

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND JUVENILE REVIEW BOARDS



JUVENILE REVIEW BOARDS

- ▶ A Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a community-based diversion program for youth that may otherwise be referred to the Juvenile Court for minor violations of the law. Although there is no specific enabling statute establishing a JRB, the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) model has been in existence for 50 years in Connecticut.
- ▶ The purpose of diversion is **to redirect youth from involvement in the formal juvenile court system** in an effort to hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions, court oversight, or the threat of confinement to mitigate future risk and subsequent delinquent behavior
- ▶ The first JRB was created in Enfield, CT in 1968
- ▶ There are currently @90 JRBs serving over 135 communities
- ▶ Most JRBs fall under the umbrella of the YSB. 10% are run by another entity.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- “Restorative Justice is a paradigm shift in human thinking.”
- “Restorative is not something you *do*; it is something you *are* within yourself. It is a way of being.”
- “Many people still see discipline as something you *do* to people rather than something that is cultivated.”



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, CONTINUED

- “We throw the words discipline, punishment, consequences, and accountability around as if they are interchangeable.”
- “They are not interchangeable, because each of these words has very different meanings and, even more so, they have different outcomes.”
- “We use words like consequences or discipline when we mean punishment. Punishment is external control.”
- “One of the goals of punishment is usually to demand compliance with rules through suffering. Punishment promotes a loss of confidence and motivation.”
- “WHAT WE WANT IS ENGAGEMENT.”

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONTINUED

- “Adults tend to believe they teach children to be responsible for their behavior by imposing the punishment when, in reality, being responsible for your behavior means making things right, rather than serving a punishment. In children and adolescents, punishment encourages a lack of responsibility and accountability. It teaches lying, sneaking, blaming, and how to avoid getting caught.”
- “Consequences are about cause and effect, and they exist naturally in the world. Our goal with restorative is always to help people see the consequences of their actions. In other words, we are talking about impact. This is the difference between getting control over *youth* versus influencing their future choices.”
- Joe Brummer with Margaret Thorsborne: *Building a Trauma-Informed Restorative School: Skills and Approaches for Improving Culture and Behavior*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2021

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE QUESTIONS

- Responding to a challenging behavior:
 - What happened?
 - What were you thinking of at the time?
 - What have you thought about since?
 - Who has been affected by what you have done? And in what way?
 - What do you think you need to do to make it right?

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE QUESTIONS, CONTINUED

- To help those harmed by others' actions
 - What did you think when you realized what happened?
 - What impact has this incident had on you and others?
 - What has been the hardest thing for you?
 - What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLE PROMPTS

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT QUESTIONS AND GET-TO-KNOW-YOU QUESTIONS

- Utilizing questions to prompt people to tell us about their lives...
 - When people first meet you what do you think they see? What do you wish they would see?
 - What's one value that's important for you to see in our space today?
 - What's one word that someone you love would use to describe you?
 - What's one of your strengths and what is something you'd like to improve on?
 - When you're first getting to know someone, what helps with building trust?
 - Compare your current mood to the weather.
 - What's the best thing that happened to you today? What's the worst?
 - What's your superpower?
 - If you were a cartoon character, who would you be and why?



TRAINING DESCRIPTION – RJ 101 TRAINING

- **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE 101**

- In this webinar, we will deconstruct the juvenile justice system (why and how it is often harmful), and how we then replicate many of its elements in our diversion processes. We will also see how Restorative Justice speaks to the failures of our justice system and allows us to operate in a way that is consistent with research about how the developing minds of young people work. We will also explore how trauma interrupts development and impacts children's behavior. This workshop will give participants a deeper understanding of what restorative justice is and how it differs from our traditional systems while still getting the outcomes we want.

RJ 201 TRAINING

- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE 201

- Expanding on the learning from our RJ101, this more advanced webinar will help participants in learning the skills that support restorative justice. We will learn and experience specific communication skills and the use of circle process, and how these practices interact with the adolescent brain. We will discuss specific strategies to bring this work to diversion work. Space is limited.
- Pre-requisite: You must have taken Restorative Justice 101 or other recent previous RJ training

RJ ADVANCED TRAINING

- RJ ADVANCED
 - This 2-day intensive workshop for JRB staff will expand the learning from the RJ 101 and RJ 201 sessions. We will expand our concepts of what trauma-informed restorative justice looks like in action. This advanced training will allow participants to take a closer look at the current practices to discover opportunities for shift from the punitive approach to justice to a restorative mindset that allows us to avoid creating
 - Day 1: On our first day together, we will deepen our experience with being in circle and ways to incorporate circle into your JRB process. We will also further explore how trauma impacts the lives of children so we can hold kids accountable without doing further harm.
 - Day 2: On day 2, we will expand our skills of restorative practices from using questions to listening and speaking with empathy. We will explore contract writing and action plans to repair harm. Through games, activities, videos, and circle process, we will deepen our ability to live out the principles of trauma-informed restorative practices.
- In order to attend this training, attendance at the RJ101 and RJ201 are required. This workshop is limited to 20 people and is only open to JRB staff.

TRAINING TO JRBS, YSBS AND LIST

- Through the University of New Haven and the OJJDP federal grant, we have been able to provide Restorative Justice trainings to many JRB members, YSB staff and LIST members, all who are serving our youth.
- Between March of 2020 and June of 2022, we have trained over 900 people between the RJ 101 and RJ 201 trainings.
- We have also trained roughly 25 JRB case managers or administrators in the Advanced RJ training
- We are holding one more set of 101 and 201 in August and an Advanced training in September before our funding period ends.

EVALUATION – SCORES BASED ON SCALE OF 1-5, 5 BEING THE HIGHEST

- How satisfied were you with the registration process? **4.7 avg.**
- How satisfied were you with the webinar experience? **4.4 avg.**
- How satisfied were you with the topic area? **4.6 avg.**
- The program met the states objectives? **4.6 avg.**
- How satisfied were you with the speakers? **4.6 avg.**
- How satisfied were you with speakers' knowledge of the content area? **4.7 avg.**
- How satisfied were you w/speakers' responses to questions that clarified info? **4.5 avg.**
- How satisfied were you with content? **4.4 avg.**
- Was content appropriate for the audience? **4.6 avg.**
- Workshop was valuable professional development experience? **4.4 avg.**

Total Average = 4.55



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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