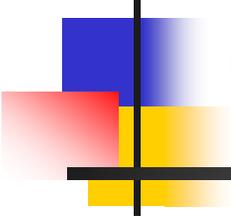


Restorative and Community Justice and Crime Victims' Issues and Rights

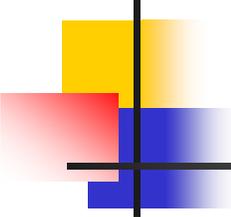


PRESENTED BY:

Anne Seymour

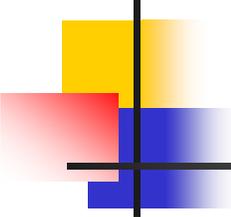
National Crime Victim Advocate

Washington, DC



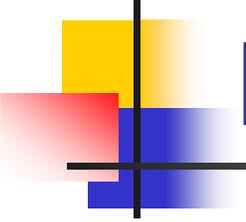
Learning Objectives

- Apply at least three principles of restorative and community justice to victim assistance
- Identify measures to implement victims' rights through a restorative or community justice framework
- Identify at least two ways that criminal and juvenile justice and victim assistance professionals can collaborate on restorative/community justice-based victim services



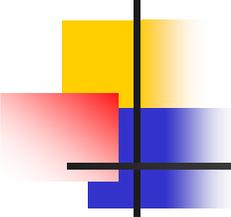
Restorative Justice Defined

- Restorative justice emphasizes the importance of elevating the role of crime victims and community members through more active involvement in the justice process, holding offenders directly accountable to the people and communities they have violated, restoring the emotional and materials losses of victims, and providing a range of opportunities of dialogue, negotiation, and problem solving.... (*Umbreit*)



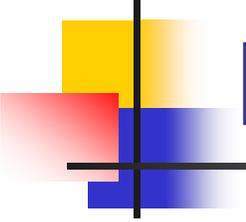
Restorative Justice Defined

- Restorative justice is both a philosophy and approach that balances the interests, rights and needs of victims, offenders, and the community.
(Seymour)



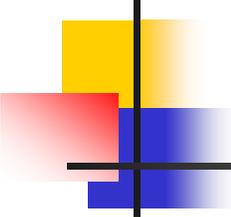
Community Justice Defined

Broadly refers to all variants of crime prevention and justice, activities that explicitly include the community in their processes....is rooted in the actions that citizens, community organizations, and the criminal justice system can take to control crime and social disorder. Its central focus is **community-level outcomes**, shifting the emphasis from individual incidents to systemic patterns, from individual conscience to social mores, and from individual goods to the common good. (*David Karp, George Washington University*)



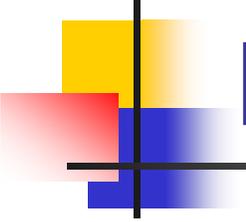
The Seven Values of Restorative Justice

- Crime is an offense against human relationships.
- Victims and the community are central to the justice process.
- The first priority of justice processes is to assist victims.



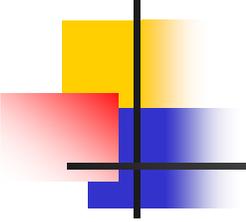
The Seven Values of Restorative Justice (*cont.*)

- The second priority of justice processes is to restore the community, to the degree possible.
- The offender has personal responsibility to victims and to the community for crimes committed.



The Seven Values of Restorative Justice (*cont.*)

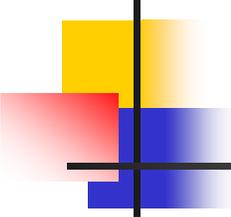
- The offender will develop improved competency and understanding as a result of the restorative justice experience.
- Stakeholders share responsibilities for restorative justice through partnerships for action.



Restorative Justice :

The Community

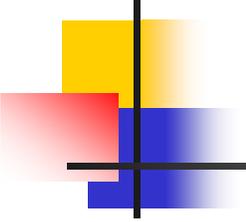
- Fear of crime and delinquency is a driving force.
- Must validate that the community is hurt by crime:
 - Quality of life issues.
 - No such thing as a “*victimless*” crime.
 - Must address *personal* safety issues.
 - Recognition of the “domino effect” of crime.



Restorative Justice :

The Community

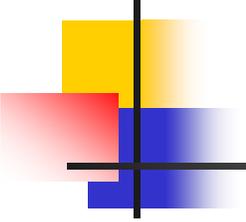
- The community must define itself:
 - Not simply by geography.
 - Cultural, economic and geographic considerations *all* play a part.
 - Attention paid to the “*minorstream*”, as well as the “*mainstream*.”
- Focus on community *assets*, not just *deficits*.



Restorative Justice :

The Community

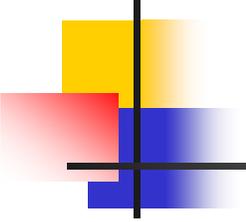
- Community empowerment to help members “own justice.”
- Build on existing efforts:
 - Recognize and utilize existing “communities.”
 - Collaborate with community-based and focused efforts of the CJS and JJS.
 - Focus on *proactive* versus *reactive* approaches.



Restorative Justice :

The Community

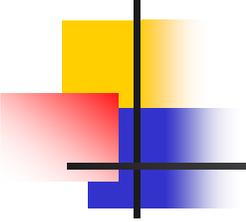
- Must assess our *assumptions* about the community and crime.
- Identify key change agents (not always the visible leaders).
- Collaboration and partnerships are key.
- *Informing* and *involving* the news media are critical as well.



Restorative Justice :

The Community

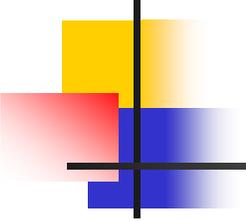
- Volunteers are essential!
- Must represent victims, offenders, community members, and the CJS/JJS
- Volunteer roles must be clearly defined.
- Volunteer recognition keeps the wheels rolling!



Restorative Justice :

Applications for the Community

- Identification of change agents.
- Identification of community needs.
- Community forums.
- Community impact statements.
- Merchant Accountability Boards.
- Community Justice Centers.
- Involvement of the news media.



Restorative Justice :

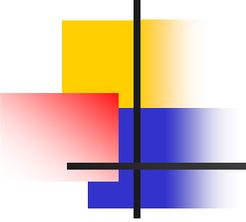
Victims

- Victims define the harm!
- Understanding of *victim trauma* is essential.
- Focus on not just *that* victims might be angry or frustrated, but *why* they are.
- Respect for diversity among victims.
- Victims' rights, services and needs become a *priority* for the CJS, JJS and community-at-large.

Restorative Justice :

Victims

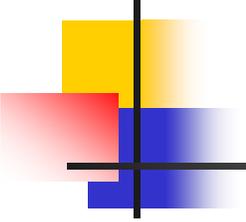
- Involvement of victims and advocates in planning, implementation and evaluation related to restorative justice.
- Outreach to non-reporting and non-adjudicated victims.
- Use of “surrogate victims” when direct victims are unable or unwilling to participate.
- Development of “victim-sensitive” outreach tools.



Restorative Justice :

Victims

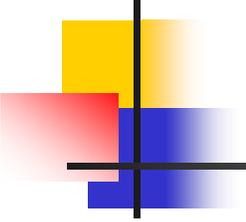
- Creation of victim-specific performance measures.
- Focus on implementation of core victims' rights:
 - Notification.
 - Restitution.
 - Protection.
 - Input/involvement.



Restorative Justice :

Victims

- The “language” of community and restorative justice:
 - The “F” word...
 - Reconciliation.
 - Healing.
 - Closure.
 - Victim “responsibility.”
 - Role of punishment
 - “Restoring victims”



Restorative Justice :

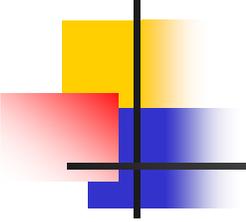
Victims (cont.)

- Expectations of victims within a CJ framework.
- “Not for all victims?”
- “Past sins” must be *identified* and *validated*.

Restorative Justice :

Applications for Victims

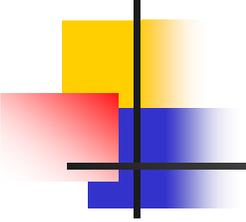
- Supportive services from the system *and* from the community.
- Victim Advisory Councils.
- Designated Victim Service Representatives in the CJS and JJS.
- Revised victim impact statements.
- Better coordination on restitution.
- Victim awareness classes.
- Victim/offender dialogue



Restorative Justice :

Offenders

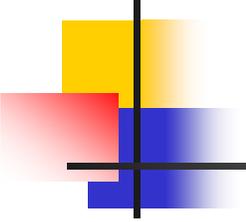
- Share role as “client” with victims and the community.
- *Accountability* and *competency* development are key tenets:
 - Community- and victim-driven support for both tenets.
 - Opportunities to *show responsibility* and to *learn something positive*.



Restorative Justice :

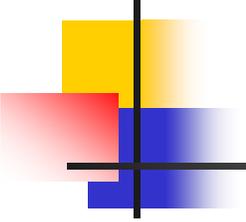
Offender Accountability

- To victim, own family, community, and self.
- Includes:
 - Individual self-assessments of obligations (including *to whom*)
 - Family obligations.
 - Community service.
 - Victim restitution.



Restorative Justice : *Competency Development*

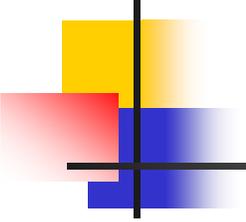
- Education.
- Basic living skills.
- Job training.
- Victim empathy.
- Service to self and others.
- Others?



Restorative Justice :

Offenders

- Community-based *and* prison/detention-based programs.
- Approaches that are *consistent* and *collaborative*.
- “Cycle of violence” and inter-generational problems addressed.
- Strong efforts to encourage *community support* of offenders, and *victim support* of offender-directed restorative efforts.



Restorative Justice :

Offenders

- Victim information/input should be integrated into offender case planning.
- Community members (including victims) should be recruited as volunteers and mentors.
- Measurements for success are critical – establish benchmarks!

Restorative Justice :

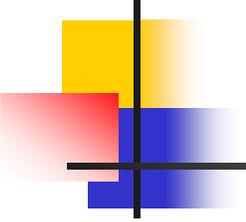
Applications for Offenders

- Pre-entry/re-entry planning
- Restorative community service.
- Circles.
- Dialogue and family group conferencing.
- Opportunities for employment and education.
- “Surrogate” support systems from the community and from victims.

Restorative Justice:

The CJ and JJ Systems

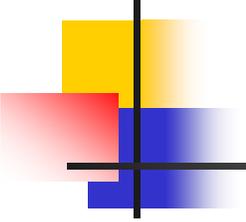
- Must be willing to *share responsibility* for justice and community safety.
- Need to change:
 - Performance measures.
 - Job descriptions.
 - View of "clientele."
- *Validation* and *respect* for cultural and geographic diversity.



Restorative Justice :

Where Do You Go From Here?

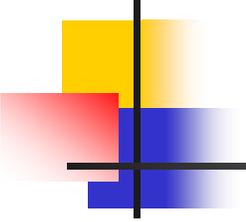
- Identify and clarify *shared values* for restorative justice.
- Identify *change agents* and *key stakeholders*.
- Continue work of planning/coordinating position and collaborative committee.
- Encourage allied professions to follow the lead of corrections.



Restorative Justice :

Where Do You Go From Here?

- Determine *who* in the CJS, JJS, victim service community, and/or community needs to be “brought on board.”
- Training and cross-training.
- Build on existing efforts.
- Determine how restorative justice fits with federal and private funding opportunities.

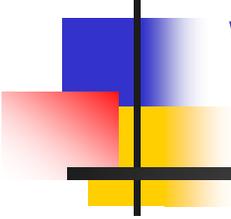


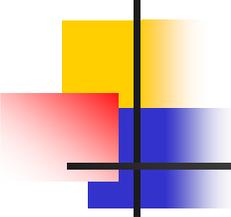
Restorative Justice :

Where Do You Go From Here?

- Prioritize programmatic approaches and obtain planning, training and evaluation resources.
- Market research.
- Community *building* and *bonding*.

“BE THE CHANGE THAT YOU
WANT TO CREATE”





For More Information.....

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