Restorative Justice: A Relational Approach to Re-entry

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Objectives

- Have a basic understanding of restorative justice practices and their uses with reentry.

- Define the “Whole Community Approach” to suggest effective outcomes to reentry.

- Apply restorative justice principles to suggest alternative processes to reentry.
Question?

- What issues does the person face in preparing for their reentry into a community?
- What issues exist with respect to reentry and the impact on his or her family?
The “Whole Community Approach”

- Tier I: Build & Strengthen Relationships
- Tier II: Respond to Conflict & Harm
- Tier III: Reentry Support

Support & Accountability
VOM, Conferences, Circles, Boards
Community-Building Circles

Encouraging Success
Inclusive Decision-making
Interpersonal Competence

Building Circles
Decision-making
Interpersonal
Competence
Three Pillars of Restorative Justice

- Harms and needs
- Obligations
- Engagement
Three Basic Objectives

- “Telling their stories”
- To make things right
- Future intentions – addressing the underlying issues
Community-Building Circle

- Help support healthy relationships and communities.
- Community-based decision-making approach
- Creates support for reentry
The 5 C’s of Circles

- Convene – Who would you invite?
- Connect – What would you ask to create trust and a sense of community?
- Concern – How would you introduce the topic of concern?
- Collaborate – How will you encourage collaborative decision-making?
- Close – Identify takeaways and plans for the future.
Reentry Circle -

- Incarceration does not mean “disconnect”.
- Encourage accountability through a collaborative process
- The goals of the reentry circle:
  1. Affirm connection with the person responsible
  2. Identify the resources needed for a successful return
  3. Make a plan for the successful return of the person responsible
Elements of the Circle

- Seating in circle
- Opening
- Centerpiece
- Values and guidelines
- Talking piece
- Guiding questions
- Closing
Follow Up

- Community means connection
- Regular check-ins
- Monitor the plan - true accountability
Reentry Circle Exercise
Reentry Circle
Questions?
Resources

