Restorative Justice

For Victims, Offenders and Community

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Key Questions:

Retributive Justice

- What laws were broken?
- Who did it?
- What punishment do they deserve?

Dr. Howard Zehr
Eastern Mennonite University
Key Questions:

Restorative Justice

- Who has been hurt by this event?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligations are they?

Dr. Howard Zehr
Eastern Mennonite University
Key Characteristics:

Restorative Justice

- Victim-centered
- Offender-focused
- Community-driven
- Government as safeguard

Dr. Marlene Young
National Organization for Victim Assistance
Current Justice System: HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS TAKING
YOUR PUNISHMENT

- Victim and Offender in passive roles
- Focus on deficits
- Debt is abstract
- Little, if any, victim restitution
Restorative Justice System: HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND TAKING ACTION TO REPAIR THE HARM TO VICTIM(S)

- Victim and offender in active roles
- Focus on strengths
- Debt is concrete
- Victim restitution/restoration is norm
Key Elements of Restorative Justice
(Howard Zehr 12/98)

Harm-focused

- Victim-centered responses
- Offender accountably addresses the harm
Key Elements of Restorative Justice
(Howard Zehr 12/98)

Engagement

- Stakeholders involved in the process: victims, community, offender
- Dialogue, exchange of information, mutual agreement encouraged
RJ Dialogue Processes - Prototypes

- **Victim Offender Mediation (VOM)**
  - Victim and offender
  - Multi-party

- **Restorative Group Conferencing (RGC)**
  - Family Group Conferencing (FGC)
  - Community Conferencing (CC)

- **Circles**
  - Peacemaking circles
  - Talking circles
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES AT A GLANCE

- Restitution
- Peacemaking Circle
- Victim Impact Statements
- Victim Impact Classes
- Victim Impact Panels
- Victim Offender Mediation
- Victim Offender Dialogue
- Community Reparation Boards
- Community Service
- Letters of Apology

R J Dialogue Processes

Adapted from: Mark Seidler, Clearestory Communications
Where RJ Dialogue fits in CJS

Dialogue Opportunity

- Diversion
- Pre-trial or Pre-Adjudication
- Probation
- Prison or Commitment
- Parole & Reentry
- Prevention
Web-site and Videos

Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking University of Minnesota

- **Web-site:** [rjp.umn.edu](http://rjp.umn.edu)

- **Restorative Justice Videos -- $20 each**
  - 1 of 6 in series – total price for all $100
  - Center for RJ & Peacemaking, U of MN, School of Social Work, 1-612-624-4923
Books


The Little Book of RJ (series) – Zehr

Critical Issues in RJ – Zehr and Toews

Peacemaking Circles – Pranis, Stuart & Wedge

The Handbook of VOM – Umbreit

Facing Violence – Umbreit, Vos, Coates, Brown

Changing Lenses – Zehr