

Benefits of Juvenile Restorative Justice Processes

For juveniles and their families touching the legal system or preventing it from going into the legal system or the Cabinet that includes involving the school, mental health system, volunteers and other community resources.

“Focusing on Accountability, Dialogue, and Healing

Non-adversarial and non-authoritarian role from outside the system

Preparation and follow up with individuals

Validates the individual story and meets individual needs

Opportunities for accountability

Builds communication skills

Repairs relationships

Offers flexibility

Addresses trauma and healing

Reduces stress of the crisis behavior

Access to community resources

Reduces costs of the legal system

Reduces recidivism

Develops coordination and collaboration

Conflict resolution

Creative solutions

Confidentiality agreements

Written contracts

Access to mediators by cell phone

Changing the system case by case

Restorative Justice Processes

***Juvenile Restorative Justice Conferencing-** more people come to the table to address the family dynamics and juvenile’s behavior holistically. The participants develop a case plan with the parent/guardian, other family members, social service providers, school representatives, community partners and volunteers. The juvenile is usually present. The participants offer support and community resources to the juvenile and their family to achieve success.*

***Restorative Justice Circles-** A circle process gives voice to individuals on all sides of a conflict a better understanding of the conflict and they can come to a mutual agreement on how to work with the conflict or it can be used for families where the juvenile’s behavior has negative impact on the family or can be used for families where there is alienation. It also can be used for schools to address the academic and behavior problems. One person speaks at a time giving their perspective to specific questions with a talking piece.*

***Victim-Offender Mediation-**Brings together victims of offense with their offender/offenders after an offense has been committed such as assaults, bullying, harassment, domestic violence charges, beyond control, truancy, and suspensions for all to see the impact and consequences of the situation. It can be used for accountability and to restore the harm.*

Linda Harvey is the Director of Juvenile Restorative Justice, that serves the Court Designated Worker Office, court system, and five middle schools. She is highly skilled and trained in restorative justice processes. Can be reached at juvenile.rj@earthlink.net or 859-333-8593