

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Providers in Vermont

MISSION

To enhance youth-focused restorative justice across Vermont

PURPOSE

- Increase youth's quality of life
- Create a learning environment
- Identify skill and resource gaps
- Use best practice to inform our work
- Collaborate with our peers
- Identify restorative justice needs
- Create consistency in restorative justice practice
- Incorporate preventative practices
- Provide collaborative and supportive services to youth and families
- Support youth to become productive and invested members of their community



PRACTICE PHILOSOPHY

Harmful actions are violations of people and relationships.

While harmful actions may or may not be violations of the law, the primary concern is the physical, emotional and social impact such acts have on people – those directly harmed, impacted or victimized as well as family members, community members and those who have committed the acts – and the relationships among them.

Violations create obligations.

- Each situation is complex and creates obligations to repair harm to the extent possible, as defined by all those affected.
- Those who have caused harm and victimization have a responsibility to gain insight concerning their actions, make amends and learn ways to avoid causing future harm or victimization.
- Community and government, in partnership, have responsibilities to provide support and accountability to all its members when a violation has occurred.
- Community and government have responsibilities to address conditions that may contribute to crime and delinquency as well as encourage mutual respect and healthy communities.

Restorative justice seeks to engage and support those who have been harmed or victimized.

- People who have been victimized or harmed are in the best position to know what their needs are and what is important to them. They should be provided opportunities to participate, shape the process, make decisions and seek resolution.
- People who have been victimized or harmed may determine their level of participation through a meaningful invitation, an opportunity to share how the incident affected them, being deeply listened to and by identifying how their needs may best be met.