



Youth Restoration Project

Cultivating Relationships; Restoring Community

Our Services

The Youth Restoration Project will show you what can be achieved when your school, organization or community shares a healing and inclusive philosophy.

Restorative Practices are contagious. Once a small critical mass of people are routinely using these techniques, their friends, colleagues and families also become empowered to advocate for themselves more responsibly, trusting that their voices will be heard.

YRP offers three kinds of services:

We can provide each separately, but they work best when they're used together.

1. Training

- We offer basic, intermediate and advanced training programs conducted on site, with groups of no fewer than 10.
- We make Certificate programs available through the Sargent Center, eligible for CEU credits.
- We can do one-time presentations tailored to your organization, school or neighborhood, to develop interest in Restorative Practices.

2. Consulting on implementing Restoration in your community

- We work both with groups just getting started learning Restorative Practices and with those who have experience but want to push further toward changing their community culture.

3. Conferencing

- Family Group Conferencing is a restorative protocol used internationally to resolve conflict and repair harm caused by crime, misbehavior or family disfunction. Our Conference Facilitators work with the affected parties to understand the context of the problem and decide who should be at the table. They then arrange a conference meeting to work toward agreements acceptable to all involved. The Facilitator also follows up to ensure the agreements are met. Conferencing can be useful for families, schools and child protective services as well as juvenile and adult justice systems, and to help foster cultural change in any organization.

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To develop a full Implementation Plan, here's how we work:

1. Discovery We begin with a free consultation with your administrators, to work out an initial plan and negotiate fees. When that's settled, we like to meet with selected individuals and groups to get a lay of the land and a sense of community priorities.

2. Training We offer one or two-session presentations that expose groups to the basic concepts and tools of Restorative Practices. To develop confident Restorative Practitioners, though, we recommend a sequence of five 3-hour sessions with groups of no more than 18. Participants learn to use the tools at home or on the job, and bring back stories of their efforts, so the group can learn together what worked or what didn't, and why. Restoration can seem obvious, but unless participants are deliberate in using the tools and assessing the results, it's hard to break old habits or advance new skills.

We strongly recommend that some of your community participate in the intensive training offered at The Sargent Center. You'll need capable leaders to take over the work as YRP's involvement recedes. Our goal is to help your community own the work.

3. Implementation Team A critical first step is to assemble your site's Implementation Team and identify each person's role. The Team will need adequate training and support so they're making decisions with a Restorative mindset, and modeling Restorative, trauma-informed behavior in the community. Our workbook will walk the Team through a sequence of decision clusters they'll need to consider to develop an effective Implementation Plan.

4. Implementation Plan With our help, your Team determines priorities, deciding which systems to implement now and which can be phased in later. Supported by our experience in similar situations, the Team plans how to communicate with the larger community and make adjustments depending on the responses they get.

5. On-going consulting We observe and give feedback, helping to smooth the bumps in the road. While people often expect immediate results, culture shift takes time. And when crises arise, it's all too easy to slide back into old habits, so booster trainings and more communication may be needed. Even the best plans usually have to be revised, strengthened or updated by working out new Restorative systems.

6. Evaluation It's vital to keep asking: what will this look like when we've got it right? How do we know when we're succeeding? What data are available already, and what else should we be monitoring? We'll help you design systems to get feedback from your community and reinforce fidelity to the Restorative model over time.

The Youth Restoration Project is committed to understanding the unique needs and strengths of each organization we work with. We know that the long-term success of any program depends on a group's active participation in designing and building it.