



**Goodhue
County**
MINNESOTA

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Rhonda VanSchoonhoven
Kris Johnson

Bio slide

About Kris Johnson

- Bachelors Degree in Psychology, Masters of Social Work, Licensed Graduate Social Worker
- Deputy Director overseeing Public Health and Social Services divisions
 - Supports programs through policy development, grant writing, staff development and coaching, performance management
 - Provides staff training on resiliency, stress management, trauma informed practices
- Previous work includes child protection social worker, child and family services supervisor, trainer with Child Welfare Training System
- 30+ years with Goodhue County
- Fun fact: former High School newspaper editor; wanted to be a journalist



About Rhonda VanSchoonhoven

- Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Criminal Justice
- Court Services Director overseeing Adult and Juvenile Probation Services, STS Program, restorative services and evidence based correctional interventions
- Previous Work includes juvenile probation officer, juvenile program facilitator and adult probation officer
- 35 years with Goodhue County
- Fun fact: 500 hour Registered Yoga Teacher



Why Restorative Justice Works

- Increases youth accountability and ownership of behavior
- Builds social and emotional skills linked to long-term success
- Reduces repeat harmful behavior by addressing root causes
- Strengthens relationships between youth, families, and community
- Creates safer, more connected schools and communities

Community Impact

- Youth develop accountability, empathy, and leadership skills
- Families gain tools for restorative communication and conflict resolution
- Reduced youth conflict and improved peer relationships
- Increased community trust and collaboration
- Long-term investment in safer, healthier communities



Minnesota Department
of Public Safety
Office of Restorative Practices

An Alternative Response to Harm

Criminal Justice

Crime is a violation of the law and state.

Violations create guilt.

Justice requires the state to determine
blame (guilt)

**Central focus: *offenders getting what
they deserve.***

Restorative Justice

Crime is a violation of people and relationships.

Violations create obligations.

Justice involves victims, offenders and
community members seeking to put things right.



**Central focus: *victim needs and offender
responsibility for repairing the harm.***



Minnesota Department
of Public Safety

Office of Restorative Practices

Accountability that Heals **both** Those Harmed **and** Those who Caused Harm

1. Acknowledging responsibility for one's actions
2. Acknowledging the impact of one's actions on others
3. Expressing genuine remorse
4. Taking actions to repair the harm to the degree possible
5. No longer committing similar harm.



Restorative Justice Saves State & Local Money

- According to an MIT study, 40% of kids in juvenile detention end up in prison by the age of 25. RJ decreases juvenile detention and thus **decreases adult prison costs**. The average cost of incarceration is \$39,420 per year compared to the one-time cost of approximately \$1000 for a person to participate in restorative justice (RJ).
 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/0https://bja.ojp.gov/news/justice-matters/desk-bja-november-2023>
- RJ programs **decreased out of home placements** of youth by 85% in Yellow Medicine Co. and 63% in Pine Co.
 - Since implementing RJ practices, Yellow Medicine Co. saw a **drop of nearly \$550,000 per year** in these costs and Pine Co, has seen an average of **\$200,000 per year in savings** in these costs.
- A 2023 study found that RJ can yield a substantial social return on investment and **that for every dollar invested in restorative practices \$14 are saved**.
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10693425/>



Restorative Justice Keeps Kids in School

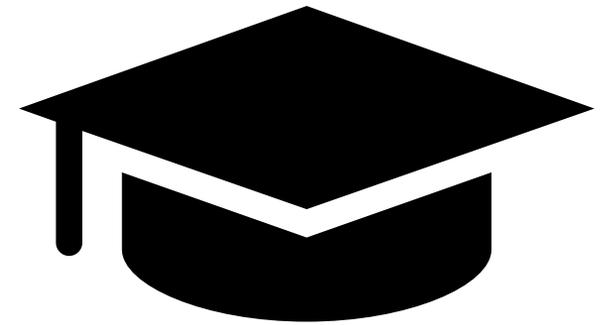
Restorative Practices (“RP”) significantly reduce school absences.

A large Michigan study found:

- Approx. 340 fewer total suspension days at the school. (.24 fewer days per student)
- Approx. 3,400 fewer total missed days at the school. (2.4 fewer days per student)
- Approx. 22,720 fewer instances of students being tardy to class. (16 fewer per student)

Minnesota Case Studies:

- **Yellow Medicine County** has successfully been using restorative practices for Attendance/Truancy since 2004.
- **Pine and Crow Wing Counties** also use RP for truancy.
- **Steele County** is about to launch its RP truancy initiative.
- **Wright County** used RP to address truancy and has reduced youth detention beds from 6 down to 3 and they have decreased their need for youth POs.
- **Cook County** has successfully used a robust RP truancy approach with great success in addressing the underlying causes.



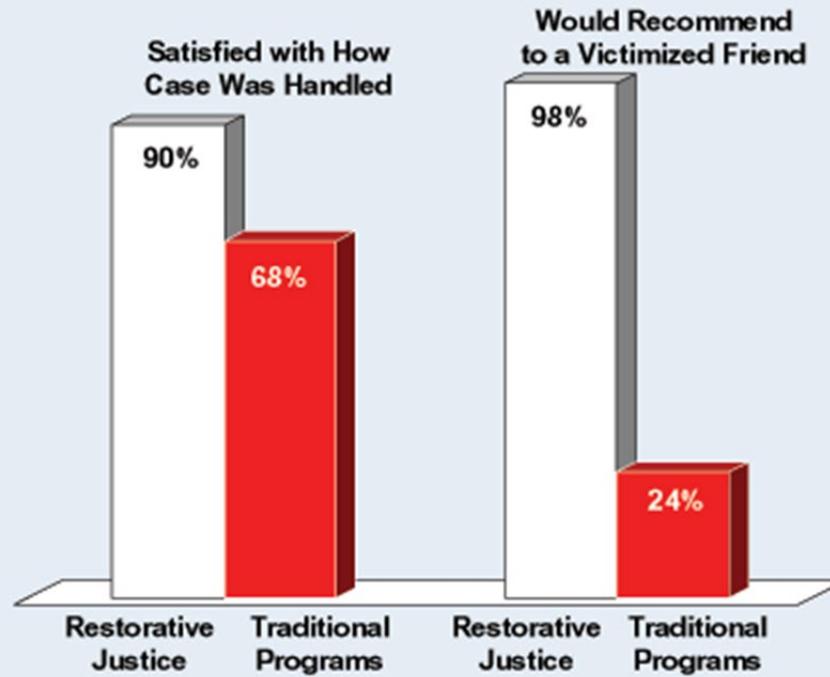
Restorative Justice Better Serves Victims

- RJ results in a **higher level of restitution compliance** and **94% satisfaction rate with victims of crime** compared to 24% satisfaction with the traditional system. Likewise, as desired by victims, RJ typically takes significantly less time to complete, often resolving cases within a few weeks or months, providing closure, accountability, and healing.



FIGURE I

Victim Reaction: Restorative Justice vs. Traditional Court Programs



Source: Hudson Institute.

Restorative Justice's Benefits for Victims

- 1. The community and people who caused the harm recognize and take responsibility for suffering**
- 2. Victims are an essential voice in the decisions about reparations**
- 3. Many victims able to recover what was taken:
--Material Possessions returned or recompensed
--Sense of security and peace of mind**
- 4. Victims are more likely to be able to get answers about what happened and then move on from the incident and get back to daily lives.**

Goodhue County Restorative Practices Initiative

Goal: Strengthen community harmony and conflict resolution skills among youth

Approach: Restorative practices, mentoring, circles, and skill-building

Grant Period: 8/01/2025-1/31/2027

Award: \$494,713

Budget Overview

Program Expenses – Total: \$9,450

- Art Supplies and Food

Training – Total: \$1,500

Contracted Services – Total: \$456,477

- Data Support: \$8,400

- Program Delivery (Coordinator): \$73,653.24

- Program Delivery (Manager): \$142,955.28

- Program Delivery (Navigator): \$73,428.48

- Training, Design & Evaluation (The Loop Collective): \$158,040

Direct Client Assistance – Total: \$27,286

- Basic Needs, Restitution, Stipends, Transportation

Grand Total Budget: \$494,713

Project Plan



**Data
Collection**



**3 Day
Restorative
Justice
Workshop**



**Co-Design
with
Youth!**



**Program
Evaluation +
Share!**

Training Participation and Engagement



Three restorative practice training sessions completed



Included all statutorily required attendees



Broad representation from county/system partners, education professionals, and individuals with lived experience, 25-33 participants per session



High engagement and interest in applying restorative practices across systems

Youth Engagement & Capacity Building

Youth with juvenile justice lived experience taking on leadership roles

Youth collaborating with the Loop Collective

Development of restorative practice training tailored for school settings

Restorative Practices Advisory Council (RPAC)



Initiative advancing
establishment of
RPAC



The Loop Collective
facilitated first official RPAC
meeting



Preparatory work underway
to clarify purpose,
structure, and next steps

**Restorative
Practices
Advisory
Committees
(RPAC) in
Every
County**

- Victim Advocate
- County Attorney
- Community Corrections- Probation
- Peace Officers
- Public Defenders
- Children's Unit of Social Services
- Judiciary
- School Administrator
- Community Members



Role of RPAC

Build a foundational understanding of Restorative Practice

Invited to join the weekly work with youth+ The Loop
(Tuesdays at 4p)

Host community events like Book Club and Lunch and
Learns

Spread the word via media + advertisement

Share/meet in small groups with alike positions

Ensure youth are heard

Actively living out the work (daily practice of mindset
shifts)

Current Status

Foundational trainings completed with cross-system participation

Significant stakeholder interest and buy-in

Youth leadership elevated in planning and facilitation

RPAC formalization underway

Mission Statement

- **We are healing community by reimagining justice in Goodhue County**



New grant opportunity

Goodhue County Youth Crisis Response



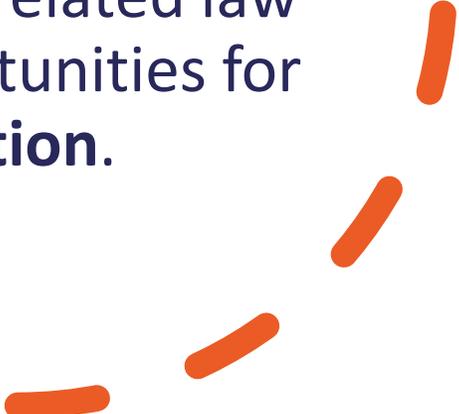
The mission is to improve outcomes for youth experiencing mental health crisis by increasing real-time interagency collaboration, coordinated intervention, and effective crisis planning.



A **Multidisciplinary Team** will be recruited to develop policies and evidence-based best practices to identify youth and families in need of intervention at earlier intercepts, connecting them to mental health supports, and reducing unnecessary justice involvement and/or out of home placement.

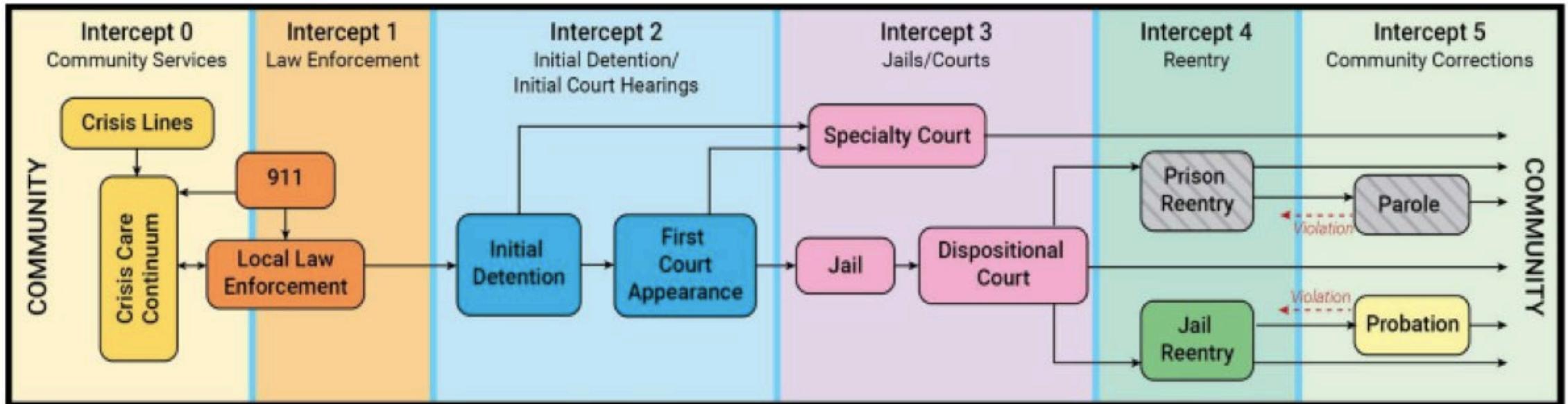


MDT
coordinator
will:

- Collect **baseline data** on law enforcement calls with children/youth in Goodhue County
 - Co-facilitate sequential intercept mapping of Goodhue County cases
 - Collaborate with law enforcement to develop and implement a **universal mental health call tracking protocol** to ensure accurate and consistent identification of crisis-related calls at dispatch and officer response levels
 - Monitor patterns in mental health-related law enforcement calls to identify opportunities for **earlier community-based intervention.**
- 

Sequential Intercept Model

- [The Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\) | SAMHSA](#)



Source: Policy Research Associates



New response protocol will be developed

- 72-hour response following a law enforcement involvement or other crisis
 - MDT coordinator, case manager, Mobile Crisis Responder, or Probation Officer will make initial contact with the family to identify key supports who should be part of the support plan.
 - Supporting planning meeting or mobile crisis stabilization will be facilitated with follow up meetings as need.
 - MDT will continue to monitor outcomes for each family
- 

Summary

Reimagining how we serve youth involves every part of the system
centering youth and family voices.

We are building new approaches and structures, collaborating across systems, and communicating more effectively.

Supporting youth and families earlier will require an **investment in prevention/early intervention** and **data systems** that allow us to track outcomes.