



Relational Justice Models

Restorative Justice

- **Victim Focused**
- **Crimes as Harms to People and Relationships**
- **Goals – Repair of Harms**
 - Victims, Community, Government, Offender
 - Direct accountability to victims and community
 - Possibility of earned redemption for offenders
 - Improved Collective Efficacy.
- **Crime Prevention through:**
 - Re-Norming Neighborhoods
 - Non-Adversarial Processes
 - Informal Dialog Processes
 - Individual Empowerment
 - Restoration

Community Justice

- **Neighborhood Focused**
- **Crimes as harms to quality of life (adverse social conditions)**
- **Goals – Community Building**
 - Increasing Social Capital
 - Improved Quality of Life
 - Ameliorating Adverse Social Conditions in Neighborhoods.
- **Crime Prevention through:**
 - Community Empowerment
 - Assertion of Pro-social Community Standards
 - Improved quality of life
 - Use of City Services
 - Formal Justice Processes
 - Surveillance



Overview of Restorative Justice: Basic Principles

Zehr (2002). *Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Good Books, Inc.

Definitions:

- Restorative Justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible. (Source: Zehr, 2002, p. 37)
- Restorative justice is not simply a way of reforming the criminal justice system, it is a way of transforming the entire legal system, our family lives, our conduct in the workplace, our practice of politics. It is a vision of holistic change in the way we do justice in the world. (Source: Braithwaite, 2002 as quoted by Umbreit and Armour, 2010, p. 9)

Goals:

- Restorative justice practices aim to:
 - Put decisions into the hands of those most affected by crime;
 - Make justice more healing, and ideally more transformative; and,
 - Reduce the likelihood of future offenses.

Requirements:

- Achieving these goals requires that:
 - Victims are involved in the process and come out of it satisfied with a sense of healing;
 - Offenders understand how their actions have affected other people and take responsibility for those actions;
 - Outcomes help to repair the harms done and address the reasons for the offense (specific plans are tailored to the specific needs of both victims and offenders);
 - Victims and offenders both gain a sense of "closure" and both are reintegrated into the community.

Guiding Questions:

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligations are these?
- Who has a stake in this situation?
- What is the appropriate process to involve stakeholders in an effort to put things right?

- What is needed to repair the harms and address underlying needs of victim?
- What is needed to address the needs of offenders to prevent future offending?
- What is the role of the larger community in repairing harms and addressing needs which promote safer communities?

Principles:

- Victim-centered (not offender-centered) processes;
- Focus on the harms of crime rather than the rules or laws that have been broken;
- Show equal concern and commitment to victims and offenders, involving both in the process of justice;
- Work toward the restoration of victims, empowering them, and responding to their needs *as they see them*;
- Support offenders, while encouraging them to understand, accept and carry out their obligations to right the wrongs they have caused;
- Recognize that while obligations for repair may be difficult for offenders, those obligations should not be used as harms (i.e., punishments), and their obligations must be achievable;
- Provide opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victim and offender as appropriate.
- Find meaningful ways to involve the community and respond to the community bases of crime;
- Encourage collaboration and reintegration of both victims and offenders, rather than coercion and isolation;
- Show respect for all parties - victims, offenders, justice officials and other stakeholders;
- Give attention to the unintended consequences of the restorative practices used.



Overview of Community Justice: Basic Principles

Karp & Clear (2000). *Community Justice: A Conceptual Framework*.

Definition:

Community justice broadly refers to all variants of crime prevention and justice activities that explicitly include the community in their processes and set the enhancement of community quality of life as a goal. It is rooted in:

- Action by citizens, community organizations, public social services and the criminal justice system to take control of crime and social disorder;
- Community level outcomes that shift the emphasis from:
 - Individual incidents to systemic patterns;
 - Individual conscience to social mores;
 - Individual goods to common goods.
- Genuine co-partnerships between area residents, businesses, organizations, public agencies and criminal justice systems.
- Area residents within a neighborhood can and do act independently to strengthen, improve and protect their neighborhood and the surrounding community from social disorder.

Goals:

- Improve the quality of life within a neighborhood in ways that:
 - Strengthen informal pro-social controls;
 - Strengthen the ability of area residents to access resources needed to improve or protect their neighborhoods;
 - Meaningfully address problems of concern to area residents and businesses; and
 - Prevent and reduce incivilities, crime and victimization.

Requirements:

- Primary focus on improving neighborhood social conditions and circumstances in ways that prevent harms and reduce crimes within that area.
- A shift away near total dependence on centralized systems of formal social control rooted in laws and enforcement of those laws.
- Co-equal (non-dominating) relationships between residents, businesses, public social service agencies and justice systems.
- Genuine partnerships using dialogue processes and consensus decision making.

Guiding Questions:

- How do the social conditions within a neighborhood affect quality of life?
- How does quality of life relate to the patterns of crime and victimization in a neighborhood?
- Who are the "subject matter experts" on the neighborhood and its problems?
- What is the role and influence of local residents in identifying and prioritizing neighborhood problems?
- What is the role and influence of local residents in decision making about how best to address those problems?
- Are decision-making processes based on listening, dialogue and consensus?

Principles:

- Focus on neighborhoods within larger communities.
- Focus on quality of life improvements for those who live or work in those neighborhoods.
- Focus on problem solving to ameliorate problems and conditions that are of concern to those who live or work in these neighborhoods.
- Decentralized authority and accountability for the production of safe and livable communities where solutions to problems are tailored to local circumstances and preferences.
- Respect, facilitate, support and prioritize the wisdom of local residents about the problems that need to be addressed.
- Recognize the limits of traditional legal justice, it cannot and does not produce safe and livable neighborhoods.
- Safe and livable neighborhoods are co-produced through pro-social interactions between people, businesses, social institutions and formal justice systems which strengthen informal social controls and improve quality of life.