asked for a large increase in their third year of funding, which the Council had originally budgeted in September as being \$80,200 (\$70,000 for work & 10,200 for programmatic assessment assistance). Council members felt they needed to see an exact budget regarding the increase and why the increase has happened before any vote can take place.

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Youth Drop in Center Proposal for Funds

How This Proposal Will Impact Delinquency *

A Safe and Nurturing Space

3 pm to 6 pm are the hours when young people are most likely to:

- Be engaged in violent crime including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.
- Become victims of violent crime.
- Be in or cause a car crash.
- Be killed by household or other accidents.
- Get hooked on cigarettes.
- Experiment with other dangerous drugs.

(America's After-School Choice, n.d.)

Without supervision or constructive activities after school, violent juvenile crime triples

VYCA

Youth centers are typically open during the hours young people are most likely to commit crimes or to be victimized. The Vermont Youth Center Alliance (VYCA) is our statewide network of teen/youth centers who meet regularly to further their mission which is: To promote the healthy development of Vermont youth by:

- **Organizing** a network for current and developing youth centers in VT in order to deliver support, establish partnerships, and neutralize isolation of youth center/service workers.
- **Educating** communities & ourselves about the existence and importance of youth centers across the state in order to build more sustainable youth center programs.
- **Advocating** as a cohesive group in order to advance the mutual concerns of Vermont youth centers.

Most recently, VYCA has been developing a messaging campaign to communicate their collective purpose in our state:

Personal Skills and Capabilities: "We grow skills and resilience in all of our youth."

- Staff and mentors support youth in building character and communication skills.
- Youth learn how to be part of a community.
- Staff guide youth in addressing conflict in the moment, promoting healthy boundaries and coping skills.

Close Personal Connections and Belonging: "We create space for youth to be accepted for who they are and supported to comfortably stretch themselves and grow through our

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relationships with them.”

- Staff nurture healthy conflict resolution skills.
- Youth are free to belong and to explore who they are.
- Youth build a collaborative and inclusive community culture.

Connection to Community Culture: “We build a community with youth to help them build a community with you.”

- Empowering youth to create the center culture and environment.
- Youth are acknowledged and valued as active, integral and influential community members.
- Staff use language that recognizes and values the dignity of youth and engage in their culture.

Full document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZrvZ5x-Ph_-qeZtmkSbO0TpQ3-3QGfWeRba-9pjZ1Bw/edit

Description of Proposed Project. *

Target Population

The target population for this project is young people ages 11 to 26 with a primary emphasis on BIPOC individuals and a secondary emphasis on LGBTQ, disabled, and low-income individuals.

Opportunities Provided

This project is meant to be a catalyst for sustainability for teen and youth centers in Vermont in order to boost their capacity for engaging new youth through outreach and to serve more youth in their communities by offering high quality programming.

Suggested Approach to Meet Desired Goals

- Extend open hours (host night/weekend events, open earlier or close later).
- Hire a former program participant to lead outreach operations and/or activity coordination/facilitation.
- Purchase facility upgrades that are captivating and engaging for the current consumer population (VR headset, cooking equipment, computers, software, instruments, etc.).
- Purchase memberships or passes for community activities (museums, performances, makerspaces, gyms, pools, etc.).
- Purchase a van to transport youth to and from community activities.
- Purchase promotional materials/equipment/software to improve public relations and/or for awareness campaigns.
- Facilitate program planning committee.
- Host a strategic planning retreat with current and past program participants to update program culture, rules, etc.
- Hire trainers and/or consultants to help adapt program to be more welcoming and accessible to BIPOC youth.
- Hire subject matter experts for activities.
- Hire translators/ASL interpreters for activities, events, and translative services for promotional materials.

Restrictions

Funds may not be used for costs as defined by the federal guidelines.

Expected Timeline

2 years from the date of grant award.

How This Proposal Impacts Prevention

As previously stated, young people are most likely to be engaged in crime after school

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between 3 and 6 pm. Providing young people with a safe space to hang out, engaging them in healthy activities, and supporting them with askable adults during those times are all effective means to prevent delinquency—and youth centers typically provide all three.

Measurements Used to Determine Success

Baseline Data

- Total youth served by month over the last 12 months
- Activities completed
- Outreach performed

Program Performance Measures

Quantity Quality

Effort # *How much service did we produce? % How well did we deliver it?*

- # total young people served
- # activities completed
- # outreach performed
- % of total young people served who are new (outreach)

Effect # *How much change did we produce? % What quality of change did we produce?*

- # of young people who have attended programming four or more times (connectedness)
- % of young people who have attended programming four or more times (connectedness)

Projected Budget*

The Youth Services committee is asking for \$100,000 from the committee's approved FY 2021 budget for this project. Multiple grants will be awarded of \$20,000 or more.

Relation to Three-Year-Plan *

1. Youth are engaged and empowered in their community.
 - a. Ensure that all youth have a caring, competent, trusting adult to turn to.
 - b. Ensure that all youth have access to supports and services that provide education in emotional regulation.
 - c. Encourage the development of safe spaces, which support cultural humility, for youth to express their emotions.

Consideration of Youth Voice *

Grant applications will require youth involvement in writing and designing grant activities.

Winooski Restorative Justice Program Report, October 2022

1. Working with UP for Learning to conduct a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) assessment and action project led by a team of youth in partnership with WSD staff and community members.

The partnership with UP for Learning has continued to address the demands of the Winooski Students for Anti-racism (WSA) that were approved by the WSD school board during the summer of 2020. Spectrum has continued serving on the Anti-racism Steering Committee and the Racial Truth and Reconciliation Commission Action Demand Group. Spectrum has helped the groups create a

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more welcoming space for youth to authentically participate. For the Truth and Reconciliation Group, Spectrum has been in contact with Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) to help facilitate a truth telling and racial healing process for the school district. RJOY hopes to come to Winooski some time during the 2022-2023 school year.

For more information about the Anti-racism Steering Committee and the Antiracism Student Group, read below and visit <https://sites.google.com/wsdvt.org/wsd-antiracism-equity>

2. Creating an open and safe space for restorative dialogue that empowers youth, student, and community voice.

Most students in the Winooski School District continue to participate in restorative justice circles regularly. Spectrum has provided lesson plans that incorporate restorative justice that have been used in the elementary, middle and high school. Spectrum provided circle scripts to review the PBIS expectations for the elementary school.

The monthly Community Circles at the Winooski Memorial Library have continued. For an hour, community members eat food together and share stories and thoughts through the restorative justice circle process. We've used the time to discuss issues that impact the community such as climate change, supporting folx with disabilities, and creating community spaces that foster a sense of belonging.

Spectrum has partnered with the Burlington Community Justice Center to educate the community on restorative justice and conflict resolution skills. They provide childcare, food, and help with transportation to address any accessibility needs of participants. During this past quarter, they've facilitated community workshops and plan to do more ways to reach community members that wouldn't normally have access to educational opportunities like this. They also facilitated three workshops for different organizations in the community. These workshops are funded by donations from workshop participants.

In July 2022, The Youth Interventionist and Restorative Justice Coordinator took three youth, ages 14 and 15 to the National Association on Community and Restorative Justice Conference in Chicago. With people from all over the world, the group was able to hear a variety of perspectives on restorative justice. They attended sessions to learn about the youth engagement in restorative justice, indigenous peacemaking, the connection between climate change and restorative justice, systems change, and ubuntu. They also went out into the community to learn from and interact with youth and adults involved in restorative justice in Lawndale, Chicago. They participated in drumming circles and activities from the theater of the oppressed. They sang and danced in circle and shared their perspectives. They connected with other youth leaders and thought about how to bring these values and practices to Winooski.

Here are some of their reflections from the experience:

"I really appreciated and enjoyed listening to everyone's questions and concerns about conflict in their own lives and their differences as well as conflict experienced by so many people because it really made me reflect and think about things differently. I also appreciated and enjoyed the session led by youth from Oakland, California because the session was enjoyable and engaging. The partnership between the youth and adults was very inspiring because they did amazing in involving, elevating and supporting youth in becoming powerful leaders." -Auishma Pradhan

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“Listening to the indigenous peoples’ stories about their culture/family really made me think about where I was from, it also made me think about the harm they experienced from colonizers. I also really appreciated the circle run by Oakland youth. It was so fun to be a part of and I was really amazed by how far they had come in adding youth to the conversations in school.” -Eliza Willis

3. Providing culturally responsive consultation and advocacy to WSD and City administrators, community members, and parents, including through the Winooski Anti-Racism Steering Committee.

Starting in June, Spectrum co-facilitated a six-part professional learning series on equity and inclusion for the directors of the City of Winooski. This workshop series concluded in August. There were eleven participants. The curriculum was designed to help leaders of the city understand the impact of their actions and decisions on marginalized community members. The co-facilitators adapted the workshop series for the mayor and city councilors. They’ve completed one of the two sessions for this group.

Spectrum has also served on the Winooski Team for Working Communities Challenge (WCC) Grant. The team includes representatives from organizations in housing, refugee resettlement, and childcare. There are also City representatives as well as local activists. The team oversaw the joint equity audit by Opportunity Consulting for the City of Winooski and the Winooski School District. You can find the equity audit report here . The team is now figuring out how to address what was highlighted in the equity audit to make Winooski a more culturally responsible and inclusive place. Spectrum is also serving on WCC Policy Workgroup to come up with policy recommendations to make equitable change throughout Vermont.

Work related to restorative justice and anti-racism are shared monthly with the community through the Winooski newsletter: <https://www.wsdvt.org/newsletter/>

4. Providing services to Multicultural youth in Winooski and connecting them to all of Spectrum’s services and supports.

Spectrum’s Multicultural Youth Program (MYP) has continued to support WHS students through one-on-one support for students who are referred by Multilingual Learner (ML) staff. MYP and the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV) have organized regular tutoring and a Girls Group to support multicultural femme youth in the community. They also offer job skills courses, cooking workshops, swimming class, yoga class, workshop, and a photography workshop.

5. Supporting youth who have been suspended, expelled, are involved with the justice system, or are engaged with the Burlington Community Justice Center using restorative justice practices by working in partnership with the City of Winooski’s Youth Interventionist.

Spectrum has continued working closely with the City of Winooski’s Youth Interventionist. They intervene in cases where youth are at-risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. The Youth Interventionist accepts clients who are experiencing any of the following: disciplinary actions related to truancy or involving law enforcement, lacking engagement within the community, or consistently skipping classes. They are the first point of referral for juvenile infractions, The Youth

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Interventionist had seven youth formally on her caseload during the reporting period. Spectrum attends some of the Youth Interventionist client meetings to assist with developing social-emotional and academic skills.