

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

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What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative Justice is a humanistic paradigm
 - RJ emphasizes human identity and interdependence
 - RJ combines ancient indigenous practices with modern concepts of democracy and inclusivity
- Restorative Justice is a way of thinking that focuses on relationships

What are the Core Beliefs Reflected in a Restorative Justice Context?

- Respect, Dignity and Mutual Concern
- Transforming Relationships Between Individuals and Within Systems by focusing on :
 - **Nurturing Healthy Relationships** as a foundation of trust for building community and repairing harms
 - **Creating Just and Equitable Environments** to ensure that community members are heard and systems are structured so that every community member has access to resources and the opportunity to experience wellbeing . As community members, we are compelled to analyze systems to identify the structural barriers that limit access to resources and support.
 - **Repairing Harm and Transforming Conflicts** to promote health public health, safety and to prevent further harm or conflict

How is RJ Used?

- Restorative Justice is a system of principles and practices that can be used instead of retributive justice or rehabilitative justice
- Restorative Justice focuses on crime as violation of people and relationships
- Restorative Justice seeks to examine the crime and its impacts, determines what can be done to repair the harm, and holds the person who committed the crime accountable for their actions

Who is Involved?



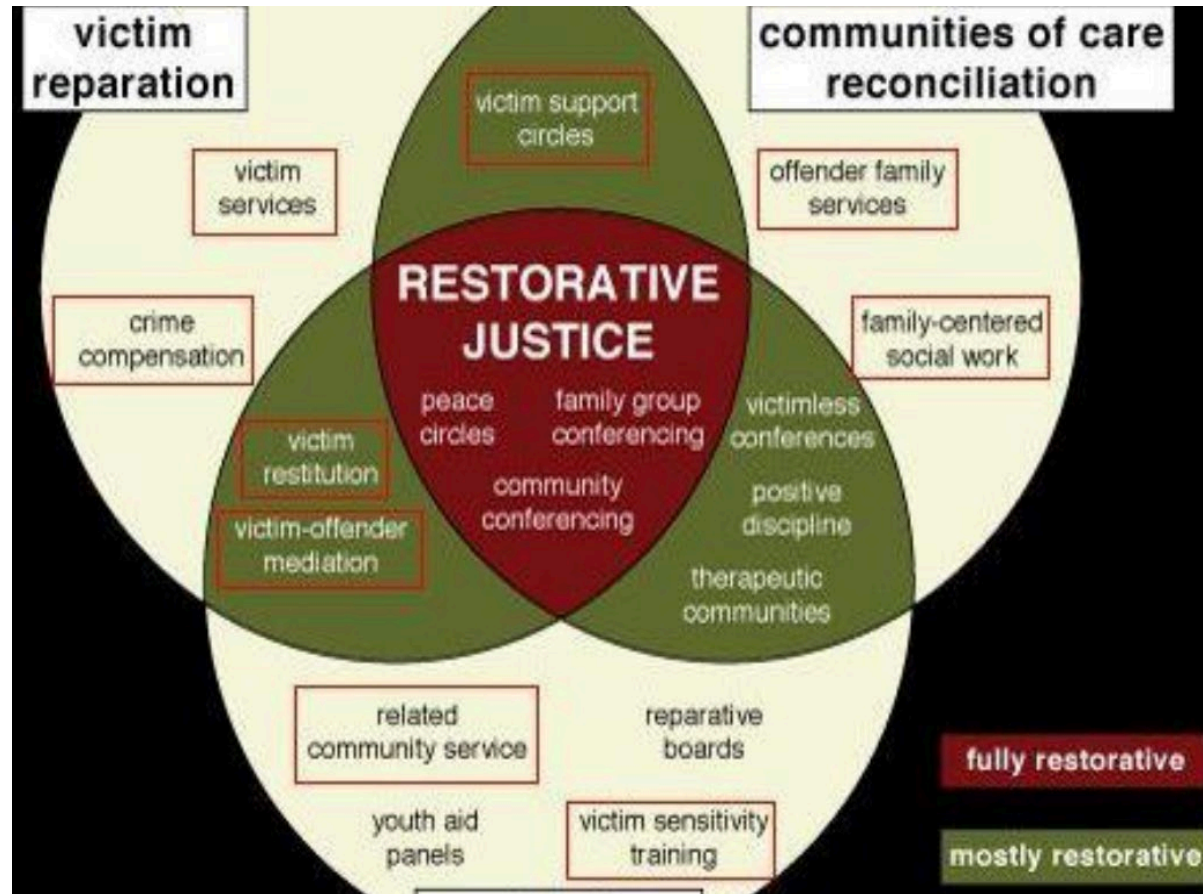
What are the Basic Principles of Restorative Justice? Harms, Needs, Obligations

- RJ focuses on harms rather than rules
- Harms create needs and obligations; the people who are responsible are obligated to make things as right as possible
 - “Justice Needs” include acknowledgement of responsibility, information, truth-telling, empowerment, and repair of harm
 - Obligations include accountability -- The person who is responsible for the harm must address it to encourage empathy, responsibility, re-integration
- The people impacted the crime should be involved in the solution
- Stakeholders include both the victim and the community

There is No One Specific RJ Program, But there are Guiding Principles

1. Who has been harmed?
2. What are their needs?
3. Who has an obligation to repair the harm?
4. Who has a stake in this situation?
5. What are the causes?
6. What is the appropriate process to involve stakeholders in an effort to put things right and address underlying causes?

What are Some Examples of RJ Practices?



Common Models focused on the Five Rs: Respect, Responsibility, Relationship, Repair and Reintegration:

- Peace Circles
- Community Conferencing
- Family Conferencing
- Victim-Offender Reconciliation
- Restitution
- Therapeutic Communities

What are Restorative Practices?

- Restorative Practices are an alternative to disciplinary policies and practices across different settings (schools, workplaces, community settings)
- Restorative Justice is a subset of Restorative Practices focused on the criminal justice system

What Outcomes are Anticipated When We Adopt Restorative Practices?

- Improve the behavior of individuals
- Strengthen society and communities
- Provide effective leadership
- Restore or strengthen relationships
- Repair harms
- Reduce crime, violence or bullying
- Improve community health

What are Circles?

- Circles are facilitated conversations where the parties agree to participate and focus on respect, openness and honesty
- The participants work together to determine the best ways of working together (including using the talking stick, listening, acknowledging feelings, using storytelling practices, and practicing allyship)
- Personal experiences are invited into the space
- Participants may summarize, reflect on, acknowledge, and empathize with things other participants have said
- The facilitator should work to bring the conversation from the personal to the systemic, helping the participants to think about ways in which systems operate and whether there are ways to disrupt oppressive systems

How Can Circles be Used?

- Resolving conflict within a group
- Exploring complex ideas
- Addressing conflicts that transpired over text or social media
- Reflecting on how to strengthen relationships
- Reflecting on a police incident, followed by a discussion about the relationship between the community and the police
- Remembrance circles

Why Does Community Matter to Restorative Practices?

Restorative Practices Rely on Community and Build Community

Not To or For, but With – “Nothing About Me Without Me”

Thank You

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