



**TRIBAL YOUTH
RESOURCE CENTER**

www.TribalYouth.org

TRANSFORMING JUSTICE SYSTEMS INDIGENOUS MODEL OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

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▶ BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

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OPENING





OUR VALUES





CULTURAL CONNECTEDNESS

Restorative Practices mirrors cultural connectedness, which is an approach that brings together cultural humility and health literacy to help care and service providers and program participants/clients develop shared understanding of each other's values, beliefs, needs, and priorities. Restorative Practices is a **STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH.**



► RESILIENCE FROM THE GROUND UP

Cultural values and principles, which have contributed to and sustained our collective structure (family, clan, band, societies, and community) greatly, contribute to the pride and identity and resilience of an individual. The sense of belonging and love felt throughout the collective structure of a Native community reinforces that individual's identity.

Therefore, what youth experience in their families is how they see themselves in their community and the world.

Spaces – Ancient and Modern.

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

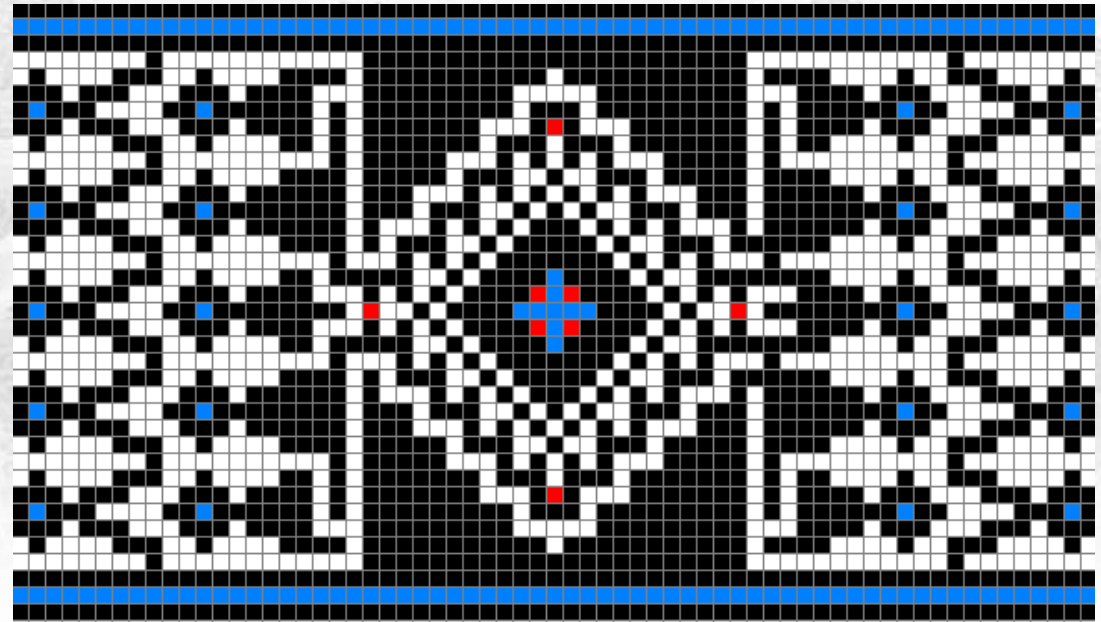


Indigenous Roots of Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices 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 disharmony arises.



▶ INDIGENOUS MODEL OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The Indigenous Model of Restorative Practices is based on Indigenous holistic philosophy and the “Relational Worldview.” These systems are guided by the unwritten traditions and practices that are learned primarily by example and through the oral teachings of elders, parents, and the extended family.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES- A WAY OF BEING

The Indigenous Model of Restorative Practices calls on us to *embody* a restorative way of being by seeing all people as fully human and uplifting their values and beliefs. By doing this inner work, we see differently, hear differently, and engage with others differently.

Restorative Practices is just that - A PRACTICE that we're all doing as we move through life.



▶ COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Community health uses public health science and evidence-based strategies to optimize the health and well-being of all persons who live, work, or are otherwise active in a defined community *(Goodman, Bunnell & Posner, 2014)*.

Distinctive features of community health include community member engagement and multi-sector collaboration. Individuals, groups, and organizations work together to address health issues by taking into account the social and cultural factors relevant to the community.

▶ COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Restorative Practices strengthens relationships between individuals as well as social connections within communities. Restorative practices can also help to increase people's personal and collective efficacy.

These positive outcomes influence a sense of community. People with greater sense of community are more likely to act in healthy ways and work with others to promote well-being for all.



▶ RELATIONAL WORLDVIEW

On our globe today, there are two predominant worldviews—linear and relational. The linear worldview is rooted in European and mainstream American thought. It is very temporal, and it is firmly rooted in the logic that says cause has to come before effect.

In contrast, the relational worldview sees life as harmonious relationships where health is achieved by maintaining balance between the many interrelating factors in one's circle of life. Understanding these worldviews and how they relate to juvenile justice work can serve to enhance an Tribal Youth and Juvenile Healing Wellness Courts ability to meet the community's needs.

“Worldview” is a term used to describe the collective thought process of a people or culture. Thoughts and ideas are organized into concepts. Concepts are organized into constructs and paradigms. Paradigms link together to create worldviews.

▶ COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Restorative Practices can help communities to flourish. When used as a universal prevention strategy for everyone in the community, regardless of any specific risk factor that may or may not exist, restorative practices can help create the social conditions for people to be healthier and have greater well-being.



Conceptual Model Relating Explicit Restorative Practices to Community Health and Well-Being



Abrams, Hebling & Smull (2018)

▶ THE WHY OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

- Build & re-build healthy relationships between community/state justice systems with Tribal programs who serve justice-involved youth and adults.
- Build & re-build healthy relationships between youth, families, and extended family.
- Reduce, prevent, and improve harmful behavior to self and others.
- Improve cognitive thinking, decision-making skills, take responsibility to make amends for harm caused to self, family, and community.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Inclusive

Collaborative

Authentic care for others

Values-based

Healing

Support

Validates the experiences and needs of everyone, particularly those marginalized, oppressed, harmed.



► What Restorative Practices – *Is Not*



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

▶ THE 5 R'S OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

- ❖ Relationship
- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Responsibility
- ❖ Repair
- ❖ Reintegration





Restorative Practices Processes

- ❖ Restorative Mindset
- ❖ Restorative Conversations
- ❖ Circles
- ❖ Indigenous Model of Family Group Decision-Making Conferencing

▶ RESTORATIVE CONVERSATIONS





Indigenous resilience is acknowledging and understanding our ontological responsibility as Indigenous people to protect and care for the earth, our territories and the natural environment for future generations to come.

It is imperative to invest, guide, and support Tribal youth pathways to acquire knowledge and experience that will anchor them to their Native ways and relational world view, that can lead to a new awareness and a greater level of Indigenous consciousness, and can result in Tribal Youth undertaking new roles and responsibilities in their community, to their respective nation, as well as to the natural world.



▶ RESTORATIVE PRACTICES & SYSTEMS CHANGES

Elements of systems change:

- Rethinking relationships with those you serve
- Developing innovative strategies to demonstrate new ways of working in practice
- Reorienting existing services and resources (to focus on strengths and relationships)
- Asking new questions to encourage new ways of thinking and working (from “doing to” to “doing with”)
- Modifying objectives, incentives / accountability, culture and behaviors within programs services

▶ RESTORATIVE PRACTICES & SYSTEMS CHANGE

RP Strategic Planning:

- ❖ Internal & External Environments
- ❖ Policies
- ❖ Capacity
- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ Reallocation of Resources
- ❖ Those Most Impacted
- ❖ Youth & Community



RESOURCES

1. Living Justice Press Living Justice Press:
www.livingjusticepress.org
2. Center for Restorative Programs: [Center for Restorative Programs](#)
3. [Resources - Center for Restorative Process](#)
4. [An Indigenous Model of Restorative Practices -- A Way of Life, Not a Program | Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation \(wyeastuu.org\)](#)



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Examine our Service-Delivery System



Healing -Informed Approach



Following the lead of those most impacted



Multi-System/ Multi-Disciplinary Approach



Examining how we deliver prevention and intervention services



Look at our Tools/ Assessments

▶ QUESTIONS ?





There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask “What’s possible?” not “What’s wrong?” Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know.

Talk to people you don’t know.

Talk to people you never talk to.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.

Expect to be surprised.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.

Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

-Margaret Wheatley *Turning to One Another*



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