

Raise The Age Implementation Report

- ▶ Senate Committee on Judiciary

- ▶ October 8, 2021

- ▶ Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

- ▶ Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

2019 Implementation Report Plan

- ▶ Developed by DCF, in conjunction with the Columbia Justice Lab's Emerging Adult Justice Project to support the enacted 201 "Raise the Age" initiative.
- ▶ The Act requires DCF, in consultation with Juvenile Justice Stakeholder Agencies to submit annual status reports outlining progress of the initiative.
- ▶ DCF submitted a status report in November of 2020 which identified challenges to implementation, and general areas of needed supports.
- ▶ DCF is currently drafting the 2021 report, due for submission to the Legislature on November 1, 2021.

2019 Act 201 Implementation Plan Report Recommendations

Enhancement of
Diversion
Practices

Maximize
efficiencies
within the family
division

Expand Non-
custodial post
merits options

Clarifying Physical
Custody

Consider Victim's
Rights

Developing DCF's
Operational
Capacity

Defining and
Developing Data
Collection and
Analysis processes

Identifying
Statutory changes

Impact of COVID 19

Many service and placement resources are stretched, and with reduced capacity

Service interruption (especially residential programming)

Program staffing nationally is at unprecedented lows (both vacancy and turnover)

Limited Court Docket time

Resource reallocation (development of protocols and practices)

Other Unplanned Challenges

- Coordination of FFPSA initiative
- New federal compliance guidance
- Judiciary data systems transition
- 18+ youths sharing resources with other juveniles
- Shifting trends in case mix, including youthful offender

Changes to Case Mix

The included data represent DCF case data, and court filing data, respectively.

Both these datasets demonstrate an increase in the number of processed Youthful Offender cases.

	Pre-Dispo Youth	Post-Dispo. Youth	Del Youth in Custody
2017	51	135	103
2018	65	138	94
2019	132	180	76
2020	114	165	54
2021	101	146	40

Court Filings Over Time							
	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Delinquency	715	743	701	888	707	626	681
Youthful Offender	44	43	33	33	504	390	301

Implementation of Juvenile Justice Reform

- RTA specific programming
 - Return House
 - Single Occupancy living environment in Southern Vermont.
- Collaboration with Fish and Wildlife
- Statutory corrections, some included with S97: CDL Holders, 5301(c)(2A), 5204(a), VSA 33(b)
- Columbia University Justice Lab continued attempts to secure evaluation
- Vermont Law School Restorative Justice Certificate program
- Motivational Interviewing Training Series

Children and Family Council For Prevention Programs

Validation & ERD assessment of YASI

Emerging Adult Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Recidivism of 18- & 19-year-olds

School Discipline

Training law enforcement on Diversion

Questions?

