Restorative Justice: Making right after everything goes wrong

Introduction to Restorative Justice & C4RJ
Erin V. Freeborn, C4RJ Executive Director
January 4, 2016
www.c4rj.com
Thank you

- Chief Corr & the Lexington PD
- Community Endowment of Lexington & Chair Leslie Zales
  - Enhance the quality of life for all Lexington citizens
- Lexington Rotary
  - “Service above self”
Restorative Justice is...

“... a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in an offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal and put things right as possible.”

- Howard Zehr, PhD

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice*
Three Questions

Traditional approach

1. What law was broken? (charge)
2. Who did it? (identify offender)
3. What should we do to them? (punishment/sentencing)

RJ approach

1. Who has been hurt/affected?
2. What are their needs?
3. Who is obliged to meet these needs?
Our Mission

To provide regional communities with a complement to the traditional judicial system wherein:

Victims

Victims of crime are given the opportunity to address the person(s) who have harmed them, to ask questions in a safe environment, and to share ideas on ways that the harm can be repaired.
Offenders

better understand the impact of their actions, are held accountable, and encouraged to make amends to those they have harmed.

Community

offers support for the process, strengthening community connections, and engaging in matters of concern to its members.
Our Process

- Referral
- Police, Prosecutor or Courts
- Opening Circle
- Work with Facilitators
- Closing Circle
How Does C4RJ Fit?

C4RJ

Arrest or Summons

Criminal Record (CORI)

Arraignment, Case, Conviction
www.c4rj.com
## The Data: Does it Really Work?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Criminal Justice (%)</th>
<th>Restorative Justice (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recidivism</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18 (16-C4RJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim Satisfaction</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>79 (94-C4RJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim’s fear of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revictimization</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offender Satisfaction</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Restitution</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>81 (100-C4RJ)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also: RJ is 6 times more cost effective (UMass 2012 study)

Source: http://wcr.sonoma.edu/v1n1/umbreit.html