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**Applying Restorative Justice Principles
in Teen Courts**

WV Teen Court Implementation Training Seminar

Charleston, WV
November 20-21, 2008

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Restorative Justice

- Is NOT a program.
- Is a different way of responding to crime in communities and in the justice system.

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Restorative Justice

- Views crime as a violation of people and relationships
- Views the goals of justice as repairing the harm and rebuilding broken relationships caused by crime
- Active, respectful participation by stakeholders – emphasis on the community's role in problem solving

Source: Jim Moeser

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Restorative Justice

Views the outcomes of the justice process as focusing equally on:

- Repairing harm
- Competency Development
- Public Safety

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Traditional System	Restorative Justice
Asks the Questions	Asks the Questions
• Who did it?	• Who was harmed?
• What laws were broken?	• What needs to be done to repair the harm?
• How will we punish the offender?	• Who is responsible for the repair?

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So, how can teen courts work toward becoming more restorative in nature?

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To be More Restorative,
Teen Courts Need to...

1. Increase or rethink the role of victims and community in teen court

How?

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Victim Involvement

Issues to consider:

- Victim Access/Input to Hearings
- Information Provided
- Notification (pre, during, post)
- Support Given

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Focusing on Reparation Will Affect
Policies/Procedures Such as...

- Who we gather information from during the intake and case preparation process.
- How much time we give for youth attorneys to prepare.
- What kind of (and how) information is presented during teen court hearings.
- How information is processed during deliberation proceedings.
- The types of sentencing options we have available.

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To be More Restorative,
Teen Courts Need to...

3. Consider RJ principles when designing sentencing options and program services.

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Resources to Help You
Implement RJ Practices

- Pranis, K. (1998, December). *Guide for Implementing the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model*. Washington, DC: OJJDP (download at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/Implementing/contents.html>)
- *Restorative Justice and Teen Courts: A Preliminary Look*
- *Getting the Most Out of the Deliberation Process* (Video/Facilitator Guide – Online Lesson)
- Handouts from “Facilitating More Victim Involvement” workshop
- *Giving Back: A Community Service Learning Manual for Youth Courts*
- *Street Law for Youth Courts: Educational Workshops*
- *Youth Court Volunteer Training Package*

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To be More Restorative,
Teen Courts Need to...

- 2. Focus teen court hearings on repairing the harm...rather than on meting out punishment for punishment's sake.
