

Criminal Justice Capable Core Team
(*Subcommittee of the Tri-Branch Task Force*)

The Criminal Justice Capable Core Team (CJC Core Team) is a subcommittee of the Tri-Branch Task Force. It meets monthly. The co-chairs are Monica Hutt as the Secretary's Chief of Policy and Planning (former co-chairs: Patrick Flood, Christine Oliver, Scott Johnson) and Karen Gennette, Program Manager, Court Administrator's Office.

The Core Team includes: Trish Singer (DMH), Barbara Cimaglio & Tony Folland (VDH/ADAP), AJ Ruben (Disability Rights Vermont), Ed Riddell (DAIL), Robert Appel (private atty), Howard Hood and Deborah Hopkins (Central Vermont Substance Abuse Services – Washington County), George Karabakakis (Health Care and Rehabilitation Services – Windham), Annie Ramniceanu (Spectrum Youth & Family Services), Jane Helmstetter & Lily Sojourner (AHS Field Directors), Kim Bushey & Dr. Dee Burroughs-Biron (DOC), Willa Farrell (Court Diversion), Heather Hobart & Becky Benberthy (Lamoille Court Diversion & Restorative Justice Programs), Karen Vastine (Burlington Community Justice Center) among others. The list above are the individuals that attend most all of the meetings. There are others on the listserve who receive the information.

The meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. This team takes the vision and direction of the Task Force and makes it real. They work out the specific details of how a project or vision would work on the ground – keeping in mind all the possibilities. In some instances they take the work and put it into practice themselves. They get a monthly report on the SFI process; they provided input to the Legislative Report on Act 33 – Community Supports for People with Serious Functional Impairments. They developed a menu of best practices for law enforcement diversion and mental health responses at intercept point one which eventually was used to create the Mental Health bill, Act 79. And for the last 15-18 months they have been working on Intercept Point 2 & 3 pre-charge and pretrial services.