



Summer 2018
Volume 1, Issue 3

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The Movement Is Spreading

As we travel across the landscape of this beautiful state, I am continuously amazed by the warmth of those I meet. I have seen that most individuals who deal with the school system and the criminal justice system are extremely dedicated and sincerely concerned about how to make effectual changes that impact our communities for the better. These individuals have serious and valid questions. It has been my pleasure, as well as that of the other council members, to answer these questions and engage in constructive dialogue. Because of these conversations, we are seeing a growing desire to pursue and implement Restorative Justice programs.

The last two stops the council made have been no different. In May, the council went to Rawlins and held a Changing Lenses presentation. We had excellent dialogue with the police chief of Rawlins, director of the Higher Education Center, and representatives from the youth crisis center and the Department of Corrections. We are continuing efforts to form a community-based RJ group.

In June, our Changing Lenses campaign stopped in Cheyenne and the response was much the same. We had a great turnout of many members of the criminal justice field, school systems, and mental health organizations. In this presentation, the council changed our presentation format to resemble an actual circle process. This change resulted in what I believe was the most engaging and intentional meeting we have had to date. Our council is very excited about all the interest these meetings are generating around the state.

In the upcoming months, the council is looking to have presentations in Jackson Hole and Rock Springs. We will keep you informed on dates and times for these presentations. If you have a desire to host one of these presentations for your community, please contact us and we will be happy to work with you to make this happen. Together, I believe we can make a true and lasting impact on our great state.

Sincerely,
Richard Prince
President WRJC

*It is the **mission** of the Wyoming Restorative Justice Council to foster the values of and provide equal access to the principles and practices of Restorative Justice throughout the state.*

*It is the **vision** of the Wyoming Restorative Justice Council that all Restorative Justice Principles are interwoven into the daily practices of all Wyoming citizens.*

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Coordinator, Casper, WY

Martha Doyle, member
Special Education teacher, RJ
facilitator and trainer, Laramie, WY

Cassidy Drew, member
Victim Advocate, Sheridan, WY

Click the Facebook logo
below for the latest
restorative
justice stories, news, and
cultural happenings!



“Changing Lenses” Next Forum in Rock Springs!

WRJC members will give an overview of the RJ philosophy and review what is happening around the state in the RJ movement. Information regarding how RJ can be put into action and its benefits to our communities and criminal justice system will be covered. Additionally, several guest speakers will be sharing stories of their own RJ experience. We will leave plenty of time for a question-answer session. To best serve Wyoming’s restorative justice future, we need you there!

Please join us **Monday, September 10th, 9 AM- 11 AM @**
WWCC Rock Springs Campus Room 1309
2500 College Dr. Rock Springs, WY
Free and open to the public!

News from Natrona County Restorative Justice

Jen Miner

With regard to NCRJ’s initial pilot program, our goal was to process a minimum of 10 cases over the course of one year – and we hit that goal in April! To date we have had a total of 14 juvenile cases complete their Final Conference, with 7 of them having now completed their RJ Contracts. We had 1 case returned to the DA’s due to non-completion and 6 are still pending their deadlines. It has been an incredible experience to see how the RJ Contract comes together and the creative, relevant, and meaningful items that come out of this contract process! In late April NCRJ collaborated with the Longmont Community Justice Partnership and the Longmont Police Department in providing RJ training to 14 sworn officers of the Casper Police Department. This training covered the overall RJ philosophy, the conference process, and what to look for in an appropriate RJ referral. This milestone now begins a new phase of NCRJ’s conferencing program in that officers can specifically indicate when they believe the RJ program would be an appropriate recommendation for a case. Additionally, officers may also refer adult misdemeanor cases for RJ review. In anticipation of program growth, NCRJ is planning to host a volunteer training later this summer.

In early May I attended the annual Northwest Justice Forum in Ashland, Oregon. Aside from the incredible scenery, the conference presenters were knowledgeable and inspiring. Conference topics ranged from trauma informed care in RJ practices, RJ in prisons, student led peer groups based on RJ principals, as well as RJ in victim services, among others. I left this conference energized with new information and fresh ideas!

Victim Offender Dialogue: A Personal Account

Christal Martin

My Name is Christal Martin, I am a member of the Restorative Justice Council in Wyoming and founder of Sweetwater Against Trafficking in Sweetwater County. Today I share the story of how restorative justice through the VOD program helped me move through being a victim to a survivor. I can only hope that through my experience I can help inspire more communities and more victims to implement the Restorative Justice practices.

I was only eight years old when I became victimized losing my mother to a heinous and violent crime. For years I held onto such pain and anger that held me back from moving forward in my life. Something needed to change, all I knew is that I didn't want to become another statistic falling into a life of addictions and criminal offenses. I first heard about Restorative Justice through a class I was taking to earn my Criminal Justice Degree. It was something that hit me hard and a desire come over me that I needed to experience Restorative Justice. It was a way that was different then what society had pushed upon me for so many years so I decided to go through the VOD program offered through our state. The VOD helped me truly process the crime and helped me better understand myself and helped me heal by asking all the right questions. The most empowering aspect of the program however was being able to talk to the offender. I learned that forgiveness is truly about feeling empathy for another human being and trying to fully understand the background in which may have cause a person to not grow in a social or emotional way. The face to face also helped me understand my own strength and ability to face something that for so long festered within me. It is not about seeing the surface but seeing underneath and finding the right strategy to helping victims heal before criminal offenses affect others or themselves.

As a survivor and after this program I can confidently walk forward through my life knowing that, I will be able to inspire others and assist others to heal. I will no longer have to look back and say I hurt or have any anger because of this crime because I faced it in numerous ways.



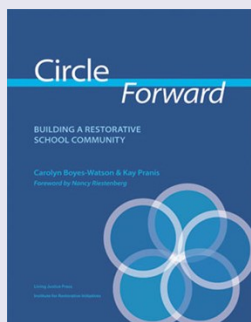
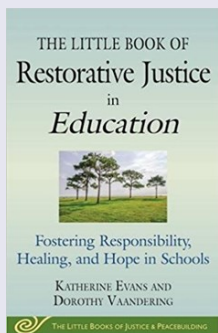
NACRJ: Member Access

"The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice is a non-profit organization that provides a professional association for educators, practitioners and others interested in restorative and community justice."

As a member of the Wyoming Restorative Justice Council, you have unlimited access to the NACRJ membership.

Head to page six to **learn how** you can become a member, and receive the username and password upon purchase, then visit NACRJ.org to start exploring.

RJ Resources for Education



The Impact of Restorative Justice Practices in Schools

The Wyoming Restorative Justice Council invites you to read Jon Kidde's highlights and resources regarding the use of Restorative Justice Practices in schools. Jon Kidde is an independent consultant in the state of Vermont. If have any questions, please contact Council Board Member, Martha Doyle at martha@marthardoyle.com

"Restorative Justice in Schools: Outcomes and Indicators"

The field is producing a growing body of literature with promising evidence-based outcomes. Below is a summary of selected outcomes. To more fully understand the outcomes reported and research limitations, read the original source. All the publications referenced are cited on the back; most are easily accessed online. Please cite the source.

School Climate, Culture, and Academics

- A pilot study of a restorative conferencing program in Minnesota reported increased school connectedness and improved problem-solving among students (McMorris et al., 2013).
- In Oakland, CA, 70% of staff reported that RJ improved overall school climate during the first year of implementation (Jain et al., 2014).
- Oakland students said that the use of restorative justice circles enhanced their ability to understand peers, manage emotions, develop greater empathy, resolve conflict with parents, improve home environment, and maintain positive relationships with peers (Jain et al., 2014).

Discipline Policies and Practices

- Two Minneapolis Public Schools used circles in the classroom and office repair harm. One school reduced behavioral referrals by 45% and another school by 63% (Minnesota DOE, 2003, 2011).
- When Family Group Conferences were used as a restorative intervention strategy for responding to serious behavioral incidents (recommendations for expulsion or administrative transfer) in Minneapolis Public Schools, 97% of parents said they would recommend the program to a friend, and high levels of satisfaction were reported by both students and parents/guardians (McMorris et al., 2013).
- The use of restorative justice has been shown to narrow the racial discipline gap (Jain et al., 2014; Gregory et al., 2014; Stewart Klein, 2016).

For the full PDF with additional statistics and references, click [here](#)

Compiled on March 1, 2016 by Jon Kidde, Green Omega, L3C (revised January, 2018) JonKidde@GreenOmegaL3C.org

Board Spotlight: **Randi Losalu**

Randi Losalu is a founding member of and the Secretary for the Wyoming Restorative Justice Council. Additionally, she is both the program manager and a facilitator for the Wyoming Victim Offender Dialogue program, giving victims of severe violent crime the opportunity to face their offender in a safe and secure manner after thorough preparation. Randi is also the Victim Services Coordinator for the Wyoming Board of Parole providing post-conviction victim services to those victimized by Wyoming adult felony offenders. She provides information, notification, and advocacy through the Victim/Witness Notification Program ensuring and assisting victims prepare for and have a voice at parole hearings. She has focused her efforts on expanding post-conviction services available to victims of Wyoming offenders through developing and offering restorative justice programs including the Offender Apology Letter Bank program and the Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) program.



Mrs. Losalu has received the “Partners in Advocacy” P.E.A.C.E Award from the Wyoming Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Outstanding Advocate Award from the Cheyenne Police Department, and the Innovation Award from the Wyoming Division of Victim Services. She currently chairs the Association of Paroling Authorities International Victims’ Committee, helped to establish a Wyoming Restorative Justice Council, and is on the planning committee for the Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth (formerly the Crimes against Children Conference). Speaking engagements for her include the Wyoming Annual Victim Services Conferences, National Institute of Corrections Network Meetings, Victim Offender Dialogue Summit, National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections Conference, and the Association of Paroling Authorities International Conference. Prior to working with the Board of Parole, Randi lived in the Kingdom of Tonga during her Peace Corps service wherein she developed a restorative justice program. She has also worked for the late Senator Craig Thomas in Washington D.C. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in both Criminal Justice and Psychology from the University of Wyoming in 2003, and is currently in the process of obtaining her Masters of Social Work through the University of North Dakota. Randi resides in Cheyenne with her husband and three children.

Community Spotlight

As a growing organization, we have members from around the state that are actively committed to cultivating Restorative Justice programs and practices into their everyday work. With that being said readers, we’d like to hear from you!

What’s the buzz on Restorative Justice in your community? What kinds of collective work is happening in your particular region of the state? What are your visions for Restorative Justice in Wyoming?

Please send your stories, comments, and questions to

wyoingrjc@gmail.com .

We’d love to know what’s happening in your corner of Wyoming!

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For more information, visit our
website at wyomingrjc.com or
follow us on Facebook below!



Become a Member!

The WRJC was created to support Restorative Justice implementation around the state. The goals and vision of this council are not obtainable without the direct involvement of Wyoming citizens. This is why it is vitally important that those individuals and professionals who are interested in Restorative Justice team up and make a concerted effort to advance RJ across this great state.

It is impossible to create and implement RJ as an individual. If you desire to see RJ grow in Wyoming, please join the WRJC and become a member of our council. By becoming a member of WRJC you will be instantly joined to a team of RJ professionals who are passionate about the advancement of RJ.

With a membership:

- You will have access to resources that would normally take much research and time to discover.
- You will be updated on training opportunities for your continued growth in RJ.
- You will have access to a team that can help you get your own RJ programs off the ground by providing everything from advice to program development and even organizing training for those who will be a part of your program.
- Finally, you will be a part of a team that is working behind the scenes to bring about RJ legislation that will make the advancement of RJ much easier.

Membership Fee:

Individual \$50

Organization/Group \$100 (up to 5 people)

Send us an email at wyomingrjc@gmail.com for a membership form.

