

Restorative Justice at Work

This section of our newsletter highlights Restorative Justice at work in our local and national communities. You can read more about this month's spotlight at www.cjonline.com.



SPOTLIGHT:

Kansas City Unified School District 500

CONCERNS:

- 650+ students receiving suspensions resulted in students missing a cumulative 228 days of instruction
- Office referrals were at a 2.3 referrals per student rate - students were sent to the office over 2,400 times
- Traditional disciplinary policies were failing to address underlying issues

RESULTS:

After implementing restorative practices, the school found that

- office referrals decreased by 52%
- suspensions decreased by 42%
- major safety offenses decreased by 81%
- chronic absenteeism (or the percentage of students who missed more than seven days in a semester) decreased by 39%



March Update

TRAINING IN LEWISBURG, WV

On March 10th, members of our Advisory Group, Emily Neely and Brenda Waugh, facilitated a Restorative Justice training in Lewisburg, WV. We hosted over 60 participants from varying backgrounds including judges, DHHR workers, attorneys, and probation officers to name a few!

The training focused on acquainting attendees with Restorative Justice principles and values and exploring how these compare to the principles and values traditionally displayed in the judicial system.

After a short lecture portion, attendees experienced a circle process for themselves. Then, in small groups and in a larger discussion, we examined how Restorative Justice processes can help the justice system address potential service gaps.

On March 31st we hosted a virtual conversation as a follow up to the training.

"Sitting in a circle removes barriers, literally and figuratively. With no desks, laptops or other obstructions in front of us, we can really focus and engage in the conversation."

- Lorna Baldry



What are the values of Restorative Justice?

According to Howard Zehr, a.k.a. "the grandfather of restorative justice," the three values of Restorative Justice are Respect, Responsibility, and Relationship.