

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILY COUNCIL FOR PREVENTION; AKA 'COUNCIL' OR CFCPP**

Brief information to describe Council as members look for youth voice and potential youth members.

To learn more or ask questions, contact [Theresa.lay-sleeper@vermont.gov](mailto:Theresa.lay-sleeper@vermont.gov)

CFCPP is an advisory committee to government regarding

- youth involved with or at risk of involvement with the justice system (for example picked up by police; sent to court or Community Justice)
- 'primary prevention' where we fund programs that work to make communities places where kids and families have support and opportunities to thrive
- We advocate for programs, laws, policies, workers, and systems to use the most effective and respectful strategies w/ youth and their families to help them grow and be active participants in their communities.

Right now, the Council is working on a few things:

- Making grants to support programs such as mentoring, teen centers, after-school events
- Training youth work force in supporting protective factors for youth
- Building a GIS map of all the youth and young adult resources available in Vermont
- Advocating for continued reforms in laws that determine how young people are treated and how they are protected when they are accused of crimes or delinquent acts
- Funding and working to make change in responses to youth of color and their families when they become involved in justice system. (we pay attention to the rate of youth of color v. white youth who enter the justice system; in Chittenden County, youth of color are referred to court at a rate far higher than white youth)

Since we are making plans and grants that are designed to improve the lives of young people and families, we need to pause and ask young people:

- about their lives,
- hopes & dreams,
- things that support them and things that get in their way.
- The Council sets priorities for making grants and for advocating for policy or legislation changes about youth well-being. Members recognize that although we have good intentions, data, and research, we never have the full picture without hearing directly from youth!
- We need and want youth to work w/ the adults on these issues. You might belong with us! we meet once a month during the day. You might be able to get school credit for working with us. If you can't meet with us, or adult meetings are not to your liking, we still want to talk with you!

We would like to find places where we can have some conversations with young people about what's important to you and what you think would make things better for you and your peers.

Can you identify any youth groups that we can contact?