

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Beyond the Bench

December 19, 2017

Agenda

Terminology

Restorative Justice

Community Conferencing

Juvenile Court Diversion

Case Studies

Research

Impact

Restorative Justice

Redefines crime as a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right. Justice involves the victim, the offender, and the community in a search for solutions which promote repair, reconciliation, and reassurance.

~Howard Zehr

Restorative Justice

- Innovative alternative to the judicial system.
- **Accountability** for deviant behavior.
- Everyone (including the victim) works collectively toward a solution.
- Addresses the root causes.
- Community-based solutions decrease the likelihood of recurrence.

Juvenile Detention

LA County spends more than \$233,000 per year to hold each youth in juvenile detention.

~LA Times 2/23/16

Comparable jurisdictions:

Chicago \$204,400

San Diego \$127,750

Houston \$84,680

Disproportionality

Youth of color represent roughly 41% of the U.S. population, but they make up more than 2/3 of the youth placed in detention centers across the country.

[C.Puzzanchera, A. Sladky, & W. Kang *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations 1990-2008* (2009)]



We have a problem everywhere...

Restorative Justice Lineage

NZ → Australia → Baltimore → **LA**

Professor Lauren Abramson (1995)
Community Conferencing Center * Baltimore

Professor Scott Wood (2009)
Loyola Law School * Los Angeles

Professor Eric Strauss (2013)
Loyola Marymount University
Center for Urban Resilience * Los Angeles



Justice System Comparison

Traditional

- What law was broken?
- Who broke the law?
- How should we punish the offender?
- Court determines punishment based on laws.
- Focus is on the past.

Restorative

- What happened?
- Who has been affected? How?
- What can be done to repair the harm?
- Group collectively decides how to repair the harm.
- Focus is on the future.

Suspension Diversion Program

Loyola Marymount University

- ✓ Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
- ✓ Aspire Public Schools
- ✓ Centinela Valley Union High School District
- ✓ Los Angeles Unified School District

Juvenile Court Diversion Referral Agencies

- State's Attorney's Office
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Police
- School Police / Schools
- Neighborhoods

Eligible Juvenile Cases for Court Diversion

- Car Theft (Maryland)
- 2nd Degree Assault
- Theft & Shoplifting
- Breaking and Entering
- Vandalism

Community Conferencing



Impact on Communities

- Holds People Accountable
- Improves Relationships
- Identifies Root Causes of Behavior
- Connects People to a Support Network
- Collectively Resolves Crime

Impact on Communities

- Victims often report, “Justice has been served”.
- 95% of the cases result in agreement.
- Helps resolve things in as few as two weeks.
- Avoids the sometimes lengthy wait for official action from courts or other institutions.
- Cost effective: 1/10th the cost of court proceedings.
- Rate of recidivism is 60% less than formal juvenile justice intervention.*

*Maryland Department of Juvenile Services Study



Fosbury Flop

The Traditional Approach





MakeAGIF.com



LMU Center for Urban Resilience

- ① Educate others.
- ② Identify the root causes of deviant behavior.
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