



**NATIONAL
CONFLICT
RESOLUTION
CENTER™**

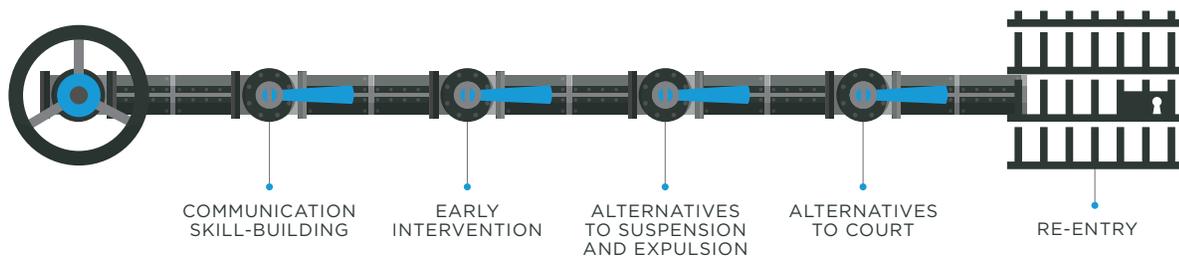
RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCING (RCC)



The Pipeline to Prison is well documented and has a disproportionate impact on communities of color. There are proven ways to disrupt it, and that's what the National Conflict Resolution Center is all about.

- San Diego Sheriff William D. Gore

» THE PIPELINE TO PRISON



THE FOURTH LEVER in “Avoiding the Pipeline to Prison” addresses a worst-case scenario: a young person who faces incarceration for committing a crime. At this critical point, NCRC intervenes with a “Restorative Community Conference” (RCC) that brings support from many levels to the responsible youth and person harmed. The most innovative aspect of this program is the personal involvement of community mentors who invest time, effort, and emotion in keeping their young neighbors in school, out of jail, and on a path to success.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Definition

Restorative Justice provides a safe space to address offenses face-to-face in order for the responsible party to take responsibility for their actions, repair harm to all stakeholders, give a voice to those harmed and build trust and community.

COMMUNITY + OFFENDER + VICTIM

OUR CURRENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASKS THESE THREE QUESTIONS:

- 1) What law was broken?**
- 2) Who broke it?**
- 3) What punishment is given?**

RCC ASKS A DIFFERENT SET OF QUESTIONS:

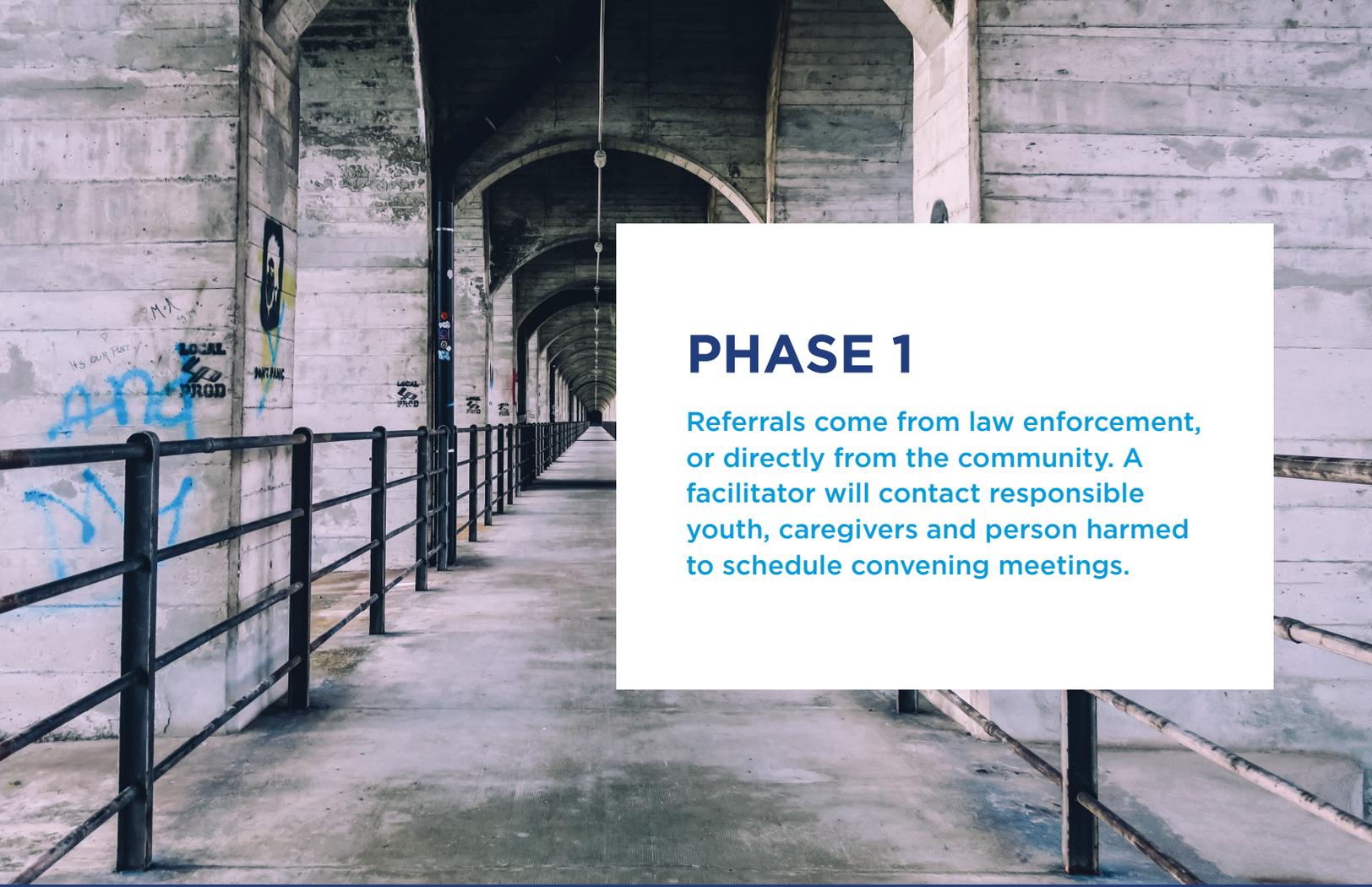
- 1) Who was harmed?**
- 2) What are the needs of all affected?**
- 3) Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?**

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCING (RCC)

“An inclusive process motivated primarily by a need to address harm.”

Definition

RCC is a meeting between the person that has been harmed, the youth that caused the harm, and the interested people within the community. The goal of the meeting is to create a plan to repair the harm. Everyone in the meeting participates in creating the action plan which the youth completes with the support of the community members.



PHASE 1

Referrals come from law enforcement, or directly from the community. A facilitator will contact responsible youth, caregivers and person harmed to schedule convening meetings.

PHASE 2

A facilitator will schedule individual meetings with the youth, their caregivers, the person harmed, and community members to discuss the process and preparation for the RCC. The individual preparation meetings usually take place over a few weeks.





PHASE 3

The conference is held in a location convenient to all parties. The meeting usually takes 2 to 4 hours. Participants include the youth, their caregivers, the person harmed, and community members who want to help the youth make things right. The meeting discusses the harm caused and the action plan that will be created.

PHASE 4

The youth, with support from the community members, completes the actions in the action plan. Depending on the actions, the plan completion can take a few weeks or a few months. In some cases, the plan must be completed before the court timeline. When the plan is successfully completed, the case is closed with a celebration and if there are charges pending, they are dismissed.



FAQs

What is an action plan?

The action plan is an agreement made by the people in the RCC. The purpose of the action plan is to make things as right as possible for: the person harmed, the community, the youth's family and the youths themselves. Restitution, if applicable is usually addressed during this process. Community members are often listed in the action plan as key supporters for the youth. Each action is unique and created by the people in the RCC.

Is RCC voluntary?

Yes, RCC is voluntary and everyone needs to participate in good faith for it to be successful. RCC requires that the youth that caused harm take responsibility for the harm and the desire to make it right. RCC requires that the person harmed be willing to collaborate to create a realistic plan for repairing the harm they suffered.

What if the person harmed does not want to participate?

If the person harmed does not want to participate but wants the youth to have an RCC, the case can move forward. If the person harmed does not want the RCC to move forward, they have the right to request traditional court processing.

What if the youth does not complete the action plan?

Because the action plan is created by the youth and community, the voluntary plan is nearly always completed. In some cases, when there is a change in circumstances that makes the process difficult to complete, the facilitator can help alter the plan with approval from the people in the RCC. If the youth chooses to not complete the action plan; the case is sent back to the referring agency for alternative action.

FAQs

Why is RCC a good alternative to traditional court processing?

Persons that have been harmed have an opportunity to explain the impact of the youth's offense, get important questions answered and have input in the action plan to repair the harm caused. They are given an opportunity to use their strengths to repair the harm as much as possible. Through the support provided to the person harmed and the youth, community relationships are strengthened as people get to know one another during the RCC and during the action plan completion. The needs of the participants are identified, and wrap-around community services are provided to the person harmed, the youth, and their families.

REFERRAL CRITERIA

RESPONSIBLE YOUTH

Age - 18 (17.5 date of the incident) & under

IDENTIFIABLE VICTIM

Individual directly impacted by the incident

LOCATION

Offense must occur within the County of San Diego

CRIMINAL CHARGES

THEFT
BURGLARY
BATTERY
VANDALISM

FAMILY VIOLENCE
ASSAULT
WEAPONS CHARGE

STATISTICS



100%

Agreement Rate
(restorative action plan)



98%

Completion Rate
(restorative action plan)

OUTCOMES

50%

less recidivism than
non-RCC participants

100%

victim satisfaction

Saves the tax payers over
per youth referred to our program

\$100K



BENEFITS

FOR RESPONSIBLE YOUTH

Do you feel that the RCC was helpful for you?

100% Helpful

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the program?

88% Satisfied

Would you recommend the RCC process to others in a similar situation?

97% Recommend

FOR PERSON HARMED

Do you feel that the RCC was helpful for you?

98% Helpful

Did meeting with the youth help reduce any fear or concern that he/she would commit another crime?

92% Reduction

Did the RCC process satisfy your sense of justice?

98% Sense of Justice

Would you recommend the RCC process to others in a similar situation?

98% Recommend

FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Did the conference process seem fair?

99% Fairness

Was the conference meaningful to you?

99% Meaningful

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the program?

95% Satisfaction

Would you use this process again?

94% Yes

RECIDIVISM

→ SIX MONTHS

Youth participating in RCC six months after program completion **8%**

Youth not participating in RCC six months after program completion **23%**

→ 12 MONTHS

Youth participating in RCC 12 months after program completion **8%**

Youth not participating in RCC 12 months after program completion **22%**

→ 3 YEARS

Youth participating in RCC three years after program completion **16%**

Youth not participating in RCC 3 years after program completion **26%**



Since NCRC was launched in 1983 as a grassroots mediation center, we have extended the reach of our services into eight countries on three continents and across six Cabinet-level departments. We have served nine countries on four continents: the U.S., Mexico, and Nicaragua (North America); Chile (South America); Albania, Germany, Italy, and Spain (Europe); Japan (Asia).

But our core mission, "**Empower People, Transform Cultures**," focuses on families and communities here at home. Each year, our programs touch the lives of 10,000 San Diegans, from middle schoolers to senior citizens.

Our mediators resolve personal conflicts that range from married couples considering divorce to neighbors arguing over property lines.

Our trainers assist the most vulnerable among us - veterans, homeless people, refugees, and foster kids - by providing the tools and skills they need to achieve self sufficiency. Our restorative community conferences are helping at-risk youth stay in school and out of prison and are strengthening police-citizen relations.

Our campaign to mend a divided society through civility and inclusivity is elevating public discourse from college campuses to government halls.

**To get started, contact
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