



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
COLORADO

COLORADO COORDINATING COUNCIL ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2014



On behalf of the Statewide Restorative Justice Coordinating Council,

we are pleased to provide you with our 2013 Annual Report. Since its inception in 2007, Council members have worked across multiple disciplines to further restorative justice capacity and infrastructure development. Collaboration amongst many different stakeholders has helped distinguish Colorado nationally.

Over the past year, the strong support and passage of HB 13-1254 has dramatically changed the restorative justice landscape for Colorado. The legislation helps fortify and ground restorative justice by creating a funding source, evaluation components, support for four pilot sites, and further diversification of the Council's membership from across the state.

Much of the Council's efforts have involved bringing stakeholders together, and raising awareness of restorative justice within communities, organizations, as well as systemically. Building and reinforcing relationships across systems and communities has helped move the message forward that "Restorative Justice works" in many, many venues.

(www.rjcolorado.org)

In this upcoming year, Council members will work to meet the goals of our strategic plan. There will be a strong focus to provide additional resources and technical assistance to the pilot sites and our communities, solidify data collection capacity, and further expand the vision and application of restorative justice practices within our state. To this end, we will continue to provide a centralized repository for information, and partner with our communities to create a strengthened infrastructure in support of stronger restorative justice practices.

Sincerely,

Spiro Koinis
2014 Chairperson
Restorative Justice Council





Mission, Values and Principles

"The State Restorative Justice Council advances restorative justice principles and promotes restorative justice throughout Colorado by providing a gateway to information, networking, and support."

"I loved the
engagement and
great information!"

2012 RJ SUMMIT

"The Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council commits to uphold restorative justice values and principles in our professional conduct and in the operations of this RJ Council. We subscribe to using restorative justice principles to guide the accomplishment of our legislative mandate and our stated mission. In that spirit, we commit to:

- *Place a high value on relationships and encourage strong, healthy relationships among the restorative justice community;*
- *Conduct ourselves and our meetings in a manner that shows respect for all persons and opinions;*
- *Use restorative justice processes to resolve any challenges, conflicts, complaints or harm that may need to be addressed;*
- *Make decisions by consensus whenever possible. Consensus is defined as finding a solution that everyone can agree to live with, even if it may not be their ideal. Voting will be employed as a last resort if consensus cannot be achieved."*



Establishment and Duties

On March 29, 2007 upon signature of Governor Bill Ritter, the Colorado Coordinating Council on Restorative Justice (hereinafter referred to as the “RJ Council”) was created within the State Court Administrator’s Office (SCAO) pursuant to HB 07-1129. The statute enumerated several specific items of responsibility for the RJ Council, which includes, to the extent resources permit:

- To serve as a central repository for information;
- To support the development of RJ programs;
- To assist with education and training; and
- To provide technical assistance as needed.

In addition to the RJ Council establishment and duties, the statute also encourages each local juvenile services planning committee to consider restorative justice programs when developing its resources plan and directs the Tony Grampas youth services board to consider in the grant award process whether a grant program applicant includes restorative justice components.

Following the original legislation, three bills were passed which have further strengthened the restorative justice field in Colorado. HB 08-1117 defined restorative justice, as well as a variety of crimes that are excluded from consideration for restorative justice. This legislation added restorative justice practices as an option to juvenile diversion programs and juvenile probation in order to: “promote juvenile offenders’ accountability, recognize and support the rights of victims, heal the harm to relationships and the community caused by juvenile crime and reduce the costs within the juvenile justice system”.

HB 11-1032 further clarified the use of restorative justice practices in juvenile diversion programs and during advisement and sentencing processes. It also encouraged the development of restorative justice programs (as funds become available) in various areas that included: District Attorney Offices, Probation Department, Diversion Programs, Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Corrections, and School Districts.

In 2013, HB 13-1254 was passed which expanded and clarified Restorative Justice as adopted in Colorado. Significant provisions of this bill included establishing a juvenile pilot program, commission of a study and collection of data to document the results of new and existing programs, adding members to the State RJ Coordinating Council, making changes to how restorative justice processes are initiated and imposing a surcharge.



Membership and Structure

The enabling (HB 07-1129) and subsequent (HB 13-1254) legislation enumerated the minimum membership and appointing authority for appointments. We owe a debt of gratitude to current and past members who have dedicated their time to furthering RJ in the State of Colorado.

- a) A representative from a Statewide Juvenile Justice Council who is appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety: Debbie Wilde, YouthZone Executive Director (2008-2013), Esther Cho, esq. (2013-present);
- b) A representative from the Division of Youth Corrections who is appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services: John Gomez, Division of Youth Corrections Director (2008-2009), Spiro Koinis, Division of Youth Corrections Victim and Restorative Justice Services Coordinator (2009-present);
- c) A representative from the Department of Public Safety who is appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety: Meg Williams, Department of Public Safety Manager Division of Criminal Justice, (2008-present);
- d) A representative from the Judicial Department who is appointed by the State Court Administrator: Tom Quinn, Division of Probation Services Director (2008-2010), Greg Brown, Chief Probation Officer, Twentieth Judicial District (2010-present);
- e) Two representatives from a Statewide Organization(s) whose primary purpose is related to the development and implementation of Restorative Justice Programs who is appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety: Amanda Nagl, Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership (2008-2013), Beverly Title, Ph.D., Teaching Peace Executive Director (2008-2013), Perrie McMillen, Restorative Justice Services, Fort Collins Police Services (2013-present), Gabrielle Frey, J.D., Executive Director Resolution Works (2013-present);

- f) A District Attorney with juvenile justice experience who is appointed by the Executive Director of the Colorado District Attorney's Council: Bonnie Roesink, Moffat County District Attorney, Jamin Alabiso, Deputy District Attorney, First Judicial District (2009-2013), Stanley Garnett, Elected District Attorney, 20th Judicial District (2013-present);
- g) A Victim's Advocate within the Judicial Department with Restorative Justice Experience who is appointed by the State Court Administrator: Bernadette Martinez Felix, 8th Judicial District Victim Advocate (2008-2012), Matthew Riede, Victim Services, 1st Judicial District (2012-present);
- h) A representative from the Department of Education who is appointed by the Commissioner of Education: Michael Ramirez, Department of Education, Senior Consultant (2008-2013), Candice Hawkins, Department of Education, Senior Consultant (2013-present);
- i) A representative from the state Board of Parole appointed by the Chair of the Parole Board: Rebecca Oakes, State Board of Parole (2013-present);
- j) A representative from the Department of Corrections appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Corrections: Monica Crocker, Victims Services Coordinator, Department of Corrections (2013-present);
- k) A representative from a nongovernment statewide organization representing victims appointed by the Director of the Department of Public Safety: Nancy Lewis, Executive Director, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (2013-present);
- l) Three Restorative Justice Practitioners appointed by the State Court Administrator: Alice Price, J.D., Founder, Center for Restorative Programs (2013-present), Lynn Lee, Chair of the Pikes Peak Restorative Justice Council (2013-present), Peggy Evans, Training Director for the Restorative Mediation Project (2013-present); and
- m) A representative of the Juvenile Parole Board appointed by the Chair of the Juvenile Parole Board: Paula Mattas, Mesa County Partners (2013-present).





Accomplishments

In the fall of 2008 and in order to ascertain the prevalence of restorative justice programs and practices in the state of Colorado, the RJ Council conducted a web-based survey which had a total of 152 responses. The survey provided two key findings: 1) Various RJ services are available in all regions of the state with only seven counties that did not have a response and 2) although non-profits organizations were shown to be the largest provider for RJ programming, there are significant RJ practices occurring within state and local government including probation, diversion, community corrections, courts and human services.

Using the information garnered from the survey, in January 2009, the RJ Council launched a central repository which lists programs across the state which directly provide RJ services. The repository has a search capability allowing users the ability to search by county or service type. This repository is located on the State Court Administrator's Division of Probation Services' webpage at: <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Probation/RJ/Service.cfm>.

In 2009, the RJ Council developed a strategic plan, which identified 16 areas of concentration applicable to each of the 3 goals below.

1. Publish key indicators of Restorative Justice/Practices for the State of Colorado.
 - a. Finalize Vision Statement.
 - b. Develop different definitions of programs (on Central Repository).
 - c. Clarify message and target to different stakeholders:
 1. What's in it for you?
 2. Identify training resources (material and people) within each area.
2. Develop guidelines for training.
3. Develop training modules for each area.

On August 27, 2009, the RJ Council adopted the “Colorado Restorative Justice Council Recommended Guidelines for Training in Restorative Practices”. These recommendations apply primarily to trainings of facilitators of restorative practices. This document is available online at: <http://www.restorativejusticecolorado.org/standards-and-training>.

Beginning in October 2009 the Colorado Division of Probation Services was awarded Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding on behalf of the RJ Council. Teaching Peace (now the Longmont Community Justice Partnership or LCJP), as the contractor under this grant, and the RJ Council accomplished several very important and timely tasks which furthered the work of the RJ Council over the course of the 4 years of funding.

The initial period of the grant was used to gather input from restorative justice programs from around the state, the RJ Council and restorative justice focused community leaders, trainers, program directors and academics. It became very clear that the primary need for technical assistance – and a way to further the goal of provision of training – was the need for a centralized place where people from all over the state could register, have conversations, learn from one another, offer support and materials, share information and best practices, download training guidelines and schedule events like trainings and meetings.

Colorado’s RJ Council website (<http://www.restorativejusticecolorado.org/>) created an online community that restorative justice programs and practitioners can join and have online discussions, schedule and RSVP for trainings and meetings, share documents and tools, download guidelines and monographs and post news and information; the first interactive online community for restorative justice in the country and within its first three months boasted 119 members in the two months since its launch.

Pre-grant survey of restorative justice programs in the state of Colorado identified 152 programs.

The website continues to identify restorative justice practitioners and trainers who agree to abide by the terms of the Facilitator Code of Conduct and Standards of Practice and to publicize training schedules and raise awareness of restorative justice training collaborations in Colorado. RJ Colorado Online is a place where programs can post questions to the restorative justice community. There they can access technical assistance, guidance on best practices and requests for forms, news about what’s happening in the restorative justice community statewide, guidelines, and white papers. This centralized resource helps communities take advantage of the state’s existing restorative justice resources and duplicate successful RJ programs in their own communities.

The website has a home page and several interest area sub-pages (i.e., RJ in Schools, RJ in Communities, RJ in Victims' Services). Each of the interest area pages has one or more mini-documentaries, as well as monographs, white papers and links to helpful websites. The mini-documentaries each address restorative justice as it is used in a different context such as justice services and communities with the majority of the videos focused on restorative justice and its use in schools and victims' services. They include testimonials from then Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, a recently elected Colorado legislator, two crime victims, a police officer, a community RJ program director, a court-appointed victim's advocate, two high school students, a high school principal and two high school RJ coordinators. In its first three months, the website had 2,296 visits.

The Model Standards for Restorative Justice Facilitator's Code of Conduct and Standards of Training and Practice was prepared in 2012 by the Colorado Coalition of Restorative Justice Directors, with collaborative contributions from RJ Council members. The statewide adaptation of this document was then approved by the Colorado Restorative Justice Council membership. The document was ratified and adopted by these groups in April of 2012. This document is available online at: <http://www.restorativejusticecolorado.org/standards-and-training>, and is subject to annual review to address new developments and best practices.

A statewide Restorative Justice Summit was held in August 2012. A total of 250 people from across Colorado and beyond attended the summit. Material from the summit including open space session notes, notes and handouts from the RJ basics sessions, and a list of presenters and their bios are all available at: <http://www.restorativejusticecolorado.org/2012summit>.

RJ PRACTITIONERS





Next Steps

Because of passage of **HB 13-1254**, 2013 was a big year for Restorative Justice in Colorado as it expanded and clarified restorative justice as adopted in Colorado in 2007, 2008, and 2011, with the goal of keeping juveniles out of the juvenile justice system and serving victim healing. Significant provisions of the bill included establishing a juvenile pilot program, collecting information about the programs and creating a database, changing the procedure for initiating the restorative justice processes, adding members to the Restorative Justice Coordinating Council, creating a surcharge to cover program costs, and clarifying language in the original bill.

This bill created pilot programs in four districts: two new programs in the 10th and 19th districts (Pueblo and Weld), and two existing ones in the 12th and 20th districts (Alamosa and Boulder). The RJ Council is working with the pilot programs that are responsible for reporting information, with the ultimate goal of obtaining empirical data about the capability of restorative justice practices to reduce costs, lower recidivism rates, and improve the well-being of victims and offenders. Further, the Restorative Justice Council is developing Uniform Satisfaction Surveys for all RJ process participants, as well as a database of existing restorative justice programs. This restorative justice program database will include information regarding jurisdiction(s) of program services, the types of practices used, costs and fees, as well as the training and experience of facilitators and details about participants and their outcomes. This data will be reported annually to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.



For more information and to stay current with the restorative justice movement in Colorado visit www.rjcolorado.org