

OJP Crime & Victimization

Restorative Justice

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Restorative Justice Key Concepts

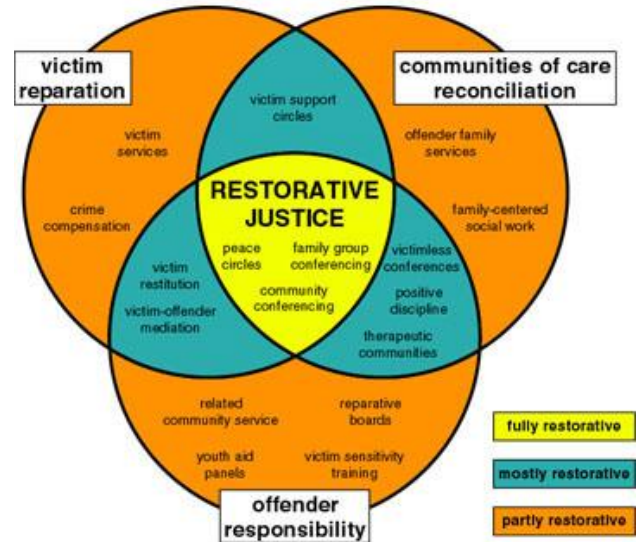
Principles - Values - Practices

- Harms, Needs, Obligation, Engagement
- Restore Connections, Promote Empathy, Increase Self-worth
- Responsibility, Relationship, Respect
- Healing & Accountability (*inner resources*)

What Restorative Justice is NOT:

-adapted from C4RJ Training Manual

- *With an agenda on forgiveness*
- *Closure or therapy*
- *Easy on offenders*
- *A panacea*
- *A specific program or blueprint*
- *Connecting all victim needs to the offender*
- *Placing victim responsible for rehabilitating or caring about the offender*



Mental – Emotional – Physical - Spiritual

We must have those core rights we keep talking about, safety first and foremost, information, choice, testimony, validation & restitution.

-Listening Project

Conference

Victim-Offender Dialogue

-----Agreement ----- Dialogue-Driven-----

Circles

Values----Safety----Structure----Autonomy----Transformation/Healing----Storytelling

Benefits

- Choice -input-direct communication-information-opportunity for ?'s – involve others – honorable resolution helps wounds mend.

Practitioners

- Complete training & experience – unattached to outcomes – willing to provide individualized approaches – from a place of *service*.

Fixing – a relationship of judgment & expertise

Helping – A relationships of power, not between equals, the strong helps the weak, healing carries dept.

Serving – service is not a technique or skill, a relationship between human beings, serving life is not fixing it, controlling it, or mastering it. One serves with one's wholeness, even one's limitations. Service is closer to love than to expertise, when you serve the life around you, you strengthen the life within you.

-Rachel Naomi Remen, MD

Elements of a Healing Presence (Mark Umbreit)

- Being Centered (compassion & humility)
- Being Connected to Higher Values & Purpose (belief system @core)
- Connected to the Humanity of others (connection enables other to bear pain & garner strength)
- Being Congruent (emotionally honest, without masks)

LOVE IS AT THE BASIS OF ANY HEALING APPROACH

Recommendations

- Understanding the human brain, the power of experience to influence
- Know listening can transform
- Never underestimate the resiliency of the human spirit.
- Establish relationships with providers of RJ, allow them to explain options.
- Be open and encourage victims – to consider their needs could change.
- Consider your role – fixing, helping, serving
- Help co-create options for victims



*Restorative Justice for
victims/survivors – a matter of choice.*

References

- Little Book of Restorative Justice – Zehr
- Little Book of Circle Process – Pranis
- Peacemaking Circles – Pranis
- Taking Victims & Their Advocates Seriously: A Listening Project
<http://www.restorativejustice.org/10fulltext/mika>
- Circlespace blog post: <http://circle-space.org/2009/08/12/understanding-living-and-facilitating-restorative-justice/>
- Questions for RJ Practitioners to Consider When Creating & Implementing a Victim-Centered & Victim-Balanced Program – Susan Russell 2000
- Critical Issues in Restorative Justice – Howard Zehr & Barb Toews
- The First 48 Hours: Spiritual Caregivers as First Responders
- Compassionate Listening project
- Brain-based Change ppt, from SCVRJP volunteer in-service, www.circlespace.org
- Vibrational Medicine: Energy Healing & Spiritual Transformation – Richard Gerber, MD
- Peacemaking & Spirituality: A Journey Toward Healing & Strength, De. Mark Umbreit

SCVRJP Circle Training – October 5 & 6 Friday & Saturday 9-4.
Sign up to follow blogs, or e-newsletter.

Minnesota Restorative Services Coalition – free list-serve announcements, www.mnmrsc.org

