

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley

Partner Meeting

June 21, 2024

Welcome by Alice Ely

Agenda

Changing Landscape of Restorative Justice Practices

Restorative justice looks at crimes/wrongdoing in a more comprehensive way and by including what victims need for healing. It is the responsibility of the person who caused harm to make amends and right the harm. This involves a team approach and a plan to resolve issues.

• Martha McLafferty, Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center

- One of 17 centers in VT started 30 years ago by VT Dept of Corrections
- Referrals come through the court but can also come through the community.
- They offer services such as a Reparation Panel, Circles of Support and Accountability for people returning from incarceration, and Circles of Peace, in collaboration with WISE (more below), as well as transitional housing from incarceration.

• Lyndsay Porreca, Valley Court Diversion Program

- Diversion for Windsor, Sullivan, and Lower Grafton counties.
- In VT, restorative justice has been a normal process for a long time. NH program started about 12 years ago.
- Juveniles must be afforded the opportunity to participate in diversion (in NH statute now); there is no statute for adults but some police depts offer it.
- Staff examine “risk, need, and response” for youth in the program and increasingly find significant family and system needs they try to address with referrals. They use an accountability contract and provide support to help juveniles succeed. Completion of the program means no criminal record for the participant.
- NH is looking to fully fund diversion programs for youth and a new Lebanon prosecutor seems open to referring more adults to the program.
- Train volunteers to help client with the process.

• Abby Tassel, WISE of the Upper Valley

- There are different considerations and processes for gender-based crimes such as domestic violence or sexual assault. Advocates have been nervous about applying restorative justice in domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) cases, especially as the victim may be coerced into accepting the approach. However, time has shown that the criminal legal system is inadequate to deal with DV/SA cases. There are too many myths and misunderstandings to trust juries, etc. After consulting with victims about what they needed most, it comes down to an admission that the abuse/assault happened, that they are believed and can feel less isolated. With this, the field started opening to restorative justice practices.
- VT Act 11 involves helping victim/survivors find justice without the criminal justice system. It brings restorative justice and gender-based violence organizations together in each county to provide services. An advisory committee helped shape the collaborations with an 8-point MOU, due to be released on 7/1/2024.

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- Since 2019, they have been offering Circles of Peace as part of plea deals for domestic violence cases in Windsor County, VT, for first time offenders (36 participants to date). Circle is also offered for the victims/survivors separately; they are offered an opportunity to meet with their offenders, but no one has taken up this offer to date.

In what ways do these organizations partner or use volunteers? Needs?

- NH Juvenile Court Diversion Association works with the Women's Prison to organization talks with students.
- Always looking for partners who can help when juveniles are victims or have family issues.
- Need more community therapy and support groups.
- They work with local service agencies, such as mental health, Dismas House, the UV Haven, etc.
- HCRS has about 50 trained community volunteers (includes background checks and at least 8 hours of training).
- VCD uses volunteers to work on panels and representing community harm. They provide about an hour of training and match volunteers to youth needs. They need more young adult volunteers.

Outcomes?

- Valley Court Diversion reports a ~90% success rate for NH clients, meaning completion of contract items; their VT clients have closer to an 80% success rate, but the volume of clients is much higher. The evidence of recidivism is low for community diversion.
- In Domestic Violence Accountability Programs success is defined by aggressors' letters of accountability, with descriptions of how they are making amends.

Gaps in the System? Changes?

- Lyndsay has been surprised that some families no longer expect (place value) on their children attending school. While there may be real concerns for BIPOC families in terms of treatment in school, this change is more widespread.
- Youth do not seem to face consequences for their actions in their families.
- Family systems are more broken. They use the GAIN to assess ACES with juvenile clients and try to build trusting relationships for the long-term.
- We need to give kids choices because a lot has happened to them that was not their choice.

What about human trafficking?

- Awareness of human trafficking has been growing over past 20 years. Both states have now passed laws. WISE sees trafficking in 2 ways:
 - Women who are bought as wives and used for labor or other purposes; and
 - Sex industry.
- The advocate/legal system is starting to identify who is the dominant aggressor. And WISE is providing "forensic interviewing" for law enforcement because standard interviewing is not trauma informed.

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Partner Sharing

Rural Cancer Survivorship ECHO: The Cancer Continuum - Runs July 19th through September 25th (Every two weeks). For more details and to REGISTER www.iecho.org Flyer Attached.

July 19, 12:00 to 2:00 pm - NH Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry in Lebanon, NH. Distribution at Hanover St. School, 193 Hanover St. See flyer titled "Lebanon July.pdf" attached.

Project ITCH: "Is Tick Control Helping?" - Do you want to help assess the effectiveness of tick control and prevention strategies? Consider completing this survey www.newvec.org

Rudy Fedrizzi – VDH-WRJ Office has hired a new prevention consultant starting soon. Will connect Ella with key partners.

Brett Mayfield - 3rd Thursday 9-10am Hartford Wellness Meeting at Hartford Town Hall, open to anyone. Discuss difficult cases/situations where community members are in need of support/services. Rudy mentions overlap with a different group and will connect with Brett regarding coordination.

Barbara Farnsworth - opening for Community Nurse in Hartford 0.5 FTE, will be open through the end of June. Also, the Community Health Needs Assessment remains open through the end of July. Looking to hear from more individuals who meet any of these criteria: are male, under age 45, income less than \$50k and under \$75k, identify as a member of the BIPOC community.

Don Kollisch - New England Rural Health Association will sponsor a student summit on Sept 7th. Community Nurse Connection has added a few more communities to the program and have capacity to add more. Kristin Barnum has a helpful toolkit.

Alice Ely - PHC is serving as fiscal sponsor for a Windsor Community Nursing program. Starting to plan for the community-based flu clinics in October to include typical communities. Starting to think about bi-state legislative networking breakfast. Looking for people to help with thinking about public policy and planning. Looking for agenda topics for upcoming meetings

Kym Willams - The Community Care of Lyme will be hosting its annual Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday Sept. 28. Community partner tables and resources make this a valuable community event. More information to come. See link - <https://www.cclyme.org/events/lyme-health-wellness-fair-save-the-date/>

Rebecca Desilets - On 7/16 from 12-2pm, there will be a pop-up health clinic at 160 Mechanic Street (Emergency Winter Shelter) in Lebanon. All welcome, aimed toward unhoused community members. It will include: medical care, medication info, HIV/Hep C testing, connecting to PCP, showers, lunch, grab-and-go food, camping supplies and harm reduction kits. All are welcome, pet friendly, appt not required. Flyer attached to email.

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Nancy Kreis - able to vaccinate over 160 people for covid between Feb-April, will be planning more clinics for the fall.

Next Meeting:

Friday, August 16, 2024, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Hypertherm, 71 Heater Road, Lebanon, NH and on Teams

Attendees:

Baskin	Cara	GUVIST
Brooks	Hanna	DHMC
Caudill-Slosberg	Margaret	
Chambers	Lauren	DHMC
Chiocchio	Stacey	Hypertherm/HOPE Foundation
Cooper	Regina-Ann	VDH
Desilets	Rebecca	City of Lebanon
Ely	Alice	Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Farnsworth	Barbara	DHMC
Fedrizzi	Rudy	VDH/WRJ
Hayes	Tracey	Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Kahl	Hattie	PHC Summer Intern
Kollisch	Donald	Community Nurse Connection
Kreis	Nancy	Dartmouth Health
LaRoche	Kendra	Special Needs Support Center
MacLafferty	Martha	Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center
Mayfield	Brett	PHC Board
Newbern	Jeana	LSRVNA
O'Neil	Peggy	WISE
Porreca	Lyndsay	Valley Court Diversion
Smith	Andrea	DHMC
Tassel	Abby	WISE of the Upper Valley
Thibealt	Jeremy	City of Lebanon, Community Paramedic
Williams	Kym	Consultant
Wnuk	Susan	Belknap Merrimack Community Action (WIC)
Zhang	Angela	Listen Community Services