

Youth Services Advisory Council Agenda

Date: January 14, 2020

Location: Linden Conference Room

10:00-12:00

Facilitator: Sara Chesbrough

Notetaker: Cheryle Wilcox

Present: Holly Morehouse (by phone), Matt Wolf (by phone), Gwen Mousin (by phone), Sara Chesbrough, Lindy Boudreau, Cheryle Wilcox, Adam Sancic, Karen Scott, Auburn Watersong, Mitch Barron, Kate Luscomb, Kreig Pinkham, Tom Delaney, Victoria Pearson, Mara Iverson, Martha Frank

YSAC webpage: <https://ifs.vermont.gov/content/youth-services-advisory-council>

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Introductions ★ Agenda Overview ★ Welcome new participants ★ Updates from members 	<p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YRBS is out as of yesterday! https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/population-health-surveys-data/youth-risk-behavior-survey-yrbs • Martha Frank, Vermont Family Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brought hard copies of the <i>Family Guide to Transition Services in Vermont</i>. This resource can also be found on their website. ○ They sponsor an annual conference and the attendance has been down the past few years so they are doing four regional conferences this year ○ YRBS-VFN advocated for the survey to include information about youth with disabilities and there is very little mention in the YRBS about this. Would like to see more of this highlighted. • Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Starting July 1, 2020—will include 18-year-olds in their jurisdiction. There may be some small changes this session in the legislature to Act 201. ○ Woodside: proposal by AHS to close Woodside. The census was 0 for only a few hours; since the middle of 2015 there has been a significant decline (currently at 3 youth). Concern about where these youth will go—RFP went out last week for a treatment program in Vermont. With 	<p>Send information on RFPs to this group</p>

VT so small economy of scale can be issue. Hoping to get good responses to the RFP.

- There has been an increase of 33 to 504 of Youthful Offenders in the past year.

- **DMH:**

- RFP for residential analysis is out—many national entities have asked clarifying questions so hoping when this closes on Friday, Jan. 17th
- Brattleboro Retreat —heard the Governor state he wants to make sure we do everything we can to keep the Retreat open. DMH Commissioner is working closely with them.
- Woodside-Frank Reed, DMH Mental Health Director has been reassigned for the next few months to Woodside to oversee clinical operations.

- **Holly Morehouse:**

- Vermont Youth Project-started this fall there will be a comprehensive community-based look. Five-year commitment of 6 communities, 13 schools. A survey was done in these communities as part of this work-- they got their data back in December. Compared to other counties- alcohol and marijuana use is high, youth don't have high concern about substance use, parents are spending a lot of time with their youth, not much community involvement, participation in afterschool activities are low. Young people are bored and isolated during after school hours. Communities involved: Rutland/Fairhaven, Swanton, Enosburg, Richford, Richmond/Underhill/Bolton/Jericho.
- Governor's State of the State mentioned support of the Iceland afterschool model of universal offerings. Very exciting. The Governor has asked for a task force and the legislature is working to get it going.

<p>Information regarding Youth Act being introduced in legislature ~ Holly Morehouse</p>	<p>Please see attached Vermont Afterschool, Vermont Youth Council Bill summary.</p> <p>The bill is collecting co-sponsors right now—it was introduced by Diane Lanpher, Vergennes. If you know of representatives who can reach out to Rep. Lanpher to co-sponsor please let them know as this needs to happen this week. Will probably be assigned to Government Operations.</p> <p>Creates a structure of a council to advise the Governor and legislature.</p> <p>Bill calls out YSAC as supporting this work and the council-thank you to Holly to making this connection.</p> <p>9 to 26 Coalition met last week and discussed this may not become law, but it gives visibility to the work being done in across the system for youth.</p> <p>There is a youth council (supported by VFN and Voc Rehab) for youth with disabilities—second year of the group. The group meets every other month. They meet with the Governor once a year. They have decided to focus on the following: Special education, transportation, housing, employment and careers.</p> <p>Outright Vermont, Victoria: wondering about representation of youth and how this connects with the current work youth are doing. Being explicit from the beginning of the council and their composition and connectedness to youth members. Should this bill move forward we will discuss more what framing and data should be included. It will also be important to explore how this group can be a clearinghouse for ideas and how to ensure disparate voices can be heard and recognized.</p> <p>The bill proposes that as soon as it passes House and Senate it would become effective.</p> <p>If it doesn't pass this session, the bill is done and would have to be reintroduced next January since this is the second year of the biennium.</p> <p>Devise a fair process in thinking about current youth groups and how to have youth on this council, while also continuing to value and have youth on the groups they are already involved in.</p>	<p>We will be sure to keep this group updated by email and will use the Implementation Meeting in Feb. to do further planning to be prepared</p>
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	<p>Discussed that 15 youth is not a lot of youth to represent all youth across the state to represent 9 to 26. We want to highlight participatory democracy, not just representative democracy. How do we raise up as many voices as possible?</p> <p>Mara shared that at a youth group last night youth were saying they want larger councils with more voices at the table. The hope is this council would create opportunity to make their recommendation about what should happen in Vermont to elevate youth voice.</p>	
<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the years – informing AHS Secretary of our work, various grant/project based assistance • Coming together as a community, sharing ideas • Formalized our structure and membership • Data orientation/outcomes work • Higher level of visibility • Possible legislative attention/responsibility • Tom’s key informant interviews → formation of ad hoc workgroups • Workforce survey 	
<p>Activity: What/Why/When/How ~ Sara Chesbrough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in on our process and the plan for 2020 	<p>Did a sharing in small groups to discuss the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you attend the YSAC meetings? 2. What about the YSAC vision and mission resonate with you? <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>VISION: Youth thrive and feel hopeful, respected, empowered and connected to their communities.</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>MISSION: The Youth Services Advisory Council (YSAC) promotes shared responsibility across state and community stakeholders for achieving positive outcomes for youth and young adults in Vermont. The Council promotes, advocates for, and monitors the continued evolution of culturally competent, holistic, strengths-based service systems for Vermont’s young people, advocates for improved quality of and access to these services, and organizes policy responses to remove barriers to achieving these goals</i></p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. When did you join the YSAC? 4. How does participating in YSAC inform your work? 5. Which of our outcomes are most aligned with your day to day work? 6. What would you like to see the YSAC focus on in 2020? 7. What are your hopes for YSAC moving forward? 8. What gets you jazzed about working with/for youth? 9. What policies related to youth services do you think need changing?/Do you have ideas for youth services policies that don't already exist? 10. How do we, as a state, improve access to youth services? 11. How do we, as a state, improve the quality of youth services? 12. When you were a teen, what helped you feel connected to your communities? 13. How are you allied with young people in your professional/personal life? <p>Large group debrief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to youth is important so we make sure our thoughts align with what they want and need • We need to get feedback from those youth who are hard to hear from—who are isolated, don't have transportation, aren't attending school • Ride the wave of energy created by youth activists such as Greta Thunberg • Make sure we support true youth leadership, not tokenism. Youth are our future and they are our now. • What about the vision and mission of YSAC resonates with you? Being strengths-based, holistic, health promotion orientation-highlighting resiliency • How do we improve the quality of youth services? Understanding systemic issues, integrate our work, building youth power, how do we use our public health in a promotion way, focus youth work force, data driven work • Focus for 2020: emerging adulthood, shifting demographics of young adults leaving Vermont, cross training, teaching 	
<p>Wrap Up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Planning for 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda building – leave room for Youth Council Bill, emerging issues • Keep working on Outcomes (and update) so we can measure change 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have covered Outcomes 2, 5, 6 – #1 in March, #3 in May, #4 in July, #7 in September• Need to have discussion on housing-and need to invite a guest to speak to this—<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Alison Harte, AHS Central Office, may be a good person to have given she oversees the Housing work○ Auburn said there are recommendations from the Poverty Council• Focus on health outcomes	
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