

STATE OF COLORADO



The Colorado Restorative Justice Council engages communities to create lifelong cultures of respect and responsibility.

Perrie McMillen, Chair, Restorative Justice Services Program Director, City of Ft. Collins—Present
Matt Riede, Vice Chair, 1st Judicial District Victim Advocate— Present
Spiro Koinis, Division of Youth Corrections Victim and Restorative Justice Services Coordinator (Chair)—Present
Greg Brown, Chief Probation Officer, Twentieth Judicial District (Executive Committee)—Present
Meg Williams, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Manager (Executive Committee)—Present
Robb Miller, Deputy District Attorney, Nineteenth Judicial District- Present
Nancy Lewis, Colorado Executive Director, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance—Present
Candace Hawkins, Colorado Department of Education—Present
Christine Harms, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Council—Present
Rebecca Oakes, Adult Parole Board—Present
Pat Kelly, Juvenile Parole Board—Present
Monica Chambers, Department of Corrections—Present by Phone
Gabrielle Frey, Practitioner/RJ Directors—Present
Alice Price, Practitioner, Center for Restorative Programs— Present
Lynn Lee, Practitioner, Pikes Peak Restorative Justice Council— Present
Peggy Evans, Practitioner, 1st and 18th Judicial—Present
Martin Gonzales, Judge, 12th Judicial District— Present
Elizabeth Porter-Merrill, Public Defender State of Colorado—Present

Facilitation by: Deb Witzel (RJ Coordinator SCAO) Present

Minutes taken by: Jack Hubbard, Boulder Probation Department

Guests:
Shannon Sliva University of Denver
Kathleen Chambers graduate student
OMNI peoples Chandra, Ana and Jean
Kerri Schmidt
Jeni Arndt, Colorado State Representative

RJ COUNCIL MEETING

December 18, 2015 9am-3pm

Regular Meeting

1777 6th Boulder CO (Justice Center, 2nd floor Training Room)

Meeting Called to Order with Quorum Present at 9:03 a.m.

-Welcome and Additions?

*Nancy announced that COVA currently has two positions that will be opening in the near future: a director for their Human Trafficking project and a Membership and Conference Coordinator position.

VOCA Funding: Nancy informed the Council that Colorado has received \$7 million to fund victim services. This is projected to increase up to \$34 million and then again up to \$41 million in the next two years. At this point, every proposal involving RJ that the review committee has gotten has focused on offenders. If an RJ program could develop a proposal meant to address victim needs specifically they would have a good opportunity to receive some of these funds, the Council might want to look at providing technical or other assistance as a result. The announcement that these funds can be applied for is due out on 2/21/15.

COVA Conference will be Oct. 24-26, 2016

***Spiro:** Reported that there is a subcommittee meeting to address victim standards in relation to restorative justice and the ACA. If anyone is interested in helping draft that language, they are asked to contact him

-**2016 Meetings Were Set:** The Conference is scheduled for 9/25/16 to 9/28/16.

Regular meetings are scheduled for 2/26/16; 4/29/16; 6/24/16; 8/26/16; 10/28/16 (which will possibly be a joint meeting with the RJ Directors Group); and 12/16.

-Approval of Minutes From the Following Meetings:

- *August Regular Meeting
- *August Retreat
- *October Regular Meeting

After review of the minutes, a motion was made and seconded to adopt all three sets of minutes. The motion was passed with no objections and the minutes adopted.

-Member Roster Updates: Currently, the seat designated for the law enforcement representative needs to be filled. A letter has been sent to the Chief of Police and Sheriffs' organizations but there has not been a response as of this time. Benito Garcia Chief in Milliken has expressed interest. (Robb will speak with him and report back).

2015 Action Plan Items/Review:

- **Pilot Project Status and Review: Meg & Deb**

-- Deb provided brief update in the RJ Pilots

--Chandra and Jean from Omni were present and reviewed the evaluation tools and ETO system for the Council as these are the means by which data is being collected for evaluation of the pilot projects. Omni indicated that they are focusing on the following research questions at the direction of the Council:

- *Who/which client demographics and populations are being served by the Pilots?
- *What kinds of Restorative Justice service interventions are being provided?
- *Do participants in the process benefit?

Omni will submit a 1 pager summary of recommendations to the RJ Council next week.

In particular, there is an interest in determining if the successful results we are seeing come from the nature of the participants being more low risk or if the programs are addressing criminogenic and other needs based on assessments/evaluations. Where is or what is the differentiation and decision point that determines whether an individual juvenile is offered restorative justice services, diversion, or routed through to the formal court process. The experience of asking these questions has highlighted that there is a need for a better assessment for juveniles, as there is a concern that over-intervening and over-supervising via restorative practices may be inflicting more damage than if a certain individual was routed through a normal diversion or low level criminal system process. Demographic issues are a large concern, in particular over- and under-representation of certain ethnic groups in terms of referrals to RJ or diversion versus formal filings. The Council considered a proposal that it request complete data, including accurate demographic, socio-economic, and assessment information, at the time of arrest for all incoming clients/defendants/juveniles. The assessment information in particular would be helpful for identifying which areas particular localities focus on and which data guides their determinations regarding offering alternative sentencing options. Perrie will put together a communication from the Council to CCJJ that includes data points as to the importance of this information (which will be provided by Professor Sliva). Once that communication is drafted it will be forwarded to Alice, Shannon, Spiro and Meg for review and feedback. Finally, there was a discussion about the possible need for developing more of an overarching structure or framework for data collection and practice standards for the pilots to interface with now that we are seeing the need for additional, more robust data collection. This point leads into the discussion of the application process for the issuance of funding for pilot projects for the coming fiscal year.

--Report from the Funding Application Subcommittee--Alice, Meg, and Spiro: The subcommittee is recommending that the funding for the currently funded pilots be reduced by 25%. That should provide sufficient funding for them to maintain their activities while providing additional funding to go to new programs to expand the number of pilots/projects supported by the Council. So they may apply for up to 75% of their FY '16 level of support. A motion was made: For Fiscal Year 2017 (7/1/16-6/30/17): The application drafted as it stands is issued (which maintains the 75% funding for current pilot projects). 11 yes votes and the motion passed. A review committee of Nancy, Spiro, Greg, Lynn, Chris, Liz, Perrie, Meg, and Gabrielle was appointed and Kerri volunteered as a citizen member. The committee will designate a chair at a later date. The committee will put the criteria in prior to issuing the application announcement so respondents are aware of the process and expectations and thus the award process is as transparent as possible. This will then go to the pilots and others.

-- Omni has the data set that we will be using and an agreed upon definition for all state agencies is what will be used for evaluation (a new state filing within one year of program participation). Arrest data will not be used in this process as it is not very good/accurate at this time.

--The Council reviewed the final version of Caitlin's report. As a result, the Council determined that the report as written was not ready for formal publication. The report's language will be amended to read dialogue and conferencing and will be reviewed to ensure that the language used in the report is consistent for program and process types. An addendum will be drafted that provides a description of the processes--Alice will draft this addendum that will explain the start-up costs and provide an estimated ongoing cost. Finally, a suggestion was made that the Council might want to consider opening the report with a true story/testimonial as a way of an introduction. The final draft of the report and the addendum will be emailed to the Council for review and approval. Professor Sliva offered services that seem to go beyond the scope of this particular report regarding a cost-benefit analysis, Caitlin and Dr. Sliva are interested in making sure that whatever cost analysis work is done meet the needs of the Council and legislators and any Council members who are interested in this conversation, Nancy and Gabrielle, formed a subcommittee to work with Professor Sliva on this question.

Legislative and Public Policy -Perrie & Lynn

--Confidentiality Discussion-Alice: The subcommittee put together a survey to determine what the current practice in the field is and what is desired so that there is a baseline understanding of what the work around confidentiality policy should focus on. All may send the survey link to other stakeholders and this was encouraged as more input is valuable.

- **Education and Engagement - Trainings – Deb & Matt**

--HRVOD Training was conducted by Lynn Lee in Colorado Springs from November 2nd through the 6th. 6 students attended, received very positive feedback.

--Other presentations/trainings for 2015

--October: Monica, Lynn, Spiro, Kerri, Matt, and Deb provided trainings and presentations at COVA.

--Oregon Special Education Conference. Candie Hawkins attended this conference about brain science, special education, and restorative justice practices in schools. There is a lot of interest in special needs education about restorative justice manifested as 4 training tracks at this conference. There is high interest in the use of RJ to address bullying, family engagement, behavior and staff disputes as an alternative to suspensions and other disciplinary practices.

--The National Center for Victims of Crime has issued a request for speakers for their September 2016 conference in Philadelphia.

--Restorative Practices in Schools Conversations: There has been a lot of demand from school districts and professionals for information about and training in restorative practices. A proposal was made that the Council call a meeting of those who are trainers and consultants on restorative justice practices in schools from around the state early in 2016 and have that group identify the key components and essential elements of training for restorative justice practices in schools. Once the Council has that information, it can develop a fidelity to practice model and it can use that model at a second meeting which would involve the funders for these programs so that they have good information on which to base funding decisions. Finally, the Council will convene a third meeting which will invite the professionals working in schools in order to provide networking, training on fidelity to practice, and other trainings/supports. Ideally, this should be done by the end of the current school year so that these things are in place for the start of next school year.

Pat will do some additional work in an attempt to get on the agenda of the fundraising association.

As a further support for this, and other training needs, Deb is doing some background work and laying some foundations for how to make trainings and other programming available via the web and other remote methods. At this point, once the CCRJD modules are presented in a final format, it looks very possible that the Council can get the RJ Basics training online quickly.

--2016 Training Proposal: Online Trainings Combined with the Conference- Matt:

--For 2016, there is a proposal that the Council replace the regional quarterly trainings with the currently being crafted CCRJD Online Modules. This proposal is the result of a conversation in the committee about how to expand the reach of the trainings the Council provides and how to develop more trainers as a resource. Online seems to be the most effective way to reach this objective. It will be an efficient way of providing broader spectrum trainings that cover the basics, specific techniques, and specific models training. In terms of the regional and geographic challenges, some of the money will address that need by developing the online modules, and some of it can be set aside to support sending trainers out to programs and locales that ask for specific trainings to be brought to them.

Motion: a motion was made to dedicate part of the training budget to establish the online training modules and to provide additional funding in a grant model for each of the regions instead of the current quarterly training model. The details of the budget impact of developing and implementing the online training modules will dictate the final grant training budgets and thus the budget details will be finalized at a later date. The Council adopted this plan for training moving forward.

Kerri suggested putting the ratings from trainings on the website in some form.

- **Internal Capacity-Spiro & Perrie**

--Vice Chair Nominations—Perrie's term as chair ends on 12/31/15 and Matt becomes the chair on 1/1/16. Lynn Lee is nominated and elected vice chair for 1/1/16-12/31/16.

--2016 Practitioner Member Application Process: Alice has a 1 year term, a Lynn 2 year term, and a Peggy 3 year term left to serve. Matt will send out the matrix to the Council members and compile the data in order to get a baseline of the Council's skills, knowledge, experience, and abilities. As part of this process, the Council needs to remember that the practitioner seats were created to ensure that this perspective was part of the Council's decision making and planning. Currently, the vacancy announcement is planned for fall, 2016.

--Communications Document. A motion was made to adopt the proposed document and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

--Bylaws amendments. The draft provided to the Council is moved for adoption, seconded, and adopted unanimously.

--The Internal Capacity Committee will continue going forward even though it is not part of the long range plan in order to handle issues of internal process and business. Going forward, the members of the executive committee are designated as this committee's members.

- **Media Liaisons- Perrie & Nancy**

No media issues at this time.

- **Budget and Funds- Greg & Deb**

--FY 2016 Budget Update. At this time, it appears that the Council is budgeted to spend all of the allocated funding for the year.

--Review of RJ Cash Fund. From the SCAO updates, the Council has more money coming in than last year and the fund is accumulating a balance at a higher rate than expected (\$70K's versus \$60K's per month).

2016 Action Plan Committee Commitments/Review

--Expansion and Inclusion: The Council determined that this is not a specific committee per se, but aspects of these issues appear in many of the other action plan areas below.

The main question for 1st meeting is: How do we move RJ toward Higher Impact Cases? Committee members will send each other resources to educate each other on this topic.

--Communications—this includes the conference committee (Matt, Meg, Perrie, Liz, and Gabirelle) and confidentiality committee (Alice and Liz). Current membership is Peggy, Pat, Lynn, Shannon, and Nancy.

--Resource Development—this proposed committee was incorporated into the Training committee as a number of the areas seemed to overlap with each other.

--Training/Resource Development:

*Nancy communicated to the Council that she feels that it will be necessary to find a way to add staff and other personnel support to get things done as the Council takes on new projects and expands its responsibilities. In fact, it might become necessary to start paying interns or contracting for services in order to meet these needs.

*Stakeholder Outreach: Liz has committed to getting us in front of the PD's in September. Robb will work to help develop a way to build a relationship with DA's. Nancy will try to get us in front of Law Enforcement Victim Coordinators. Matt suggested with victim and witness coordinators that someone be brought in from one of the locations with an effective RJ program and talk about the successes.

*The Council's concerns about accountability and fidelity to practice mechanisms seem to be getting addressed by initiatives currently in process at the CCRJD. Peer development and communities of practice models need to have a Council decision on how to move this forward as an expected practice in the state, the Council needs to develop the standard and people need to commit time to implementing them and shepherding them into the field. One possible mechanism is to use the website and Skype to provide the necessary gathering places for these communities to form. Kerri has a list/database of rj practitioners in the state and is in the process of building a network something like this; and is happy to take this on as a community member. She would want Council member support since she isn't formally a Council member. Council will not be directly involved in any way but is glad to hear Kerri is moving forward with this networking opportunity. David Bastone was suggested as a resource for web meetings and trainings.

*The Council appointed Greg as the Chair for this committee.

Other Business:

- **2016 Conference will be held September 25-27, 2016 at the Vail Marriott.**
 - A film festival will be part of this event
 - Committee members currently include: Matt, Meg, Perrie, Liz, Gabrielle for language support, Nancy as consultant. Community volunteers are welcome
- **Intern Valerie Greenhagen UCD- TBD**
- ***Website:** The website launch has been pushed to May, which coincides with the registration time frame for the conference.
- **The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

Mission:

The State Restorative Justice Council advances restorative justice principles and practices throughout Colorado by providing *gateways* to information, networking and support.