

Central Region Office

Restorative Justice Program

<http://www.ns.johnhoward.ca/program/central/>

When to Refer a Young Person to Restorative Justice:

- The young person needs to accept responsibility for the wrong doing
- It will hold the young person accountable for offending behavior & harm they caused
- There is a person (victim) who could benefit from a restorative approach
- The young person could benefit from educational and supportive intervention
- The young person could benefit from a referral to a community agency for programming
- Family members of individual are requesting support
- Offence is a Level 1 or Level 2 offence

<http://www.ns.johnhoward.ca/program/central/>

See the following link for more details regarding the referral process:

[http://ns.johnhoward.ca/pdf/PoliceTrainingforYouthRJ\(2\).pdf](http://ns.johnhoward.ca/pdf/PoliceTrainingforYouthRJ(2).pdf)

Crime Prevention Programs:

There is no cost to the young person for these programs.

Workshops are delivered by our staff and volunteers, and represent our commitment to the prevention of youth crime and to making our community a more responsive, safer place to reside.

Referral sources at all entry points can refer, as well as an extrajudicial measure referred by the police. (As outlined in Section 6(1) of the YCJA.).

These options can also be part of any RJ Agreement Outcomes, or as part of any potential Sentencing Options should a Judge feel it would be appropriate.

Spring 2014

Newsletter



"Effective, just and humane responses to the consequences of crime."

Crime Prevention Programs

What we offer our clients:

- Community Workplace Program – (Community Service Orders & Fine Options)
- Drug & Alcohol Awareness
- Anger Awareness
- Employment Search Assistance
- Educational Workshops: (Shoplifting, Justice Awareness, Victim Empathy, Consequences of a Criminal Record, Life Skills, Anger Awareness & Graffiti)

Contact Us:

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(902) 843-4969 Ext. 151

Toll Free: 1-877-743-4969

jhrj@ns.johnhoward.ca Website:

<http://www.ns.johnhoward.ca/program/central/>

About Us:

John Howard Society, Central Region is one of eight Community Justice Societies in Nova Scotia that are contracted with Department of Justice to deliver the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program. Our mandate is to provide service delivery to youth ages 12-17 that have come in contact with the law.

JHS and Community Corrections are currently delivering the restorative justice program to adults. The Integrated Adult Restorative Justice Pilot Project (IARJPP) is an integrated program with Community Corrections and the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program. IARJPP is still only operating in two sites; however there is strong optimism that the program will be available province wide in the near future.

Restorative Justice

“Restorative Justice is a process whereby all parties with a stake in a particular offence come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the after math of the offence and its implications for the future.”

Referrals Received:

Youth Cases

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
119	68	58

Adult Cases

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
8	78	66

Benefits of the Program:

- Victims are central to the process
- Victims of Crime report being less fearful after having a meeting with the offender
- Participant Satisfaction
- RJ has a positive effect in reducing the recidivism rate
- Holds individuals accountable to those harmed
- Cost effective

Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program

Objective:

- Hold the offender accountable in a meaningful way
- Create a voice and an opportunity for victims
- Support the victims reparation needs
- Create leadership roles for community members

The values of restorative Justice:

- Crime is about the wrongdoing & harms committed against people, relationships, and community;
- Harm creates obligations and it is up to the offender to make things right;
- Community and victims of crime have a legitimate place in the resolution process
- Victim needs are central to the restorative justice process
- Every person is worthy of dignity, respect, and has a right to a voice in processes that affect them
- Outcomes are agreed upon in a collaborative way that meet the needs and repair the harm done.

Message from the Director:

Our agency is pleased to say, that as part of our community engagement, we continue to have a collaborative partnership with our community and justice partners. Through this collaboration we are meeting the needs of our clients by directing them to the right supports and resources for reintegration in the community. We have been able to link many individuals to Mental Health/addiction services, Employment Search, educational programs and other supportive services.

We continue to maintain a high compliance rate for our youth. For this fiscal year we saw a compliance rate of 95%. Police participation has increased within all policing agencies. Police officer's contribution to the program is a viable piece to the restorative justice process.

The adult restorative justice program has been very successful with an 88% successful compliance rate.

We have received **\$18,025.73** in restitution for victims and **\$2,184.89** donated back to the community through our Giving Back Program. These totals include youth and adult payments.

A Reminder on Referral Process:

A referral to Restorative justice can be applied to a criminal incident at several entry level points;

- 1) pre-charge, by way of police referral;
- 2) post-charge, by way of crown prosecutor referral;
- 3) pre-sentence, by way of court referral;
- 4) post-sentence, by way of corrections referral.

Remember: Police do not have to lay a charge before referring to restorative justice. They can make a decision to refer at pre charge stage. YCJA sec. 10 (2)

The staff is available to provide information on the referral process and to present on Restorative Justice. We invite you to visit our web page for further information on our programs.

<http://www.ns.johnhoward.ca/program/central/>

Please contact us at 843-4969 Ext. 151

Christina King

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014



"As a community member, I recognize the inherent value of the restorative justice program, as it offers an opportunity for all individuals involved to play a more meaningful role in the making amends.... amends that will last."

-B. Crowe, volunteer & community member

STAFF

Christina King – Director

Cindy Reid -Caseworker

Wanda Dickie – Admin/ Caseworker

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