

# Restorative Practices in Action

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FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR

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KEYSHA MYERS

## History

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RJ echoes ancient and indigenous practices from various cultures all over the world.

In the modern context, RJ originated in the 1970's in Ontario, Canada with support of the Mennonite Central Committee. The work spread throughout North America and Europe through the 1980's and continues to spread today

## Definition of Restorative Justice

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Howard Zehr identifies three concepts as pillars of this framework

- 1) Focuses on harm
- 2) Wrongdoing/harm results in obligations
- 3) Promotes engagement or participation

## Restorative.....

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Restorative Justice

Restorative Practices

Restorative Philosophy

Restorative Discipline

Restorative Mediation

Restorative???

### **re-store**

verb (used with object), re-stored, re-stor-ing. 1. to bring back into existence, use, or the like; reestablish: to restore order.

2. to bring back to a former, original, or normal condition, as a building, statue, or painting.

3. to bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor.

4. to put back to a former place, or to a former position, rank, etc.: to restore the king to his throne.

5. to give back; make return or restitution of (anything taken away or lost).

# When harm happens what questions do we ask?

## NON-RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

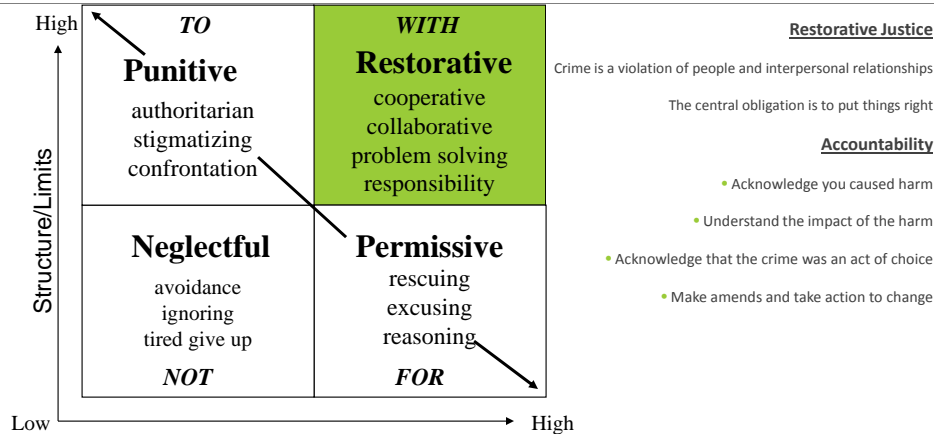
- What law was broken?
- Who broke the law?
- What should we do to that person?

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

- Who was hurt?
- What do those hurt need to begin repairing the harm or putting things right?
- Who has obligations to try to meet those needs?
- Who should be part of the process of determining what needs to be done to repair the harm?
- What specific collaborative process would be most helpful for determining how to put things right?

PRANIS, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE CIRCLE PROCESS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE 2010

# Restorative Philosophy



BLOOD, 2004 ADAPTED FROM WACHTEL, 1999

# Restorative Practices

- **Victim-Offender Mediation**-face to face dialog between victim and offender
- **Restorative Group Conferencing**-victim, victim supporters, offender, offender supporters.
- **Peace Circles**-victim, victim supporters, offender, offender supporters, community members, relevant members of the justice system.
  - Informal Diversion
  - Formal Diversion
  - Post charge-pre adjudication/disposition
  - Post adjudication/disposition
  - Sentencing Circles

RJ Practices bring victims, offenders, and community member together in a facilitated dialog to determine what is needed to repair the harm, put things right, and build a better future.

PRANIS, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE CIRCLE PROCESS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Peace Circles

**Diversion**- Youth charged with non-violent offenses can be referred to Peace Circles and have there case dismissed upon completion.

**School Based**- create a positive school environment and to intervene with disciplinary issues before juvenile court involvement.

**Community**- addresses negative behavior in the community that has not risen to the level of formal juvenile court charges.

**Transition**- Targeted toward youth returning from out-of-home placements





Questions?

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceJusticeEquality>