

Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 11:00-12:00

Please see hyperlinks for mentioned documents and legislative bills below in [yellow highlight for ease of finding](#)

Present: Sara Chesbrough (VDH), Holly Morehouse (VT Afterschool), Cheryle Wilcox (DMH), V Pearson (Outright VT), Kate Luscomb (DVHA), Mitch Barron (Centerpoint), Lindsey Halman (UP for Learning), Kheya Ganguly (DMH), Amanda Churchill (FSD), Rich Tulikangas (VocRehab), Lindy Boudreau (FSD), Tara Howe (Voc Rehab), Adam Sancic (AHS), Martha Frank (VFN)

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Really happy to see everyone at this meeting. Thank you for all you are doing each day for and with youth.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVHA: Have seen an uptick on youth with eating disorder treatment needs. IOP options have become available virtually. • Family Services-in conversations about juvenile justice reform at the legislature. • DMH: annual System of Care report will be coming out at the end of this month, and we will send to this group. • VFN: identified the resources on the VFN website specific to transition aged toolkit • Voc Rehab: Just received a \$6.6 grant from the USDept of Education for the career enhancement project— apprenticeship program for individuals with disabilities in Vermont. Revitalization fair on March 29th open to this whole group—it is about collaborating across agencies to support youth. • UP for Learning-despite the challenges schools are facing they are hopeful they are seeing much more demand and increase for schools wanting to amplify youth voice. Getting to Y-have adapted to work with elementary school youth. 	

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	<p>Working with a couple of states to identify ways to engage indigenous youth voice in authentic and meaningful way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outright VT-looking for an education and leadership coordinator role. Doing good work with statewide youth organizing group, continuing working to closely pivot to build youth power in the state for LGBTQ and Allied youth. • VT Afterschool: excited about Governor and legislative support to extend afterschool programs and focus social and emotional learning. Gov. signed an executive order in the fall to create the Interagency Task Force to look at youth. Statewide youth advisory group that are partners in this process-meeting every other Tuesday. 	
<p>CDC Health Disparities grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dept. of Health received almost \$30M to address and reduce health inequities. • VDH will be hiring new Health Equity positions • Will be focused on data and analyzing data. • Healthcare training and support • Funding that will go to Vermont Community Foundation (approximately \$5M) that will be put out to bid to community partners to build their own capacity for focusing on priority populations as defined by CDC- (individuals with disabilities, Vermonters who are BIPOC, LGBTQ, and those who are of a low socio-economic status). • Sara will be sure to send the announcement out to this group— RFP will be out in April/May. • Funding goes through May 2023 	
<p>Overview of policies the legislature is looking at that may impact youth</p>	<p>Bills anyone is concerned about or watching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Council Bill, H. 293—we are still hoping this may get across the finish line this year. This would create a Youth Council group to advise the Governor. YSAC would be the advising group to the Youth Council. AHS is following up on this to check status. Made it out of House Gov. Ops last year and is sitting with House Appropriations. We need to follow up to try to get an appropriation added and over to the senate. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. 584 was just introduced last week-asks for standards for schools about anti-racism. This bill was crafted by two youth partners. Would be assigned to House Education Committee. • Outright VT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is monitoring—last session H. 192 was introduced. This is an act relating to creating a public school bill of rights for transgender and gender nonconforming students. ○ Non-binary birth certificate option ○ Prop 5 constitutional amendment around reproductive rights. ○ Priorities include gender inclusive sex ed, ending gender stigma, ending MH stigma. • VDH, Maternal Child Health Division is following H. 790 Child Marriage Bill-would restrict marriage to those 18 and over. Vermont Commission on Women is working on this. • Last session the condom availability bill passed-Vermont is the first state in the nation to pass this! Middle and high schools should now have programs in place to have condoms available. • There is a petition that went out from schools asking for more support around testing so they could continue operate safely. 	
<p>Act 35 Task Force, Kheya Ganguly and Lindsey Halman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal of Act 35 was to create a task force on equitable and inclusive school environments. Language from Act: <i>here is created the Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments. The Task Force shall make recommendations to end suspensions and expulsions for all but the most serious student behaviors and compile data regarding school discipline in Vermont public and approved independent schools in order to inform strategic planning, guide statewide and local decision making and resource allocation, and measure the effectiveness of statewide and local policies and practices.</i> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have met as a full task force in Aug, Sept, Oct. Nov. Dec, January—have submitted interim report to AOE. ● Task force has questions about data available through AOE and identifying gaps in the data available through the data dashboard. Can't get disaggregated data because the numbers are so small. ● There is discrepancy in the data-it only defines gender as male or female. BIPOC data is missing because the numbers are so small that it isn't available. ● Task force is asking for a restorative approach—trauma sensitive environments. Asking schools to think differently about behavior. ● Rise VT project for restorative approaches in schools received a grant that is just starting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VT Restorative Approaches Collaborative is made up of 45 people across Vermont-this is an open group and all are welcome. ○ Working with schools to a more restorative approach and supporting them on many different levels. ○ Will be working with 5 sites further on their restorative approach to deepen their work and working with a filmmaker to document the stories. 	
Wrap Up	<p>March 17th 11:00-12:00 next meeting</p> <p>Topics for next time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss and get update about new refugees coming to VT ● Legislative updates again—this is helpful for us to keep track. If there are Juvenile Justice reforms to discuss Lindy can do that. ● Act 35 final update and sharing of report-Lindsey and Kheya 	