Statewide Action Plans Summary

Vermont Restorative Report (May 2026)

1. Family Group Conferencing • FGC is intended to shift decision-making power toward children, youth, and families. • A workgroup will guide planning with input from central office, districts, external consultants, and families. • Implementation will draw on Vermont experience plus national and international learning. • The approach may vary by community rather than follow one uniform statewide model. • Success means FGCs are offered routinely in each district and clearly understood and supported by FSD.	**2. Kinship Care** • The plan aims to reduce trauma and improve placement stability and permanency with relatives. • Workgroups will examine policy, practice, funding, and resources to expand kin placements. • The work includes kin-specific supports, family finding, and policy and procedure revision. • Attention will also be given to licensing rules, ICPC, and barrier removal while maintaining child safety. • Effectiveness will be measured by comparing current and post-implementation kinship placement and stability data.
3. Effective Practice & Engagement with Youth Beyond Parental Control • The goal is to reduce system involvement and strengthen prevention for high-risk youth. • The plan emphasizes support in homes, schools, and communities. • It calls for accessible tools, stronger community partnerships, and family systems support based on self-identified needs. • Activities include a workgroup, revised case planning tools, a Family Support Plan, and policy revision. • Guidance will also be developed for screenings and local teaming with community partners.	**4. Shared Training & Collaboration Across Providers and DCF Staff** • The plan focuses on relationship-building and shared learning across youth-serving partners and DCF staff. • Adolescent Services Unit and partners will identify priority topics, facilitators, and a training schedule. • Most learning opportunities are expected to be in person at the Waterbury State Office Complex. • DCF will look for no- or low-cost opportunities that use in-house and partner expertise. • Identified topics include chronic absenteeism, human trafficking, authentic youth engagement, domestic violence/healthy relationships, racial equity, and family engagement/mediation.