

The Future of Juvenile Justice in Vermont

Recommendations from the Field: Beth Sausville, DCF



Vermont recently became the first state in the 119-year history of America's youth court to allow 18- and 19-year-olds to be treated in the juvenile justice system. The goal is to increase public safety and the evidence from research indicates that this approach has the potential to be a game-changer in a field in desperate need of innovation.

—Sen. Dick Sears and Vincent Schiraldi

2018 Act 201 Sec. 20

An act relating to adjudicating all teenagers in the Family Division, except those charged with a serious violent felony

This Act requires DCF to provide a report to the legislature on November 1, 2019 that includes:

- (A) identification of and a timeline for structural and systemic changes within the juvenile justice system for the Family Division, the Department for Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and the Office of the Defender General;
- (B) an operations and business plan that defines benchmarks, including possible changes to resource allocations; and
- (C) a clearly defined path for geographic consistency and court alternatives and training needs;

LEGISLATIVE TASKS



- 1. Data Collection**
- 2. Policy & Operations Planning**
- 3. Mapping of Current Community & State Services**

Hearing from the FIELD

Community Meetings:

Conducted in each of
the 12 DCF Districts

Multi-Disciplinary Participants:

DCF, DOC, SA's, Public Defenders,
Community-based Restorative Justice
Programs, GAL's, Schools, Mental Health
Providers, Law Enforcement, Dept. of Health,
Youth Development Program

Process:

Each meeting included a brief
presentation and discussion
questions.

The themes generated by the
participants' input and
recommendations were
summarized.

Overall, our staff and
Community Partners agree
that Raise the Age is the right
thing to do.

HOPE





Adequate Staffing and Programming

There is a desire to have the resources to “do it right.”

7 Strategies for Success:

**RECOMMENDATIONS
GENERATED BY THE
COMMUNITY**



1. Strengthen the use of Risk & Needs Screening, specifically the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI)





2. Increase and Support Local Collaboration



3. Cultivate Juvenile Justice specialization and expertise within organizations

4. Share JJ responsibilities among stakeholders





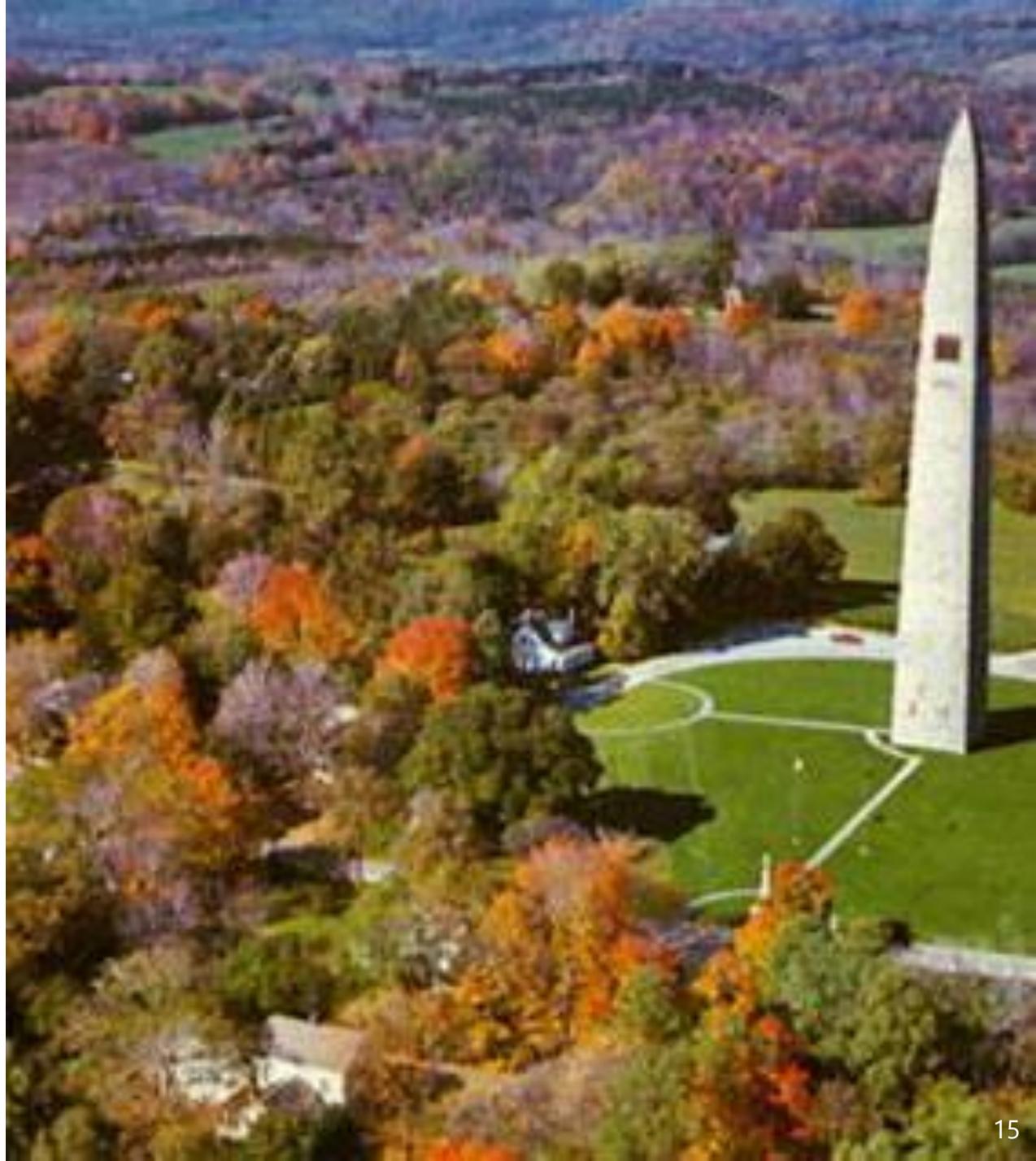
5. Utilize and strengthen diversion practices



6. Enhance supports/ services to youth by filling in or addressing current gaps in the service provision

7. Innovative Ideas that could be scaled state-wide:

- a. Engaging Employers
- b. Expansion of Circles Of Support & Accountability for youth/EA
- c. Peer panels and increased RJ education in schools
- d. Emerging adult mental health intervention





It's not only the scenery you miss by going fast, you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.

-- EDDIE CANTOR, singer and comedian in vaudeville

The POWER and RESPONSIBILITY of INNOVATION!

THANK YOU