

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES:

Family Group Conferencing with People Exiting Residential  
Substance Use Treatment

Juliette Roddy, PhD  
Northern Arizona University  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Professor (Economics) Criminology and  
Criminal Justice  
James Wurgler MD Endowed Chair,  
Criminal Justice and  
Behavioral Health  
[Juliette.roddey@nau.edu](mailto:Juliette.roddey@nau.edu)

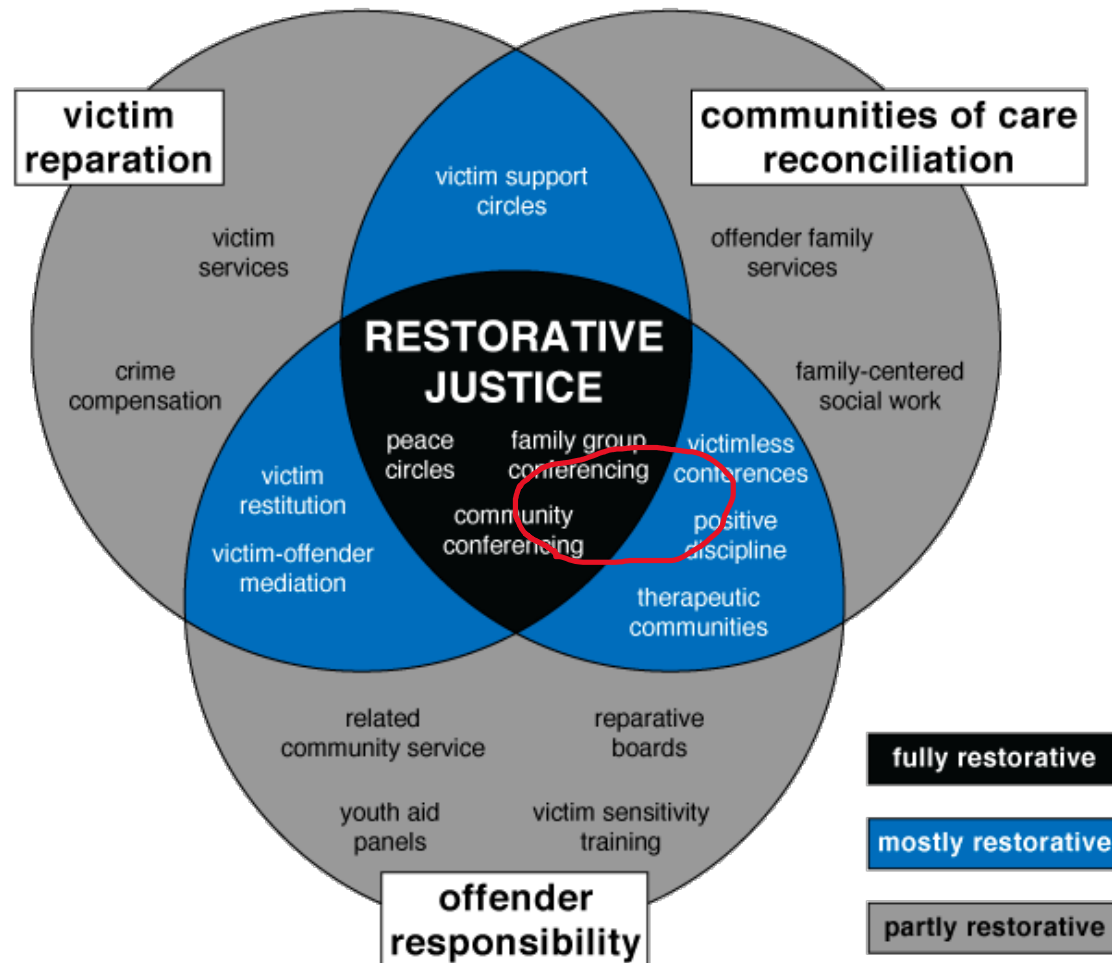
# WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

- Restorative Justice (RJ) emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders.
- Practices and programs reflecting restorative purposes will respond to crime by:
  - **Identifying and taking steps to repair harm,**
  - **Involving all stakeholders, and**
  - **Transforming the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime.**

» Source [RJ ONLINE](#)

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

## Types and Degrees of Restorative Justice Practice



# RESTORATIVE CONFERENCES (*A RESTORATIVE PRACTICE*)

- Where: Residential Rehabilitation for drug and alcohol treatment (2 sites) and the Detroit Re-Entry Facility



# RESTORATIVE QUESTIONS (PWCH, IN GROUP)

- What happened?
  - *“My drug use, I don’t think it was fair.”*
- What were you thinking at the time?
  - *“I wasn’t thinking about nothing but myself.”*
- What have you thought about since?
  - *“It irks me now. My kids. That’s all that be on my mind.”*
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
  - *“There is a lot of guilt and shame, going to prison and going through this program...it put a lot of stress on my Mom. I can bet some of her health issues today are due to that stress. She doesn’t eat right and she’s dealing with these headaches every day. Its to the point now where she can’t work and that’s pu a financial burden on the family. It creates problems in the family with my step Dad and little brother, they fight.”*
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

# RESTORATIVE QUESTIONS (PWSH)

- 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?

## IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Participants were able to change behavior by setting goals, but also understand and respond to consequences and impact of when those goals are not achieved.
- One participant's response when asked about goals....
  - ***“Getting my life back together and getting off of parole and continue my recovery journey through-uh-life with the help of my kids and being with my family.”***

## IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

- Participant's response to the RJ program overall....
  - *“I think it was cool. You know, it gave me a different view on how to, you know, problem solve with my family, with my immediate fiancé and me and the kids, you know what I'm saying? And you know, its not just play the blame game and stuff, and shift the blame on each other. Just really just sit and listen to what—they think and feel before I act on something.”*



## IMPACT OF THE RESTORATIVE AGREEMENT

- *“We have stuck to this contract to the T...I mean it. And that was the best decision I think I’ve ever made with them ever. Only for the fact, because like how we were talking in the conference, if there is a problem, we don’t talk about it. We just ignore each other, throw it under the rug if we do reconnect, and never talk about it.*
- *“ This saved my ass.....I would not have a relationship with my children if we didn’t have that conference.”*

# THE RESTORATIVE AGREEMENT

I will complete the following, which have been agreed to at this conference today.

Change my circle of influence, know who's in my corner and who's not.

Focusing on myself, growing in my strength as far as discipline and goal-setting.

Finish training in Asbestos Removal, report immediately upon release to Detroit Training Center and Detroit Employment Solutions. Find and maintain employment while pursuing training.

Maintain daily phone calls with my children and develop a plan for visitation while becoming financially secure so I can be a provider.

Stay crime-free and avoid substance use.

Don't be anything like my dad. Be truthful and honest with myself.

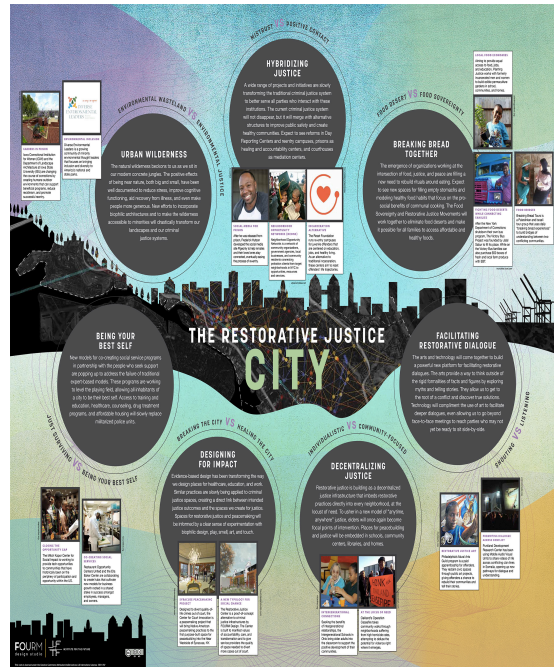
## EFFORTS TODAY

- National Institute of Justice
- 5 year funded study (2019-2024)
- 150 who want conferences get them
- 150 who want conferences are control
- 150 who don't want conferences are followed
  
- Michigan Department of Corrections, SHAR House, Michigan State Police, Detroit Police, Oakland County Sheriff, Michigan State, University of Michigan Dearborn, American Institutes of Research

# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



## HEALING THROUGH REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION



# QUESTIONS?



FIG. 1 THE PERSON AFFECTED, BOTH VICTIM AND OFFENDER, REQUIRES SOLUTIONS TO REPAIR THE HARM DONE AND ADDRESS THE DAMAGE.  
FIG. 2 AFTER FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, ACKNOWLEDGMENT, POSITIVITY AND SAFETY ARE RESTORED.



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