

* * * Restorative Justice Working Group * * *

Sec. 28. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Restorative Justice Working Group to recommend ~~legislation that would conform the law to the current structure of community and restorative justice.~~ comprehensively map the statutory framework that undergirds underlying Vermont's community and restorative justice offerings. The analysis should include—~~noting~~ identifying gaps that may exist between statute and practice, as well as opportunities for improved statutory cohesiveness.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;
- (2) the Commissioner of Children and Families or designee;
- (3) the Court Administrator or designee;
- (4) the Chief Administrative Judge or designee;
- (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Court Diversion

Programs or designee;

- (6) the Attorney General or designee;
- (7) the Defender General or designee;
- (8) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or

designee;

(9) a Balanced and Restorative Justice Program service provider appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families;

(10) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;

(11) the President of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police or designee;

(12) the President of the Vermont Sheriffs Association or designee; and

(13) three individuals appointed by the Governor, each of whom shall be a representative of one of each of the following types of community justice centers:

(A) a municipal host site;

(B) a nonprofit host site; and

(C) a Department of Corrections, Department for Children and Families, and Office of Attorney General joint-funded host site.

(c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall conduct a comprehensive review of the current structure of community and restorative justice for youth and adults in the delinquency and criminal justice contexts and determine what provisions of law, including those provisions set forth in Titles 13, 24, 28, and 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated across all relevant Titles and Statutes, need to be amended in order to bring the law in line with that current structure. The group will further make recommendations regarding a subsequent process framework for achieving the aforementioned statutory alignment, which may include partnership with a consultative entity, such as the Council on State Governments or Center for Court Innovation, to assist the state in ensuring access to a comprehensive system of community and restorative justice.

(d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Corrections.

(e) Report. On or before January 1, 2021, the Working Group shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and the Sunset Advisory Commission with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. The report may be in the form of recommended legislation.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Corrections or designee shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before September 1, 2020.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2021.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Corrections.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 29. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.