

Reconnecting the Judicial System to Community Priorities:
Lessons Learned from Restorative Justice

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Passion, Patience and Persistence

Lessons learned regarding linking the community with the judicial system.

1. Shared vision is critical. It is important to take time to explore and discuss the shared vision.
2. Passion and spirit drive the most fundamental change. Passion and spirit need to be fed and encouraged.
3. Open, inclusive processes which remain open to critics will produce the most responsive and resilient partnerships.
4. Process is critical at all levels. The values of the shared vision must be reflected in every process.
5. Procedures for raising difficult issues and working toward resolution must be clear to all participants.
6. Community - justice system partnerships are enriched by the presence of people who have experienced the justice system.
7. Each community must find its own path.
8. When one door is closed, try another.
9. Storytelling is one of the most powerful ways to communicate your message.
10. Shared leadership and shared decisionmaking are awkward and uncomfortable. It's a messy business.
11. It is very important to proceed through elicitive process, in which local community knowledge and wisdom is tapped and used as a foundation for new processes and approaches.
12. Move forward one step at a time. Stay flexible, responsive. If you map out a definitive path it is likely that you have imposed an agenda on others.

- 13. Healthy linkages between the community and the justice system benefit from spending some time together which is not task focused.
- 14. Be prepared to make mistakes.
- 15. Watch for, acknowledge and celebrate secondary successes and impact.