



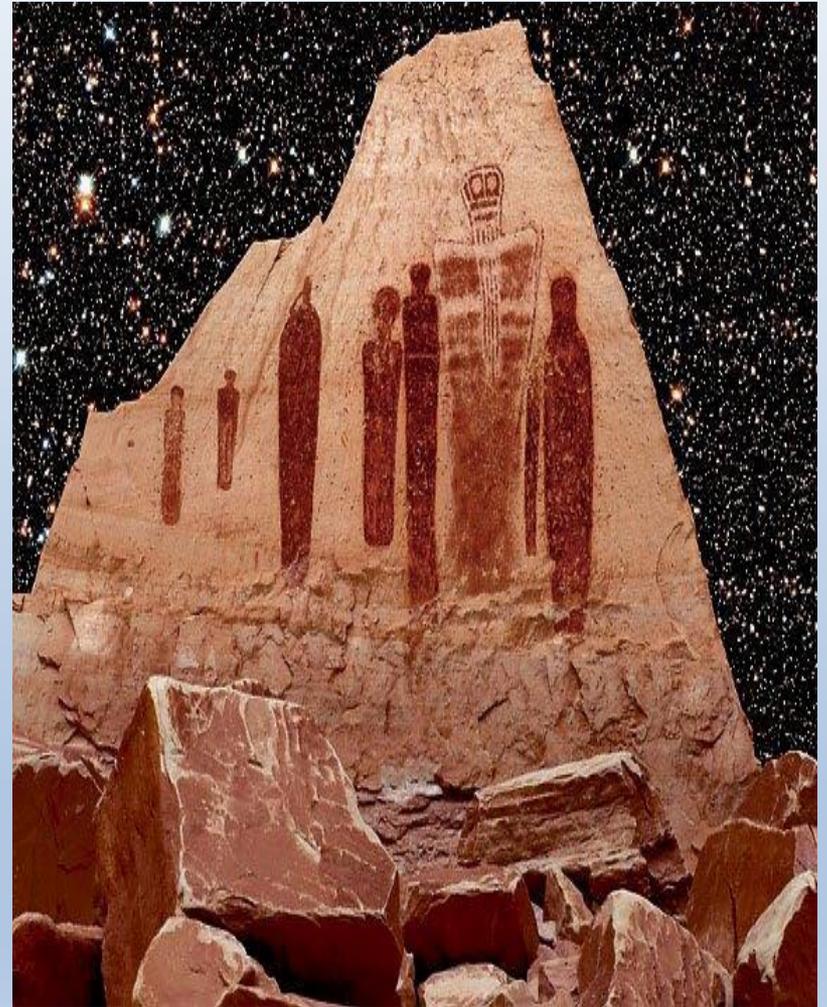
**Incorporating the Indigenous
Model of Family Group Decision
Making into Juvenile & Adult
Healing to Wellness Courts**



Opening

"The Circle has healing power. In the Circle, we are all equal. When in the Circle, no one is in front of you. No one is behind you. No one is above you. No one is below you. The Sacred Circle is designed to create unity."

- Dave Chief, Oglala Lakota



Restorative Practices Roots

Spaces – ancient and modern

Restorative practices can be traced to ancient Indigenous cultures, recurring in various forms in many different cultures around the world.



Restorative Practices Roots

Long before we delegated our conflict to experts, we came together in peacemaking spaces to work through our differences and to make decisions for the common good.



Restorative Practices Roots

Indigenous teachings distilled millennia of experiences of human beings trying to make a life together on earth.



Restorative Practices - Contemporary History

Contemporary practices and principals of consensus building, dialogue, and dispute resolution have helped shape our understanding that restorative practices are not a fad or the latest technique.

Restorative Practices are embodiment of both ancient and modern wisdom about how to keep human relationships alive, free, open and constructive, especially when conflicts arises.

One Definition of “Restorative”

“Having the ability to restore health, strength, or a feeling of well-being”



Principals of Restorative Practices

- ❖ Places of Strength
- ❖ Interconnectedness
- ❖ Pathways for Healing



It is All About Relationship

Restorative practices are processes that proactively build healthy relationships and a sense of community to prevent and address conflict

Restorative practices can improve relationships between students, between students and educators, and even between educators, whose behavior often serves as a role model for students. They allow each member of the school community to develop and implement a school's adopted core values

The “Why” of Restorative Practices

Besides attending to the needs of the individual that was emotionally or physically harmed, restorative practices-processes usually generates some level of personal change for all those involved:

- Greater sense of understanding
- Compassion
- Increase of self- respect
- Increase of respect for others



The “Why” of Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices challenges us to rethink what conflict, consequences, and harm is all about:

- How can we respond to breakdowns in ways that address underlying causes, so that we not only “make right” what went wrong – but also render future breakdowns less likely
- Instead of focusing on judgment, blame and guilt. How can we join to make things right among us by addressing needs of all ?

Creating the Framework for Restorative Practices

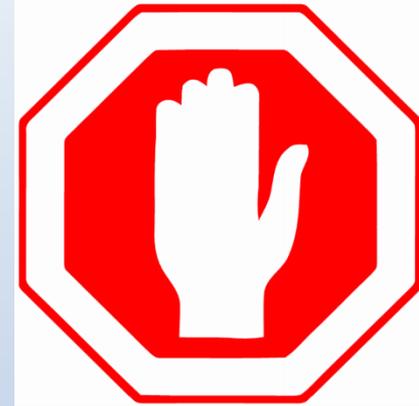
“Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren’t always comfortable, but they’re never weakness. Every day we experience the uncertainty, risks, and emotional exposure that define what it means to be vulnerable or to **dare greatly**” ~ *Brene Brown*

- ❖ Moving from Western Modes to Restorative Modes of Serving Youth, Adults, & Families
- ❖ Moving from Shame & Blame to Solution Orientated Actions
- ❖ Compassion, Trauma, & Restorative Informed



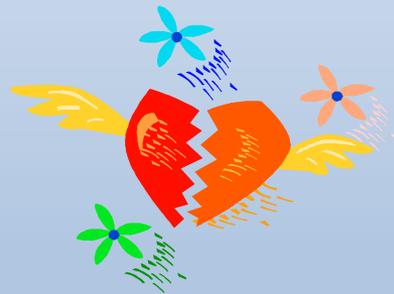
What Restorative Practices Is Not

- A program
- Forced upon youth, adults, families, staff
- Suitable for all incidents of harm or crime
- One shoe fits all - every restorative practices session is unique
- For everyone



Restorative Practices = Hope

Restorative Practices is an approach that can move those that are harmed and those who caused the harm to a more constructive, hopeful place; even when it seems unlikely or even impossible.



Restorative Practices

- Focus on relationships as central to building a positive programs in Tribal communities
- Focus on harm done rather than on rule breaking
- Gives voice to the person harmed
- Engages in collaborative problem-solving
- Empowers change and growth and enhances responsibility



Early Teachings About Restorative Practices

- The Circle is giving, it gives voice to those that have not found their voice and teaches those who don't know how to listen the gift of listening
- The Circle becomes the community, the community is the healer, the therapist, the counselor, and the teacher
- The Circle only understands natural law:

Equity, **Respect**, **Compassion**, **Trust**



The Power of Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices are about incrementally shifting habits and practicing to be in a different way, a more authentic way ..with one another and with ourselves

“I am never the same person from which I entered the Circle as when I leave a Circle”



Family Group Decision Making Conferences

Family Group Decision Making Conferences

Family Group Decision Making Conferencing was developed by the Maori people based on traditional peacekeeping methods.



FGDMC is built on the same processes of the Talking Circle but more people are involved in the process – everyone who is impacted by the issue or the harm that was caused is invited to be part of the FGDMC.

FGDMC = Equity & Respect

*It is clear that the way to heal society of its violence...
and lack of love is to replace the pyramid of domination
with the circle of equity and respect.*

*Manitonquat
Elder, Wampanoag Nation*



Family Group Decision Making Conferences

FGDMC have a universal, enduring quality, because they operate from a few fundamental premises about human beings and our human condition:

- ❖ **build on the premise that every human being wants to be connected to others in a good way**
- ❖ **operate from the premise that everybody shares core values that indicate what connecting in a good way means**
- ❖ **assume that being connected in a good way and acting from our values are not always easy to do, especially when conflict arises.**



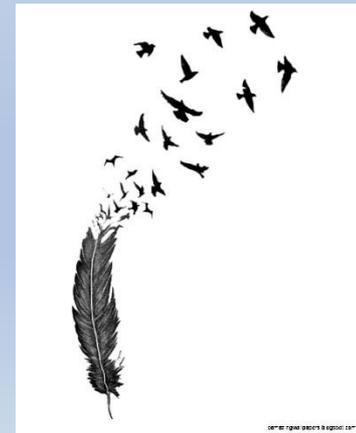
Family Group Decision Making Principles

1. Call us to act on our personal values
2. Include all interests
3. Are accessible to all
4. Offer everyone an equal opportunity to participate
5. Involvement is voluntary
6. Everyone participates directly as themselves
7. Are guided by a shared vision
8. Foster accountability to others and to the process
9. Maintain respect for all

The Power of FGDMC

FGDMC provides the space in which we reveal ourselves, uncover our core humanity, and allow others to feel, know, and touch us.

We are deepened, and from those depths, we find the power to create our worlds anew – together.



Creating the Container for Restorative Practices

Creating the Container

Setting a tone individually and collectively that facilitates:

- Building trust, safety, and connection
- Build and rebuild sustainable relationships
- Cultivates compassion for ourselves and others
- Understand the harm done
- Accepting responsibility
- Provides support to the person who was harmed
- Provides support and guidance to the person who caused the harm
- Working through conflicts
- Create a plan to repair the harm

Planning for Implementing FGDMC

Tilling the Soil

- ✓ Determining Type of Cases
- ✓ Determine Referral Process
- ✓ Identify FGDMC Training Resources
- ✓ Identifying Essential Staff for Training
- ✓ Education/Communication to Youth & Family
- ✓ Preparing Ourselves – Staff Capacity



Building Relationship – FIRST

Planting the Seeds of Relationship Building

- Choice & Options Available to Resolve the Issue
- Outreach – In Person Conversations
- Choice and Input Regarding Location and Who Participates
- Follow Up

Phases of a FGDMC

- Welcoming
- Sharing an opening
- Making introductions and check in
- Values Sharing
- Coming to a consensus about the agreements
- Taking responsibility
- Strengths
- Concerns
- Family Plan
- Case Management

Restorative Practices is Also Part of Creating the Framework for Multidisciplinary Approaches

Approaches

- Creating “a place and a space” for conversations – internally & externally
- Relationships
- Shared Vision
- Shared Leadership



Restorative Practices + Multidisciplinary Approaches =

A Catalyst for Change

- Macro Level: policy and systems changes
- Micro Level: holistic approaches in working with youth, adults, families
- Demonstrated through multiagency sharing of resources & responsibilities
- Full participation of professionals, families, youth, and community stakeholders as active partners in planning, funding, implementing, and evaluating services and system outcomes

Guidance From Our Elders

“We are living in a time of prophecy, a time of definitions and decisions. We are the generation with responsibilities and the option to choose ***“The Path of Life”*** for the future of our children.

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper

Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation

What would you tell the youth of today

