

Restorative Justice Practices: Improving Outcomes for Justice-Involved & At-Risk Youth

Hosted by:

University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI)
The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University (CJJR)

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Presenters

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- Restorative Community Pathways

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- American Institute for Research
- International Institute for Restorative Practices

Objectives



Restorative Practices in JJS

Victim-Offender
Mediation (VOM)

Family Group
Conferencing

Community Panels

Credible
Messengers/Mentoring

Restitution

Peer Courts

UCCI Literature Review



- Goal: Explore the efficacy of restorative practices used in the juvenile justice system
- Inclusion Criteria:
 - Juvenile sample
 - Quantitative component
 - Comparison group
 - Recidivism as dependent/outcome variable
 - Restorative practice/technique

Key Takeaways: Outcomes



- Improved outcomes compared to traditional processing
 - Lower recidivism rates
 - Arrest
 - Later official CJS contact
 - Less serious future offenses
 - Longer time offense-free
- Increased victim and/or youth satisfaction
- Cost-effective
- Increased compliance with restitution

Key Takeaways: Generalizability

Diverse Populations

- Age, gender, race
- Criminal history
- Offense type

Diverse Settings

- Community
- Detention
- Schools

Implications

Methodological limitations mean more research is needed

- Quantitative
- Strong methodological design (i.e., RCTs, quasi-experimental)
- Longer follow-up period
- Longitudinal
- Explore impact of risk level

Implementation challenges require researchers and practitioners to work together

Cultural context of restorative practices may impact efficacy

Key Considerations

Improved JJS Outcomes

- Increased victim satisfaction
- Particularly beneficial for low-risk or first-time offending youth, or misdemeanor charges

Involve Others

- Opportunity for scaling through train-the-trainer approaches
- Ability to involve credible messengers and the community in the process

Ideal in the Current JJS Landscape

- Flexibility of setting
- Less intensive staffing requirements
- Cost-effectiveness

Overall Takeaway

Restorative practices have *promise*—
but we need to *know more* about
what works when and *with whom*.

Presenters

Sondra Santana

- Program Manager, Restorative Community Conferencing at *Community Works West*

Aaron Faletofo & Jasmine Vail

- Referral Administrator at King's County *Restorative Community Pathways*
- Communications Coordinator at King's County *Restorative Community Pathways*

Derrick Franke

- Senior Researcher at *American Institute for Research*
- Trainer at *International Institute for Restorative Practices*



Community Works West-RCC/MIR Program ✨



What Do We Do/Glossary

RY—Responsible Youth

RJ Circle—opportunity for responsible youth to share their accountability through the RJ process in an in-person circle with the following participants

PH—Person Harmed

PHS—Surrogate

Accountability Plan—plan developed during conference to restore the harm in a beneficial way for the youth to ensure this doesn't happen again and to restore what was lost for the Person Harmed

CM—Community Member



Who Do We Serve?

Alameda County

Youth ages 12–17

San Francisco
County

Youth ages 12–17
Tay 17–25



What Cases Qualify?

Charges

- We take serious felony cases excluding most 707b offenses

Person Harmed

- Identifiable Person Harmed

What doesn't qualify?

- Cases where there is no identifiable person harmed
- Misdemeanors
- Big box store thefts

Examples of charges

- Car theft/break-ins
- Fights/interpersonal violence
- Sexual harm cases
- burglary

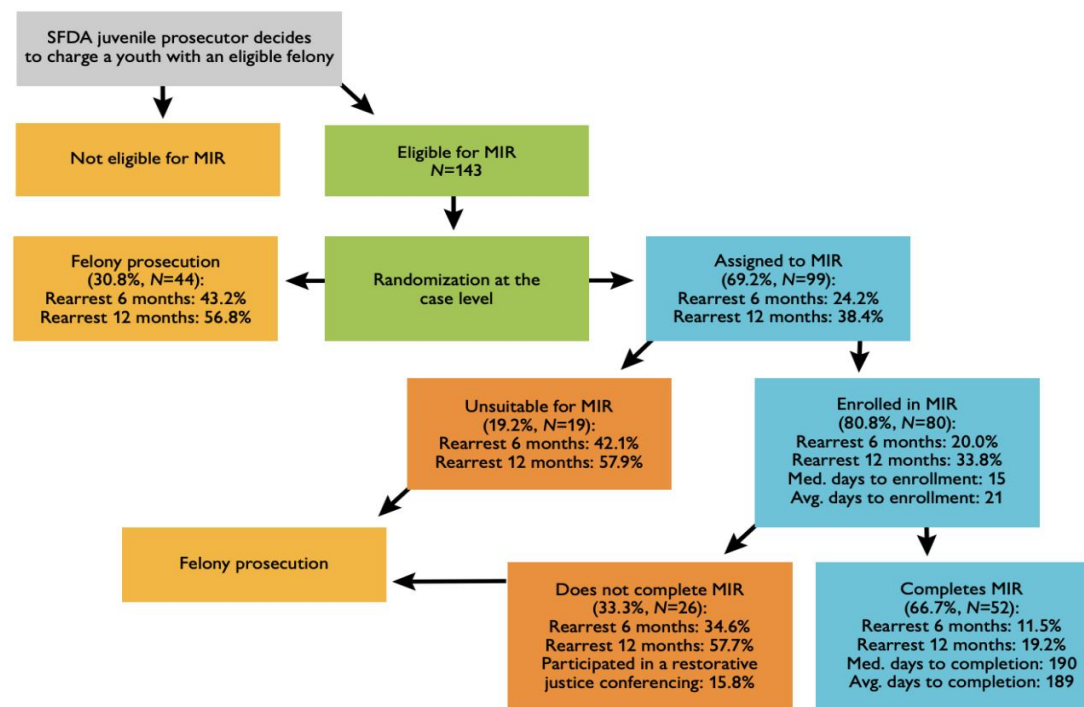
Our Process





Case Flow

FIGURE 1. Case flow through the different treatments in the Make-it-Right study



Mental Health Component

Offer free, brief individual therapy for people in our program who've caused harm.

In-person and telehealth

Treatment plans in alignment with restorative plans and long-term goal setting

Services are available in Spanish as well, and in-person location availability will be expanding soon to include San Francisco





Resource Coordination

Youth Direct Services

We work with youth to develop a restorative plan after conference. Those restorative plans are smart goals that all participants in the restorative conference put on the plan. These goals are used to address the four parts of harm: Self, Person Harmed, family, community

Community Outreach

Engage in community buildout to develop resources for our youth.

Early Case Management

Connect youth to support and resources based on their needs.



Program Innovation

Build & Maintain Community Engagement

- System Partners (OPD, SFDA)
- Community-Based Organizations
- Life coaching and credible messaging through success centers and other CBO partnerships
- Build Outreach Program

Internal Innovation

- Building RJ curriculum
- Expansion on victim services
- Support resource list for both youth and victims



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RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS



IN COMMUNITY
BY COMMUNITY

deeply rooted in

OUR PRINCIPLES



healing not
punishment

- RCP is based in the reality that punishment does not resolve harm in our communities. We are dedicated to the healing and restoration of our communities.

returning power
to communities

- RCP is invested in removing power from the state and returning that power to communities.

dismantling
oppression

- RCP is being designed to actively dismantle white supremacy, settler-colonialism, patriarchy, and other forms of oppression that the criminal system perpetuates.

youth agency
and liberation

- RCP acts in opposition of the court system's disempowerment of youth by centering youth's agency and liberation.

accountable
relationships

- RCP is invested in caring and accountable relationships both with the youth, consortium, community. Through restorative justice practices we are committed to accountable relationships.
-

The idea of restorative justice is that harm engenders needs and that those needs should be met. Who is going to meet those needs and how will people meet those needs?

— Mariame Kaba

Healing over punishment.

Breaking the victim/perpetrator binary, RCP works to actively challenge how the legal system understands safety in our community— rather than a focus on punishment, RCP recognizes that all individuals are deserving of healing and restoration. RCP supports every party in situations of harm, providing them with resources, community supports, and restorative practices in order to ensure that all those involved are supported and able to move forward.





A network of care that works.

RCP is deeply embedded within a network of 7 different non-profit community organizations centered around our principles of having accountable and caring relationships. This network is committed to caring holistically for youth in King County who would otherwise experience the harmful effects of the incarceration system.

IN COMMUNITY, BY COMMUNITY

THE CONSORTIUM



EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY SERVICES



**COLLECTIVE
JUSTICE**



**CHOOSE
180**



CREATIVE JUSTICE

NAVIGATING A NETWORK OF CARE



Youth is Referred to RCP

Eligible Youth and persons who experienced harm are referred from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to the RCP consortium.



Community Navigator connects with youth

Both Youth and the person who experienced harm are reached out to by two community navigators to receive care from RCP Consortium.



4 Areas of Support and Accountability

Community Navigators then support the youth in basic needs accountability, restitution, growth, healing and pathways of connection and long term community.



Long Term Community Connection

Community Navigators work to connect youth with programs in and out of network within the community based on the youth's goals.

Weekly Connection

Community Navigators connect weekly with the Youth checking in on support plans and healing.



4 AREAS OF SUPPORT

* Basic Needs

- Supporting youth and their family members and community members who
- have experienced harm in accessing basic needs such as housing and rent
- support, bill payments, groceries, clothing, mental and physical health services, and other needs.

* Restorative Justice & Healing

- Creating collective spaces for healing, and processes for healing and
- accountability for the youth and community members who have experienced harm.

* Connection

- Providing youth with peer-support and mentorship, alongside educational
- and vocational opportunities and support services.

* Community

- Building and holding space for intentional community support and organizing
- centered in shared identity (racial, refugee, gender, sexual, religious, cultural, etc.).

Feel Free to Contact Us or Learn More...



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**COLLECTIVE
JUSTICE**

Restorative Justice for Youth

Derrick Franke, MA

Senior Researcher – American Institutes for Research

Trainer – International Institute for Restorative Practices

Why Restorative Justice?

1. Shift the balance of power away from justice systems toward communities most impacted.
2. Focus on repair/healing instead of punishment.
3. Prevent harmful effects of justice system involvement.
4. Better align our response to wrongdoing with what we know effectively changes behavior.
5. Remember the value of RJ as a preventive measure, not simply responsive.

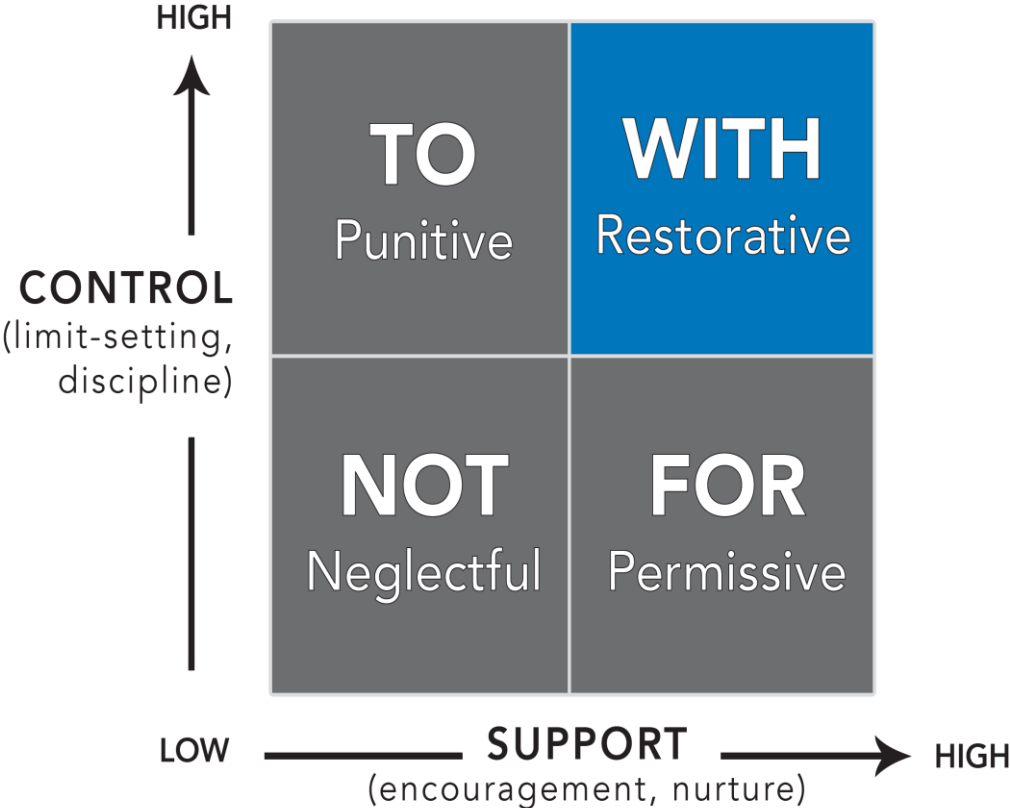
Training Agencies in Restorative Justice

- Juvenile Corrections
 - Indiana Division of Youth Services
 - Challenges and opportunities for RJ in juvenile correctional facilities
- Schools
 - Genesee Intermediate School District (Flint, MI)
 - Challenges and opportunities for restorative practices in schools



Key Challenge to Implementation

Perception that restorative justice is “soft” on crime



Adapted by Paul McCold and Ted Wachtel from Glaser, 1969

What We Know: Research on Juvenile-Based RJ

Compared to traditional juvenile justice processes, RJ practices can:

1. Reduce reoffending (addresses underlying causes)
2. Increase satisfaction with the process (for youth, their families, and victims)
3. Build empathy
4. Facilitate more successful reintegration by involving wider communities of support in the process
5. Provide a more cost-effective alternative

What We Still Don't Know

1. What are the mechanisms that explain reductions in reoffending (the “black box” of RJ)?
2. What are the other short- and long-term outcomes associated with RJ (aside from reoffending)?
3. How is RJ best implemented?
 - Conferencing models
 - Facilitator training
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - Types of offenses
4. How do stakeholders perceive the process?
5. How can RJ impact wider systemic change (e.g., addressing structural inequalities)?

Current AIR Evaluation

REIMAGINING THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM:
Neighborhood Opportunity & Accountability Board (NOAB)

Oakland, CA

Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board (NOAB)

- Initiative launched in 2017
- Diversion at the point of arrest
- High-level misdemeanors and low-level felonies
- Partnership with Oakland Police Department and several community-based organizations
- Core component: Community Accountability Conference



The NOAB Process

YOUTH ARRESTED

Police refer case to NOAB
in lieu of detention and
system involvement



Intake:

NOAB Coordinator meets with youth and family within 48 hours of referral to conduct intake and initial assessment



NOAB Conference:

Youth and family appear before NOAB to discuss the delinquent behavior, life goals, and what's needed to achieve them



Community Plan:

With information from NOAB Conference, NOAB Coordinator develops an Individual Achievement Plan with youth and family



Connection to Services, Supports, and Opportunities:

Youth and family are connected to one or more of the many NOAB partner community-based service providers



Graduation:

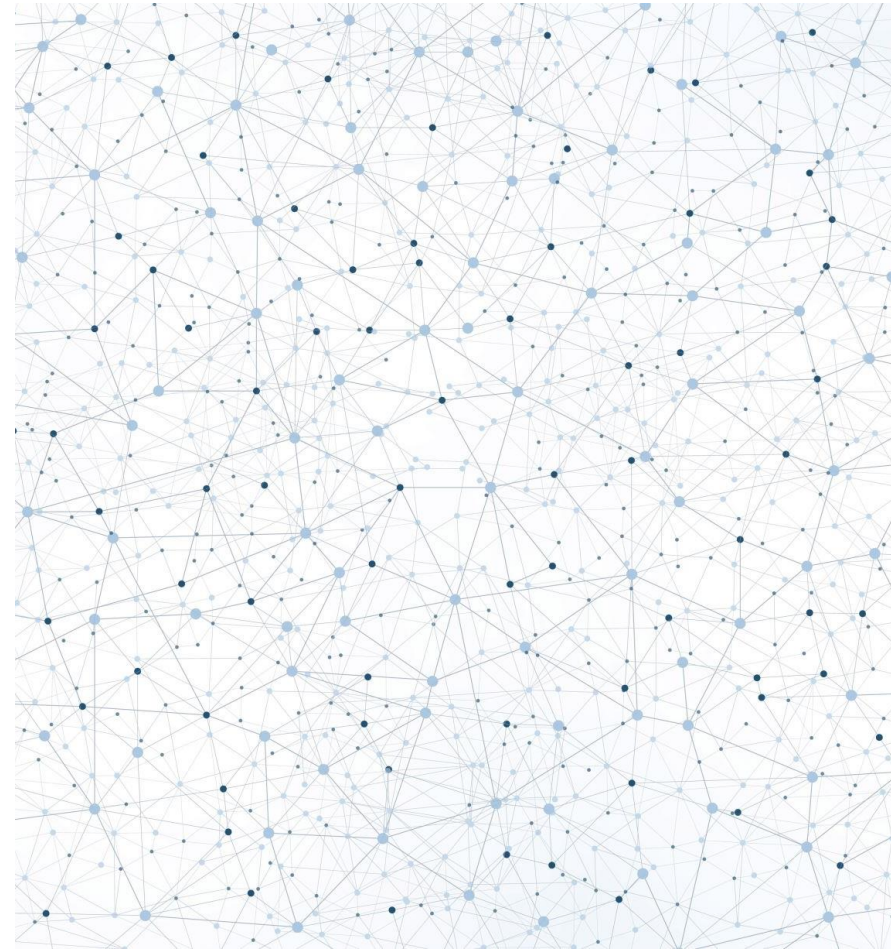
After 6-9 months of successful program participation, youth graduates and arrest and charge are disposed

AIR's Evaluation of NOAB

- Implementation Study
 - How does the NOAB process work?
 - What are the challenges and barriers to implementation?
 - How could NOAB be replicated elsewhere?
- Impact Study
 - What outcomes are we seeing for youth diverted to NOAB?
 - School, reoffending, attitudes, relationships, community safety, perceptions
- Initial Findings

Keys to Effective Researcher/Practitioner Relationships

1. Co-Design
 - a. From designing research questions to disseminating findings
 - b. Doing “with” rather than “to” or “for”
 - c. Stakeholder advisory groups;
Participatory research
2. Shared Goals and Objectives
3. Mutual Trust
4. Communication and Flexibility
5. Capacity Building and Sustainability



The Future of RJ for Youth and Communities



1. Building public and justice agency support for RJ (buy-in)
2. Strengthening community engagement in the process
3. Incorporating culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches
4. Building our evidence base
 - a. Mechanisms behind *why* RJ works
 - b. Long-term effects
 - c. Impact on systemic inequities
5. Understanding role of technology
6. Establishing standards of practice

Thank you!

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