Youth Restoration Project

Cultivating Relationships; Restoring Community

The Basics: Restorative Practices Restorative Justice

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Whole Community

- People with significant needs that take consistent, maybe clinical attention
- People whose distress needs some managing
- Everyone in the community, needy or not

Youth Restoration Project
Restorative Practices Continuum

**Building Relationships**
- Speak from the heart
- Listen carefully
- Ask open-ended questions
- Circle up.

**Maintaining Community**
- Hear every voice
- Participate, cooperate and be part of the solution
- Model the behavior you want to see
- Discuss norms and values

**Repairing Harm**
- Focus first on the needs of harmed parties
- Take responsibility for your own behavior
- Practice resolving conflict
- Wait patiently for answers to questions
The Basic Distinction:

**Retribution** says:
“You’ve broken our rules, and until you pay us back by being punished, you’re not welcome in our community.” (And as we know, even when debts to society have been paid, the person is still labeled “bad.”)

**Restoration** says:
“You’re one of our own and we’re not giving up on you. But this behavior is unacceptable, because it harms us all, including you. We’ll hold you accountable while you repair the harm and restore our community fabric.”
### Restorative Practices: Community Safety, Accountability and Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Retributive</strong></th>
<th><strong>Restorative</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Justice aims to hurt.</td>
<td>Restorative Justice aims to heal.</td>
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<td>Accountability is punishment.</td>
<td>Accountability is taking responsibility and repairing harm.</td>
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<td>Victims are peripheral to the process.</td>
<td>Victims are central to the process.</td>
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<td>The justice process is adversarial.</td>
<td>The justice process involves all voices in dialogue to negotiate reparation to victim and community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime and misbehavior define the offender’s personal deficits.</td>
<td>Taking responsibility and repairing harm defines the offender’s capacity.</td>
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<td>Crime is an act against the state and its laws.</td>
<td>Crime is an act against individuals and the community.</td>
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“To Discipline” means “To Teach”

- *Punishment* coerces behavior by using external forces – hurt, humiliation or force – potentially escalating trauma.
- *Discipline* cultivates internal control – civilizing behavior for the good of the whole community.
Why Punishment Doesn’t Work

• Offenders see punishment as a passive experience, don’t expect to participate.
• Offenders don’t develop internal controls when we rely on external rewards and punishments.
• Offenders often resent authority figures for imposing punishment.
• Offenders are alienated from the victims, the community and the authorities.
• Victim and community have no say in how to restore social respect and safety.
• Parents of offenders become alienated from educators and other helpers, often feel powerless and shamed or blamed.
• Research doesn’t support the effectiveness of punishment in stopping rude or challenging behavior.
• The wider community doesn’t get involved in long-term prevention plans.
INCARCERATION RATES
AMONG FOUNDING NATO MEMBERS

INCARCERATION RATE
(per 100,000 population)

United States: 716
United Kingdom: 147
Portugal: 136
Luxembourg: 122
Canada: 118
Belgium: 108
Italy: 106
France: 98
Netherlands: 82
Denmark: 73
Norway: 72

Source: http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/
Become Trauma-Informed

When dealing with people, adults or children, assume the possibility of trauma.
Being Trauma-Informed

Be conscious of –

• Taking insult or aggression personally.
• Escalating traumatic responses.
• Power imbalances that feel threatening.
• Assuming what unwanted behavior means.
Restorative Practices grew from its roots in Restorative Justice.
Restorative Practices

cultivate the conditions for the happiest possible ending, given the situation and the people involved.
Restorative practices is a social science that integrates developments from a variety of disciplines and fields—including education, psychology, social work, criminology, sociology, organizational development and leadership—in order to build healthy communities, increase social capital, decrease crime and antisocial behavior, repair harm and restore relationships.

-- Wikipedia
The Basic Tools:

Tool #1: Circles
Circle Structure

- Democracy -- Everyone answers the same question.
- Ceremony
- Guidelines
- Talking Piece
- Keeper / Facilitator
- Consensus decision making
Tool #2: Questions
The Basic Restorative Questions

• What happened?
• What were you thinking at the time?
• Who was affected? In what ways?
• What would make this right?
• What can you do to prevent this from happening again?
Restorative Circle Examples

Community Conference
https://vimeo.com/114915516

RJOY Oakland
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtdoWo1D3sY

Oakland Advisory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc23H6RxWRo

Oakland Restorative Welcome and Re-entry Circle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSJ2GPiptvc
Tool #3: “I” Statements

I feel...
I want...
I saw...
The secret of success lies in:

- Stating your case without arousing the other person’s defenses.
- Saying how it is for you, rather than what they should or shouldn't do.

We use “I” Statements especially when:

- We need to confront others about their behavior
- We feel others are not treating us right
- We feel defensive or angry
- Others are angry with us
Final Reflection Circle