



# the CONNECTION

**A NEWSLETTER ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY**

## Thank you to our partners and volunteers!

You've probably heard the saying 'It Takes A Village', referring to raising a child (the title of a children's book by Jane Cowen Fletcher). The same can be said for trying to encourage change in the way systems - juvenile justice, law enforcement, education and others - do business.

Thanks to the commitment of a team of community partners and volunteers, Easter Seals-Goodwill has made progress in increasing awareness about restorative justice and restorative practices in south-central Idaho these past couple years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service and dedication to making our communities safer, stronger, and more connected.

- Twin Falls Co. Commissioners, Juvenile Probation, Prosecutor, Public Defender, and Juvenile Court staff
- St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund
- MiniCassia Juvenile Probation
- United Way of South Central Idaho
- Jerome Co. Prosecutor
- ID Dept. of Juv. Corrections
- Jerome Co. Juvenile Probation
- Blaine Co. Juvenile Probation
- Lincoln Co. Juvenile Probation
- Judge Mark Ingram
- Gooding Co. Juvenile Probation
- Sarah Hooley
- Chelsea Rengel
- Nancy McArthur
- Linda Wright
- Clara Allred
- Karla Shaffer
- Bach Self Storage
- Officer Preston Stephenson
- Jon Daubner
- ProActive Behavioral Health
- Judge Mick Hodges

## Here's What's Happening

Restorative Conference  
Facilitator Training  
8/12—8/13  
Pocatello, ID  
bev.ashton@idjc.idaho.gov

ID Juvenile Justice Assn.  
Annual Conference  
8/26—8/28  
Boise, ID  
www.ijja.us

IIRP World Conference  
10/21—10/23  
Bethlehem, PA  
www.iirp.edu

Circle Training  
10/23—10/25  
Boise, ID  
gemstatecircles@gmail.com

## Balanced and Restorative Justice: Community Safety

Community safety in the Balanced And Restorative Justice model refers to both immediate and long-term safety. Achieving community safety requires practices that reduce risk and promote the community's capacity to manage behavior. Balanced and restorative community safety is not focused only on short-term external control of individual juvenile offenders. It requires equal attention to working with adults and youth to change behavior.

Reducing risk often focuses on individual offenders, but building community capacity to manage behavior focuses on adults and organizations within the community. Community safety is achieved when community members live in peace, harmony, and mutual respect and when citizens and community groups feel that they personally can prevent and control crime.

Many strategies used for accountability and competency development goals can also contribute to community safety goals. For example, community service, through structuring time and increasing the juvenile's investment in the community, contributes to community safety. Accountability strategies emphasize taking responsibility for behavior, which reinforces internal behavior control -- the most effective way to achieve long-term community safety.

A major goal of competency development strategies is to establish a place of value for the juvenile in the community that creates an incentive for abiding by the norms of the community. Therefore, the community safety goal is dependent upon effective accountability and competency development strategies.  
<http://www.ojdp.gov/pubs/implementing/safety.html>

## What happens at a Restorative Conference ?

A restorative conference provides an opportunity for those involved in an incident (offense) to meet in a structured, safe environment to answer questions about what happened and how they were affected by it.

The person(s) harmed is able to describe how the incident impacted them and have their questions answered. The wrong-doer must take accountability for their actions and the damage they caused.

There is discussion about how their harm can be repaired which may result in a conference agreement. The conference facilitator asks each participant questions, following a script. After all participants have answered their set of questions, and an agreement is reached, the facilitator prepares the written agreement for signature by all parties.

Research has shown that restorative conferencing provides positive results, especially in contrast with conventional justice processes, in terms of participant satisfaction by both victim and offender. The conference model used in District 5 was developed by the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP).

## Restorative Practices aid in the development of social & emotional skills.

Social and emotional learning programs develop critical competencies in children. Emotionally competent children are happier and more productive. The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) identifies these key skills in social and emotional learning:

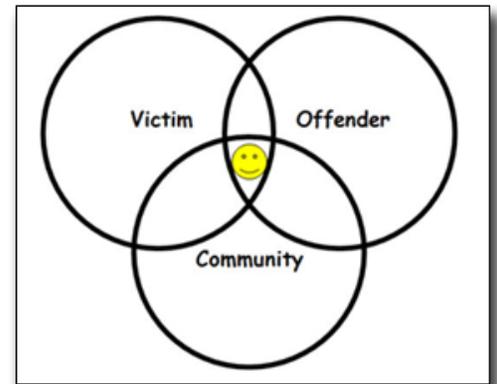
- Recognizing and naming one's emotions
- Self-regulation of emotion
- Understanding the reasons and circumstances for feeling as one does
- Controlling impulses, aggression and self-destructive, anti-social behavior
- Focusing on tasks at hand
- Modifying performance in light of feedback
- Empathy and perspective taking
- Becoming a good listener
- Understanding others' perspectives, points of view and feelings
- Expressing emotions effectively
- Working as part of a team/cooperative learning groups
- Showing sensitivity to social cues
- Exercising social decision-making and problem-solving
- Verbalizing and coping with anxiety, anger, and depression
- Responding constructively to interpersonal conflict
- Setting short and long-term goals

Restorative practices and the use of restorative language, including affective questions and statements, helps young people learn and practice social and emotional skills.

**WE ARE A  
Community**

“What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.”

— [Kurt Vonnegut](#)



## Restorative Dialogue

We all need a way to resolve conflict constructively. At a time when conflict has become increasingly polarized and dysfunctional, restorative dialogue provides a respectful and effective process to address conflict.

Restorative dialogue uses a mindfulness-based approach to conflict that is grounded in open hearted, moment-by-moment, non-judgmental awareness. It creates a safe place in which the people involved in a conflict can listen deeply to each other's story and perception of the conflict, without attempting to persuade the other. The goal is to humanize the conflict and repair the emotional or physical harm to the greatest extent possible.

Restorative dialogue can be used with small and large groups and among strangers or with people who know each other well, including families.

Easter Seals-Goodwill  
2469 Wright Ave., Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 736-2026  
[lewaynnej@esgw.org](mailto:lewaynnej@esgw.org)  
[www.esgw-nrm.easterseals.com](http://www.esgw-nrm.easterseals.com)

