

**2019-2020 Session**

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# Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee

## Previous Meetings - Full Report

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**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

### Meeting Details

|                     |          |
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| <b>Hearing Type</b> | Standard |
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### Meeting Record

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| <b>1:00 PM</b> | <b>CHINS Reform Work Group Report</b> |
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Larry Crist, Executive Director, Red Cross

Hon Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Court Administrator's Office

Rep. Michael Mrowicki, Case Aide, DSC-Family Services Division

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office

James Pepper, Deputy State's Attorney, Department of  
State's Attorneys & Sheriffs

Kenneth Schatz, Commissioner, Department for  
Children and Families

Karen Shea, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services  
Division, Department for Children and Families

**4:00 PM      Adjourn**

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## **Thursday, September 5, 2019**

### **Meeting Details**

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| <b>Hearing<br/>Type</b> | Standard |
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### **Meeting Record**

**10:00 AM      Introductions, Welcome, Election of Chair**

**10:15 AM      Refresher on Statutory Duties of Committee**

Brynn Hare, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative  
Counsel

**10:30 AM      Federal Family Legislation**

*Where the state is in its implementation response.  
Role of State Legislators*

Brenda Gooley, Operations Director, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Christine Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**11:30 AM      Update on Woodside**

*Impact of increase in age of DCF jurisdiction on case  
loads, current issues and planning for the future*

Christine Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**12:00 PM      Lunch**

**1:00 PM      CHINS Reform Group Update**

*Recommendations*

Hon Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Court  
Administrator's Office

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender,  
Defender General's Office

James Pepper, Deputy State's Attorney, Department of  
State's Attorneys & Sheriffs

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**1:45 PM      Committee Discussion**

*Future agenda setting*

**2:00 PM      Adjourn**

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## Thursday, September 26, 2019

### Meeting Details

**Hearing  
Type**      Standard

### Meeting Record

**12:00 PM      DCF: Child Protection Updates**

Christine Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**1:00 PM      Child Advocate/Ombudsman Model**

Amy Brady, Policy Associate, Voices for Vermont's  
Children

Nathaniel Farnham, Youth Advocate

Rachel Grossman, Family Support Worker, Defender  
General's Office

**2:00 PM      Break**

**2:30 PM      Families First Legislation,Continued**

*Legislative role and how other states are responding*

Amy Brady, Policy Associate, Voices for Vermont's  
Children

Christine Calpin, Managing Director of Public Policy,  
Casey Family Programs

Tim Decker, Senior Fellow, Annie E Casey Foundation

Christine Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Nina William-Mbengue, Senior Fellow, Children and  
Family Services, National Conference of State  
Legislatures

**3:45 PM      Commission Discussion**

**4:00 PM      Adjourn**

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**Thursday, October 17, 2019**

**Meeting Details**

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| <b>Hearing<br/>Type</b> | Standard |
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**Meeting Record**

**10:00 AM**

**CHINS Reform**

Larry Crist, Executive Director, VT Parent  
Representation Center, Inc

Christine Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Bill Young, Former Commissioner, Social and  
Rehabilitative Services

**11:00 AM**

**DCF/Family Services Performance Improvement Plan**

*Based on federal review*

Brenda Gooley, Operations Director, DCF, Family  
Services Division

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch**

**1:00 PM**

**Committee Discussion**

**1:30 PM**

**GAL Program**

*Deficiencies and Potential Areas for Improvement*

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Rob Post, Programs Manager, Juvenile Matters, Office  
of Court Administrator

**2:00 PM**

**Update on Truancy**

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender,  
Defender General's Office

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**2:30 PM      Adjourn**

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## Thursday, October 31, 2019

### Meeting Details

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| <b>Hearing<br/>Type</b> | Standard |
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### Meeting Record

**12:00 PM      Child Advocate/Ombudsman**

Amy Brady, Policy Associate, Voices for Vermont's  
Children

Mickey Kramer, Associate Child Advocate, CT Office of  
Child Advocate

Moirá O'Neill, Director, Office of the Child Advocate

**1:00 PM      Prevention Programs**

Heather Hobart, Executive Director, Lamoille  
Restorative Center

**1:45 PM      Status Report on Woodside**

Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

**2:15 PM      CHINS Reform Follow Up**

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender,  
Defender General's Office

James Pepper, Deputy State's Attorney, Department of  
State's Attorneys & Sheriffs

**3:00 PM      Committee Discussion**

*Letter to Congressional Delegation*

*Committee Recommendations and Next Steps*

Brynn Hare, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative  
Counsel

**4:00 PM      Adjourn**

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**Thursday, November 21, 2019**

**Meeting Details**

**Hearing  
Type**      Standard



## Meeting Record

### **12:00 PM      Act 201 (2018) Report on Juvenile Justice**

Lael Chester, Director, Emerging Adult Program,  
Columbia University Justice Lab

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Karen Vastine, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner,  
Department for Children and Families

### **1:30 PM      UVM Research Update**

Scott Thomas, Dean and Professor, University of  
Vermont

### **1:45 PM      Act 72 (2019) Reach Up Case Management Review and Community Engagement Report**

Erin Oalican , Reach-Up/TANF Program Director,  
Department for Children and Families

### **2:30 PM      Updates from Committee Members**

### **3:00 PM      Commission Discussion**

*Review and Recommendations*

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# Thursday, October 29, 2020

## Meeting Details

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| <b>Hearing<br/>Type</b> | Standard |
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## Meeting Record

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| <b>12:30 PM</b> | <b>Woodside Permanent Closure Plan</b> |
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*Joint Meeting with Joint Justice Oversight Committee*

Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

John Campbell, Executive Director, State's Attorneys  
and Sheriffs' Dept.

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State  
Employees Association

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender,  
Defender General's Office

Matthew Valerio, Defender General, Vermont Defender  
General's Office

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| <b>3:30 PM</b> | <b>Adjourn</b> |
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# Thursday, November 12, 2020

## Meeting Details

**Hearing  
Type**

Standard

**Meeting Record**

**12:30 PM**

**DCF Report on Long Term Plan for Justice Involved  
Youth**

*Joint Meeting with Joint Justice Oversight Committee  
Recommendations from the Committees on whether to  
approve plan from the report*

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal  
Office

Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children  
and Families

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont  
Judiciary

Brynn Hare, Legislative Counsel

Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State  
Employees Association

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender,  
Defender General's Office

James Pepper, Deputy State's Attorney, Department of  
State's Attorneys & Sheriffs

A.J. Ruben, Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights  
Vermont

**3:30 PM**

**Adjourn**

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