



Association of New York State Youth Courts



Mission Statement:

To act as a catalyst for the comprehensive development of Youth Courts across New York State, to maintain a juvenile justice alternative that is operated for and by youth, and to promote Youth Courts as an important feature of the juvenile justice services that seek to improve juvenile justice outcomes for all community youth.



Restorative Justice is gaining popularity on college campuses as a philosophical and practical response to student misconduct. This website offers resources for learning about campus restorative justice. I share these as a researcher, practitioner, and trainer of restorative practices (and not as a representative of Skidmore College where I work).

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Restorative justice is a collaborative decision-making process that includes victims, offenders, and others seeking to hold offenders accountable by having them (a) accept and acknowledge responsibility for their offenses, (b) to the best of their ability repair the harm they caused to victims and communities, and (c) work to reduce the risk of reoffending by building positive social ties to the community.

Restorative justice has become a popular practice worldwide. Its practices range from Neighborhood Accountability Boards in Denver, Colorado, to Victim-Offender Dialogues in Pennsylvania prisons to peacemaking circles in aboriginal communities in Canada to Family Group Conferences in New Zealand to Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in South Africa and Rwanda. Models and practices vary significantly under the RJ umbrella. However, most would agree that the core elements of restorative practice include a facilitated dialogue between an offender and a harmed party to identify and acknowledge the harm and find ways to repair it.

Restorative Justice (cont)

What are Campus RJ Practices?

Four practices best represent how RJ has been implemented on the college campus.

- **Restorative Justice Conferences.** This model focuses on the facilitated dialogue between offender and harmed parties. After a discussion of the harm, the parties (rather than the hearing officer or board) decide what steps the offender can take to repair the harm. Trained facilitators guide the dialogue.
- **Restorative Justice Circles.** These are similar to RJ conferences, but borrow practices from indigenous traditions, especially the Native American practice of using a "talking piece." This is a symbolic or sacred object that is held by the speaker, indicating that no one else should speak. The talking piece is passed clockwise around the circle, creating a different rhythm of the dialogue. A traditional talking piece is a feather, but at Skidmore College our Hockey coach uses a puck when he hosts a circle with his team. Circles are used for a variety of purposes beyond offender/harmed party dialogue and decision making. Often they are used for discussion of difficult issues, particularly in Residential Life.
- **Restorative Justice Boards.** These have a structure of a "model code" conduct board with standing board members that may be drawn from faculty, staff, and students. But they focus on RJ principles of identifying and repairing harm and rebuilding trust. Harmed parties are invited, but are not needed for the board to proceed. While RJ boards retain the ability to have private deliberations and make their own determinations about sanctions, these practices are avoided to increase the active participation of offenders and harmed parties.
- **Restorative Justice Administrative Hearings.** Because most campuses rely on one-on-one administrative hearings to manage their caseloads, many have incorporated restorative practices into their hearings. Typically, this would include an emphasis on identifying what harm was caused by the offense and how the student can repair it. But it can also include inviting harmed parties to participate in the hearing, essentially transforming the hearing into a RJ conference.

Training will take place at Pavilion High School in Pavilion NY on January 14, 15, & 16th.

For more information on the conference, please visit [Campus Restorative Justice](#)

Submitted by: Chelsea Dillion, Genesee Youth Court (contact with questions; Chelsea.Dillion@co.genesee.ny.us)

U.S. Attorney Richard S. Hartunian is guest speaker at Inaugural Graduation of Troy Peer Court Members – Nov. 20, 2014



United States Attorney Richard Hartunian was the guest speaker at the first graduation class of the Troy Peer Court. Mr. Hartunian commended the planning committee of the City of Troy and the many community representatives who were present. Noting that the Troy Peer Court has been two years in the planning, recruiting and training, Mr. Hartunian explained that this graduation ceremony is a testament to the “good will of community problem solvers who were determined to get the court established and improve the lives of young people in Troy.”

Over a dozen youth, grades 7 through 12, completed the four session training program and participated in mock hearings. They attend a variety of local schools, including Troy and Lansingburgh High Schools, LaSalle Institute, and the Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls. Two Peer Court members are home schooled.

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The Troy Peer Court was supported with a Project Safe Neighborhoods grant to help launch the initiative and purchase training materials and supplies. The Troy Police Department has dedicated the time of a community policing officer to coordinate the court’s operation. The Troy Mayor’s Office, Probation Department, Family Court, school truancy officers and other family service agencies have all provided essential support and work in the project.

Submitted by:

Marilyn Morey, USDOJ



Bethlehem Youth Court Hosts Retraining for Current Members

On Saturday, Nov. 22nd Bethlehem Youth Court hosted a retraining for currently trained Youth Court members. The day resembled a mini-conference with plenary sessions, a luncheon, and workshops. Guest speaker Adrienne Foederer, Law Clerk to Judge Hummel, Magistrate for the Northern District of New York, spoke of her past experiences as a Youth Court member herself. Ms. Foederer was a member of the Onondaga County Youth Court while she was in high school. She then went on to graduate from Albany Law School and began mentoring with Bethlehem Youth Court. Her message to students was clear: Not only does being a Youth Court volunteer prepare students for the future, but it also gives them unique experiences that they can pull from to set themselves apart from others.

Workshop sessions included a retraining on the role of the judge, professional communication tips, and a brief review of the different scholarships that senior Youth Court members are eligible for.

Students received giveaways including highlighters, tote bags, and water bottles, which were donated by the Albany County Bar Association. This event was sponsored by a grant from Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited (BOU), which is a local organization that funds educational programs.

Feedback from the participants was overall very positive. Some students commented at the end that, "This was really fun!" Others requested that this become an annual tradition. It was very refreshing to see volunteers interacting and enjoying each other's company outside the courtroom setting.

Submitted By:

Katrina
Charland,
Bethlehem
Youth Court



ALBANY COUNTY GETS TOUGH ON BULLIES

ALBANY, N.Y. - Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy today signed into law legislation that prohibits cyberbullying of minors in Albany County through online communications. The measure seeks to address a growing problem facing young people and protect victims from cyberbullying.



"This is a growing problem for children and it is our responsibility to do all that we can to protect them," said McCoy. "The technology is moving at lightning speed and we have to do something to protect kids. Technology is great and it has improved our lives in many ways, but there is a downside. I have long supported and fought for a law like this. I commend the legislature for moving swiftly to enact this important law."

The cyberbullying law was passed last month and will provide law enforcement with a way to prosecute those who by "electronic means" post statements on the internet or through a computer or mail network, "with the intent to inflict emotional harm on a minor; sexually explicit photos, private or personal information or false sexual information with no legitimate public, personal or private purpose."

Those who violate the law will be charged with a misdemeanor and face up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

After the county's previous law was nullified in July by the Court of Appeals for being too broad, a new version was crafted with assistance from the county attorney. The court ruled that county could pass a new law that more sharply defined the definition of cyberbullying and that the new law should apply only to minors.

"As a father and government leader, this is a big concern of mine," said McCoy. "Kids are using new apps that provide anonymity and a sense that what they are saying or doing has no lasting impact on themselves or others, but it really does. More than half of the kids surveyed by the federal government report that they've been cyberbullied and those who are cyberbullied are not likely to speak up about it. This will give them a voice and protect the right to free speech.

ALBANY CO. REACHES OUT TO THE VICTIMS

Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy today announced the launch of Albany County HOPE (Help, Options, Prevention and Education) a mobile suicide prevention application offering information and resources for people in crisis or their loved ones. The Albany County HOPE app provides real-time information that can be accessed at any time. The roll out comes as the county marks Bullying Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the toll that bullying can exact on young people.

“Suicide is a serious public health issue that severely impacts our community,” said McCoy. “The Albany County HOPE app is an accessible and convenient tool people can use to quickly get the help they need using the latest technology. People increasingly rely on mobile phones and other devices to communicate and share information. The app will also enable the public to identify when someone may need help and where they can get help.”

Joining McCoy today was Karen Ziegler, Director of the Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center and chair of the county’s Bullying Prevention Task Force, which provides programs and training for local school districts to reduce bullying through awareness and education.

The County Executive McCoy also noted that the county is working to protect children in other ways. On October 9th, he signed legislation prohibiting the cyberbullying of minors through online communications.

A Yale University study shows bullying victims are two to nine times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims while another study has found that at least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying.

“The timing is right, given that October is Bullying Prevention Month,” said McCoy. “As leaders we must do all we can to help kids understand that bullying is not acceptable, either online or in person. Kids need to know that what they say or do to others can have serious consequences and negatively impact others.”

The app was designed with input from the Albany County Department of Mental Health and Albany County Department For Children, Youth and Families. It offers information for adolescents, teens, veterans and adults and general information on warning signs, what to say to someone who may be suicidal and other resources. Every screen on the app contains a “call for help” option that links to a local mental health crisis hotline.

Recent studies by the Centers for Disease Control indicate that while the overall rate for the top ten causes of death in the US decreased, the suicide rate increased two percent to 12.6 deaths per 100,000 in 2012. Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the US.

Albany County is the second county in the state to launch a suicide prevention app. Ulster County launched a similar app last year and made the code available for use by other counties. The free app is available for Android devices at the Google Play Store, on Apple devices at the iTunes Store and can be found using the search term Albany County HOPE.

Posted: 10/20/14 Albanycounty.com



NASSAU COUNTY LAUNCHES MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE

Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano, in conjunction with the Long Island Crisis Center, today launched a new 24 hour a day, seven day a week Mental Health Substance Abuse Helpline, (516) 227-TALK. The launch of this new Mental Health Substance Abuse Helpline coincides with National Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2014) and will better serve residents who struggle with mental illness and substance use disorders.

County Executive Mangano stated, "Nassau County's new Mental Health Substance Abuse Helpline assists residents with accessing community resources and provides referrals. The helpline is a simple way for callers to discuss their problems, pose questions, and receive guidance on how to deal with challenges related to mental health and substance concerns."

All calls are confidential. Calls are answered weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. by behavioral health professionals at the Nassau County's Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services. During all other hours, calls are answered by the Long Island Crisis Center.

Linda Leonard, Executive Director of Long Island Crisis Center, added, "We are very excited to be working with County Executive Mangano on this important initiative to provide continuous 24/7 availability to those with mental health or substance use concerns."

Posted: 10/14/2014 nassaucountyny.gov

[Long Island Crisis Center](#)

ANYSYC NEWS



Upcoming ANYSYC Meetings!

February 10, 2015 – Albany

May 12, 2015 – Oswego

August 11, 2015 – Syracuse

ANYSYC OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court Dawn Metott, Oswego County Youth Court
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Sam Crisafulli, Oswego County Youth Court
Secretary	Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Violet Palombo, Colonie Youth Court
Katherine Chambers, Warren County Youth Court

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, March 16, 2015

Please direct all questions to Melissa at the contact information below

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ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

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