



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Restorative Justice Dept.

The Who, What, When, Where,
& Why



WHO

- Facilitator (Andrew Peltz)
- Community (30 volunteers, 5 per group)
- Participants (Families referred by Human Services, Guardian ad Litem, Greater MN, County Attorney, public defenders, community)



What & When

- Circle Process
- Meet every other week –on going.



Where

- Government Service Center Building
- Conference rooms 116-117
- Have met clients in other towns as needed



WHY

- OOHP Costs
- Mental Illness, Domestic Violence, Chemical abuse
- Healthy Relationships are the *core* to all healing
- Traditional services are overwhelmed, and most are seeing a revolving door.

Restorative Justice Advisory Committee (RJAC)

- **Who:** Humans Services, Public Health, Probation, Sheriff Office, County Attorney, Board, Administration
- **What & Why:** Intentionally gather in Circle. (training, connecting, collaborating, in guiding and advising me)
- **When:** Meet bi-monthly
- **Where:** hybrid, or conference rooms



7 Circles 10 Families

1. Every Monday @ 530 (Two groups)
 - 2 families per circle, referred by human services & county attorney
2. *Every other Tuesday @ noon*
 - 1 family, referred by human services looking to add another
3. *Every other Tuesday @ 5:30*
 - 3 families, one referred by human services, two referred by community.
4. *Every other Wednesday @ noon*
 - 1 family referred by GAL, looking to add families
5. *Every other Wednesday @ 530*
 - 1 family referred by human services, looking to add another
6. *Foster Parent Support Circle, once a month.*
 - 3-5 county foster parents attend consistently. 2/4 have participated in case specific circles as well.



Building a Foundation

1. Started Slow, one family per Circle
2. Confidence - trust in the process, and each other.
3. Competence - building their knowledge through their experience so they feel better capable as WE build the program.
4. Where could we be without a Pandemic?



Building a Foundation and taking on Referrals

- Circles were FULL. No capacity.
- Building foundation of volunteer's confidence and capacity by starting slow one family per group. Volunteers are the foundation.
- This is a slow process, NOT a 3 month program.
- Complexities and levels of trauma are overwhelming.
- Most cases Circle is their last stop. They had have contact with most departments in the county/justice system and every service they had to offer.
- Last stop for many, and the lowest cost of services provided



Volunteers Time

YEAR	Volunteer Hours	MN Volunteer Rate	Volunteer Hours x Rate
2019	552.5	\$ 27.20	\$ 15,028.00
2020	1127.5	\$ 28.54	\$ 32,178.85
2021	903	\$ 29.95	\$ 27,044.85
2022	708.5	\$ 32.33	\$ 22,905.81
	3291.5	\$	97,157.51



Volunteer feedback

- **Can you give an example of what RJ has done in your life or something you've seen it do for a participant?**
 - I receive so much back from volunteering. You are helping to restore and repair relationships within families and within the community. It's transformational. All of us need a support system. Some of our families that are struggling don't have that in place. So if we can step in and be that extra voice of support, it can truly make a difference.
 - I have become a more active listener and try to connect with others on a more personal level. I think it has made me a better leader and mother.



Volunteer feedback

- **If you had one piece of advice for others thinking about volunteering, what would you tell them?**
 - It is so worth your time volunteering to intercede in a family's life with their child. We work as a team creating a safe circle of adults that they can be responsible to, and receive support from. One caring adult can make a big difference in a child's life, which is really what it is all about.
 - One piece of advice – trust the process, and be patient. Progress doesn't happen overnight. It's always darkest before dawn – things will get raw before change can happen. I look at Restorative Justice like one of my favorite quotes, “a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor”. The volunteers here are the season sailors helping the new sailors (families) through rough waters. The Restorative Justice Program is the Beacon.



CASE STUDY #1

Young man who lived through physical, emotional, sexual, and mental abuse in his early years, coming from a family where he was simply entering the cycle of generational abuse and dysfunction. He had his stay in two placement settings for longer periods of time. Thus, schools years were spent in an alternative setting as well. Notes I took after a meeting read; concerns with sexual behavior, lying, and stealing. These were survival skills learned as child when living through his trauma which has no longer were serving him in a positive way.

- **\$158,100/320,000** was spent 1 youth to be in placement for 17 months.
- Returned home from placement in 2019.
- Option A was to attend a residential treatment facility to further address his behaviors and get him ready for becoming an adult. 1 year @ 322/day is **\$117,530**. 2 years is **\$235,060**.
- Instead he joined Circle. Eventually transitioned from an alternative school setting to public school. He and Step Mother have personally credited the Circle for his success and ability to stay in the home.
- This youth has since graduated High School in 2021, completed courses for heavy equipment operating in WI, and is working in Renville County as a productive citizen.



Participant Feedback

- Mom- “It’s has been a long and rough road. He’s grown so much. In the beginning I wasn’t sure how it would go. Now I have a great amount of hope and for his future. We are blessed to have him with us and to show him that not all families want to give up. I also believe in my heart that if it wasn’t for Circle he wouldn’t be here either. He has grown so much from being in Circle. I can’t thank God enough for all of you. You guys are the light we needed. We Love You All.”
- Youth stated, “I could probably write a book, if it wasn’t for you guys I wouldn’t be here. It’s been a big help, enjoyed my time, the tough conversation and the good ones.
- Mom – “You guys help me keep our son.”



CASE STUDY #2

Out of Home Placement risk factors

- Two young men born into the midst of...
- Unhealthy parent relationships
- Parental drug use
- Lack of supervision
- Estranged relationship with biological mother
- Several memories of the home being raided by police.
- Early Alcohol and drug use
- By the time they were 16 years old LE, OPD, County Attorneys Office, Human Services, Probation, and the Public Defenders Office, the City Attorneys Office, and the Judge and his staff all new their names very well.
- J1 - 220 entries, J2 - 150
- Had two young men in through Sentencing Circle that successfully graduated. Both were at risk of placement due to the severity of their felony charges and parents who were/are also involved in the system.
- ***Role models are needed.***
- **J1-** I like the encouragement, I feel like people don't care for them or not liked, but people need that pat on the back, to know people care about you and keep doing good.
- **J2-** That this meeting, with the encouragement and you push us to do better and its working, thank you.
- Referring Attorney: "I think if you asked those involved with them pre-circle, everyone expected that they were on track for escalation of criminal activity and further resource allocation for years to come, and it appears as though that has been diverted."



CASE STUDY #2

Potential costs without Circle intervention

- Average cost of correctional facility is \$240. Stay of 30 days = \$7,200. Stay of 90 days = \$21,600. ***Potentially saving \$43,200.***
- Average cost for a Residential Treatment Center is around \$322 per day. 30 days = \$9,660. 90 days = \$28,980. ***Potentially saving \$57,960.***
- Meaning that depending on what direction they would have went to, Renville County potentially saved between ***\$43,200 - \$57,960.***

Costs of Circle intervention

- 3 volunteers
- 1 facilitator
- 26.5 hours of Circle (\$761.87)
- 79.5 collective hours.
- \$2,269 worth of volunteer time
- Complicating factors: cases were a year old, and youth's age.
- Time out of Circle: Community Service, and Graduation



Participant Feedback

- J1-“At first I wasn’t a huge fan and wasn’t ready for it. But a few months after I started to feel better, and got going in therapy and everyone sharing their experiences, it was a really cool experience and happy we got the chance to do it, thank you guys too.”
- J2-“Been good working with all you guys and this past year, it has helped a lot, thanks for the opportunity.”
- Father- “It seems like this flew by, know there was a while there where J1 was worried about how this wouldn’t end until after graduation. Another thing there of life goes fast, this went by really quick. One thing that helped them feel more welcome here is that they realized you weren’t here to judge them, but here to help them through it. The turning point was having the community involved not just another number or client, you are taking time out of your day. It was a more personalize situation where everyone here realized that life happens.”



CASE STUDY #3

Out of Home Placement risk factors

- History of violent behavior against family members
- History of Services: Skills worker, Mental health worker,
- Misdemeanor charge: 5th degree assault
- General sentencing: 90 day jail, fine of \$1,000 or both

- Results thus far: In my opinion this youth is presenting with more maturity, better communication with both his parents, school performance, and has attended constantly. This youth lived with an Aunt for a short period of time and is now back at home with his mother and younger brothers. This is significant as when we first started, his mother and 10 year old brother were concerned of his outburst from their past experiences. These was a piece of why he spent some time under his Aunt's supervision and through that and the support of the circle that has been completely turned around.



CASE STUDY #3

Potential costs without Circle intervention

- Average cost of correctional facility is \$240. Stay of 30 days = \$7,200. Stay of 90 days = \$21,600.
- Meaning that depending on what direction this youth would have went to, Renville County potentially saved between ***\$ 7,200 - \$21,600.***

Costs of Circle intervention

- 5 volunteers
- 1 facilitator
- 18.5 hours of Circle (6 Circles) (\$555)
- 92.5 collective hours.
- \$2,770 worth of volunteer time



Participant Feedback

- Mother - “He has done a complete turn around, and it’s a combination of everything. Circle has been able to show him he has a voice. He didn’t know he was able to touch so many lives and what he says, and thinks matters. He can see that now through the support of the volunteers. He knows now how to turn around from his anger before it progresses. Now he sees it with so many people supporting him in taking a different route. It’s amazing how he has come such a long way in a short period of time.”



3 cases

- Case study one: Saved between \$ *117,530 and \$235,060.*
- Case study two: Saved between \$ *43,200 - \$57,960.*
- Case study three: Save between \$ *7,200 - \$21,600.*
- Combined total of potential savings of \$167,930 – \$314,620
 - Please note OOHP cost taken from a 2019 report.



General Description of Responsibilities

- Work with Restorative Justice Coordinator to assist with carrying out trainings, Circles, and the overall growth of the developing program.

Responsibilities or goals of student intern (please be specific):

- Making binders for training (set date, prep for, attend)
- Creating Handbooks (printing and binding handbooks)
- Review website design and content
- Attend all Restorative Justice Circles & Training as able
- Review and critic set up of data sheet and surveys to assist with data reporting
- Assist in submitting budget items
- Attend any other meetings (Dept. head meetings, RAPAD meetings, etc..) with coordinator as able

Brief description of orientation and training provided by agency:

- Training hours mostly spent attending and learning in Circle
- Attend any other trainings or conferences with Coordinator as able.
- Information regarding Restorative Justice Department's creation and future goals
- Restorative Justice Circle Training
- Review County policies such as appropriate use of technology, emergency contact, anti-harassment policies, and the personnel handbook



Reflection from Jackson on his time here with the Renville County Restorative Justice Department

- Communication growth - working together
- Learning how to communicate with folks who see us as an authority.
- Time Management - little things can add up when alone
- Facilitation Skills – getting away from agenda, and presence in the room.
- Documentation - notes, data entry
- Life coaching

Thank you for your time

Questions, comments? Fire away!



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