

NOTES FROM THE GRADUATE TRAINER EVENT
KEYSTONE, COLORADO
APRIL 30-MAY 2, 2004

ATTENDEES

Susie Blackburn	Pam Kost
Saleem Hylton	Colleen McLeod
Dennis Maloney	Amy Anstee
Sharon Covey	Sonya McQuilliam
Jalice Vigil-Kelley	Rob Seward
Jack Rusnyk	Gordon Bazemore
Jon Kidde	Sandra O'Brien
Sally Wolf	Anne Rogers
Cassy Taylor	Carsten Erbe
Shanna Ferrell	Don Johnson
Kay Pranis	Dee Bell
Jeff Montel	Chris
Donald Haldeman	Reggie Heurter
Terry Dousais-Winfrey	Bill Groom
Sue Stacey	

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

The graduate trainers gathered at the Keystone Lodge at 6:00 pm for an opening circle. The group was greeted by the planners of the event, Saleem Hylton and Susie Blackburn. Following a few announcements, Kay Pranis kept the opening circle with the theme of "Healing the Healers". Participants were invited to share both needs for healing and concerns as well as celebration for good things that had happened in the past year. Following the completion of the Opening Circle, the Agenda for the next two days was reviewed and other items were added by the group. The group then went to dinner with plans to re-gather at 8:30 am on Saturday.

May 1, 2004

After coffee or tea and pastries in the morning, the first item for discussion was victim services led by Jalice Vigil-Kelly and Sharon Covey. The group discussed different programs going on in the area of victim services including:

- ✚ Several theatrical programs designed to portray victims' stories including:
"Bodies in Motion" (PA), Geese Theater Company directed by John Burgman,
John Howard Society, SCI-Chester (outside Delaware) "Living with Life" video
- ✚ Importance of involving Victim Advocates in RJ planning and implementation was stressed
- ✚ Transcending, by Howard Zehr

- ✚ Greater Prison has program “opportunities for Shared Dialogue” that involves victims in planning processes
- ✚ Minnesota had a task force for post conviction victims’ issues which developed a report with recommendations for the DOC, victim advocates, courts, etc.
- ✚ Colorado reported some resistance from victim services community in setting up RJ programs
- ✚ Colorado also reported that dialog was happening between a father of one of the Columbine victims and the defendants’ families and the person who sold the guns
- ✚ POMC – Healing circles
- ✚ Colorado Springs has a sex offender probation officer position that works with polygraphers, victims groups, DHS, and community in “mini-conferences” to find out what is going on with the sex offender
- ✚ Massachusetts MADD, Victim Services, DJS, Lionheart Foundation (Bob David) came together and created “Houses of Healing” for adults and “Power Source” for juveniles which works with victims, offenders, community, and system
- ✚ Schools in Covington, GA created a model for a dialog program for parents and kids who have been victimized by an incident at school
- ✚ System Accountability to crime victims: Anne Seymour created a victim satisfaction survey which offers the victim to tell how they were treated; being used in Deschutes County Oregon with 29% return rate
- ✚ Challenges to using these types of surveys – the bench frequently does not want to know – need to get the prosecutors to take the lead
- ✚ Insult to Injury by Linda Mills (NYU) – takes on DV mainstream and suggests the circle approach
- ✚ Mary Koss “Date Rape” project using conferencing with 1st time defendants in low risk cases
- ✚ Tammy Crousy (works w/ Howard Zehr) working on Defense based victim services
- ✚ Challenge of the tendency to sort out specific crimes (ie DV, Sex Crimes, Violent Crimes etc.) identified
- ✚ North Carolina has a DV safety and accountability program designed to embrace the victims and defendants throughout the process
- ✚ Need to be aware that RJ language may be different in other public domains (i.e. public health, soc. svcs, schools) but the same type of process
- ✚ New national legislation on rights of crime victims has designated a lot of money to go to victim services. (VOCA guidelines) Look for RFP’s for services relating to seamless victim advocacy and processes that will streamline services to victims of all crimes. This is in line with the RJ standard to be victim focused.
- ✚ Other possible partners to consider when working with victims is the Legal Aide Society or Guardian Ad Litem programs
- ✚ Discussion of victims being provided lawyers automatically like defendants are – but a caution about adding more lawyers to the process
- ✚ Dee articulated a vision of restorative justice where cases only went to court when all other options (community based) had been exhausted. Judges would play a very important role in this type of system change. (IL & SC?)
- ✚ Action planning around models (Colorado model, summit?)

A victim curriculum created by Jeannie Becker-Powell and Pamela Brantley of Florida was provided to the Grad Trainers on CD. Trainers were advised that no one else was to receive a copy of this curriculum and that any questions or requests for training on the material should be directed to the women who developed it. Another curriculum may be forthcoming and will be e mailed.

Next up was Sally Wolf who invited all of the grad trainers to participate in writing part of her book (each chapter would be a different RJ story about a case, conference, circle, etc.). One of the concepts from her book – Team RJ – sparked a lot of discussion amongst the grad trainers. It was the consensus of those present that the grad trainers were in fact leaders of the Restorative Justice Movement and as such should take a more proactive leadership role, try to come together more often, lobby for change in justice policy and generally network with and support each other. “Team RJ” was used as a (temporary?) name for the group. The BARJ website and list serve will be updated to share information and keep everyone up to date on resources, trainings, etc. A discussion thread will be developed on the website for members of the grad trainers to stay in contact with each other and weigh in on topics of special interest. This idea will be sent to all of the grad trainers on the list serve (once it is updated) for comment. Any questions about Sally’s book, contact her at probation@fordcountycourthouse.com.

After lunch, the discussion focused around Reentry. Sharon Covey and Terri Dousais-Winfrey spoke about some of the work they are doing in Chicago. Some of the key points from the reentry discussion include:

- ✚ Having a reentry circle with family and victims prior to release
- ✚ Start planning for reentry as soon as an offender is incarcerated
- ✚ Consider reentry work with offenders to be LIFE management not CASE management
- ✚ Do a lot of preparation of victim, community and offender prior to release; use conferences during furlows, get victim input into community service sanctions, involve formally incarcerated individuals and hook offenders up with mentors in the community
- ✚ Identify opportunities within the facility for an offender to do reparative/restorative stuff (i.e. the BARJ chair made by prisoners and sold to the public with all proceeds going to payback restitution)
- ✚ Address with offenders core decision making patterns and skills
- ✚ Use circles and conferencing to institute sanctions that will reconnect offenders with their community
- ✚ Risk assessment still very important

After the reentry discussion, the topic from the morning of the grad trainers as “Team RJ” resurfaced and many ideas were brought forth about how that should look. It was decided to put the idea out to the whole group of grad trainers for discussion. Once the barjproject.org website is enhanced to include discussion threads, this idea and reentry will be the 2 first posted discussions.

The group reconvened in the evening for a discussion with Dennis Maloney about RJ and leadership, which turned out to be very appropriate after the discussions earlier in the day.

Finally Sunday morning, after more coffee and pastries, the group heard a presentation about the Community Justice Institute's participation in a "Measurements Project" where, along with the American Prosecutors Research Institute, they have developed a "report card" to be used by states in evaluating the success of their juvenile justice system. While the report card is not specifically designed to evaluate restorative justice, it is designed along the principles of accountability, safety, and competency. This is a national project with a few implementation sites, but it is hoped that the project will expand in the near future to include more states.

After the measurements presentation, our host and hostess (Saleem and Susie) did a recap of a few of the key points of the weekend:

- ✚ Overall the grad trainer events are very sharing, caring, and spiritual environments for those in attendance
- ✚ Many volunteers from among the grad trainers will assist Sally Wolf by contributing stories to her book
- ✚ BARJ website will be enhanced to facilitate better communication and information sharing
- ✚ List serve will be revived and updated
- ✚ Good discussion held regarding reentry strategies
- ✚ Great discussion on the expanding role and responsibility of the "Advanced Trainers Group", "Grad Trainers", "Think Tank/Action Tank", "Team RJ" (whatever we decide to call it) Group will possibly try to meet more frequently, especially around other events where members are likely to attend
- ✚ Good articulation of the "Vision" and Barry Stuart's "Alternative Approach" which sees the community as the primary decision makers with the system existing as a safety net in case the community processes are unable to deal with a particular situation
- ✚ Dennis's discussion on leadership with a caution that the term leadership is sometimes negatively perceived as too controlling (use support or facilitate instead)

Finally the weekend came to a close the same way it started, with a circle, kept by Kay Pranis.

Resources Posted during the weekend:

- ✚ www.clarityfacilitation.com/postconviction has a final report on meeting victims needs post conviction – done in MN
- ✚ [Peacemaking Circles](http://www.livingjusticepress.org) by Kay Pranis (new book available at www.livingjusticepress.org)

- ✚ MN Department of Education report on systems change/restorative measures in school behavior intervention – www.education.state.mn.us or nancy.riestenberg@state.mn.us
- ✚ National Conference on Family Group Decision Making in early June in PA www.americanhumane.org
- ✚ Howard Zehr's [The Little Book on Restorative Justice](#) has some activities for kids
- ✚ For information on Prison RJ contact Sue Stacey at susan.stacey@state.mn.us
- ✚ Touching Spirit Bear and Whirlygig, RJ developed high school curriculum nancy.riestenberg@state.mn.us
- ✚ Videos from Office of Victims of Crime – “Help, Hope, and Healing” from 2002 and a more recent one including victims’ stories that would be good to use in impact classes