

# RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

*Restorative Justice partnership between Washington County Juvenile Department & Beaverton Center for Mediation and Dialogue*

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*“Restorative Dialogue addresses the major needs of crime victims: acknowledgement, information, a voice, a choice to participate and most importantly, a meaningful role in the process. Youth benefit by holding themselves accountable, repairing harm and developing empathy. In our opinion, Restorative Dialogue is the most beneficial, promising and hopeful program we have to offer our youth and their victims.”*

**--Washington County Victim Services Program**





## WHAT IS RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

*Restorative Dialogue provides a brave space and process for face-to-face communication between a crime victim/harmed party and the offender/harming party.*

*Both parties are given the opportunity to explore what happened, discuss the impacts, and determine how to meaningfully address harm done.*



A landscape photograph showing a field with a path leading towards a sunset. The sky is filled with clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The foreground is dominated by tall, green grasses. The path is a narrow, winding line of lighter-colored earth or gravel, leading the eye from the bottom center towards the horizon. The field is divided into sections by the path and other subtle lines. In the distance, there are some trees and a few small structures. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

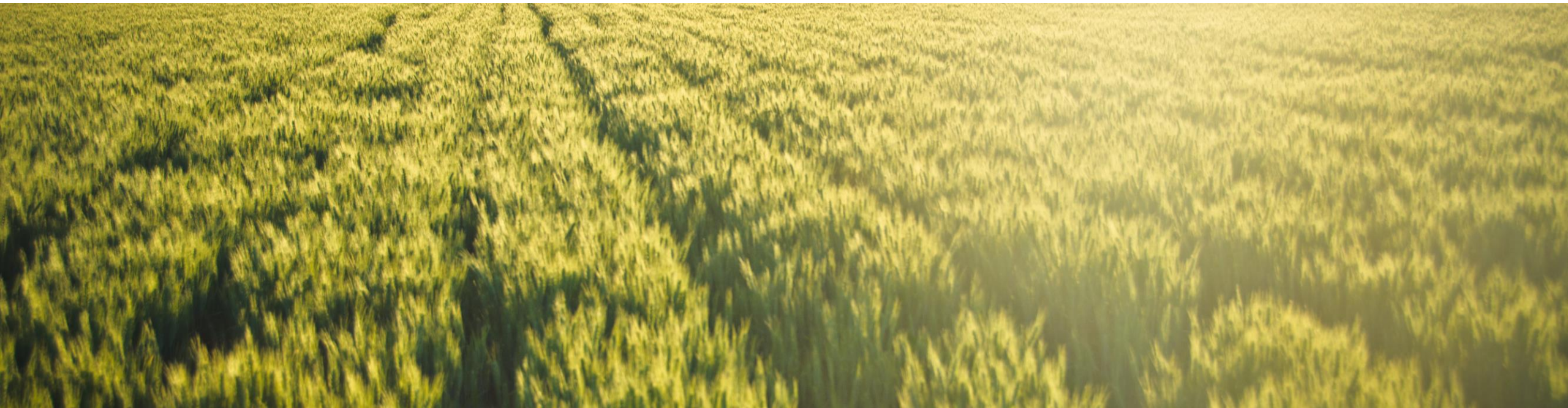


## OVERVIEW

***Restorative Justice (RJ):*** A philosophical approach that provides a way to respond to harm that pays attention to relationships. RJ values and principles emphasize healing and repair over punishment, inclusion over exclusion, and accountability with a high level of support.

***Applications:*** School, criminal justice systems, community

***Outcomes:*** Build relationships, address violations, improve climate and culture







# CRIMINAL JUSTICE VS. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

## Criminal Justice

Crime is a violation of the law and state.

Violations create guilt

Justice requires the state to determine blame (guilt) and impose punishment

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 in a n effort to put things right.

Central Focus: Victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing harm

# THREE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS



## **Criminal Justice**

- What laws have been broken?
- Who did it?
- What do they deserve?

## **Restorative Justice**

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligations are these?



### Case Referral

- Victim Services staff share information about program.
- If victim expresses interest, referral is made and JCC or diversion staff tell youth/parent they will hear from restorative dialogue program for scheduling.

### Separate initial meetings

- RD facilitators meets with victim and youth separately in confidential meetings to provide information and gauge needs.
- RD facilitators assess if case is appropriate.

### Restorative Dialogue

- Dialogue is scheduled if both parties choose voluntarily to participate.
- If agreements are made during dialogue, those are sent to JCC or diversion staff and Victim Services.

## RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE CASE FLOW





## INITIAL MEETINGS

| Victim | Responsible Youth |
|--------|-------------------|
|--------|-------------------|

- Develop rapport
- Confidential (with standard exceptions)
- Talk through their experience, thoughts, feelings
- Discuss impacts (emotional, financial, time) and resulting needs
- Ask about request they might have for youth to consider to make things as right as possible
- Talk about hopes for conversation with youth, questions they have for the youth, etc.
- Discuss dialogue and their role, talking about the benefits victims have experienced, talking through hesitations

- Develop rapport
- Confidential (with standard exceptions)
- Talk through incident, thoughts/feelings/choices at the time and now. Assess level of accountability.
- Talk about impacts (real and imagined) and empathy practice/perspective taking
- Talk about what they are already doing to make things right and brainstorming what they might be willing to offer victim
- Discuss dialogue and their role, talking about the benefits youth have experienced, talking through hesitations





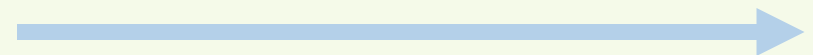
# RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

## THREE-PART PROCESS

What Happened  
and Youth's Role  
(Taking responsibility)

Sharing of  
Harm/Impact

Working toward  
making things right  
(Potential agreements)





## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION



### **Victim / harmed party**

- Get questions answered / get information
- Can share impact and receive acknowledgment
- Voice on what can be done to repair harm

### **Youth / harming party**

- Can take meaningful accountability for choices
- Can learn about ripple effect of actions
- Opportunity to make amends
- Voice in the process of deciding conditions
- Chance to be seen as more than an “offender”
- Can be heard and respected

A close-up photograph of green wheat stalks, showing the awns and grain heads in detail. The image is slightly blurred, giving a sense of movement or a shallow depth of field.

## FACILITATORS

- 32- hour training
- Observations
- Mentorship from CMD staff
- Co-facilitation model
- Continuing education workshops



# *WHAT VICTIMS SAY*

*“Good and ability to move forward with clarity.”*

*“Relieved. I wasn't sure how the youth would respond. I was happy to see he was easy to talk with.”*

*“It was nice to hear the progress they have made since the incident.”*

*“This was a very positive experience. The youth just emailed me again to give me an update on her life.”*

*“It helped me to feel like I was in community with the boys who stole my car. It made them people to me and I felt like it helped them to see me as a person as well.”*

*“I felt heard and understood.”*



# *WHAT YOUTH SAY*

*"I felt better than I did before."*

*"I was able to tell the victim was happened that day and apologize."*

*"Like a weight was taken off my chest."*

*"I got to find out how I affected the victim of this crime."*

*"I felt relief and closure and glad it ended on a more positive note."*





## SUCCESS STORIES

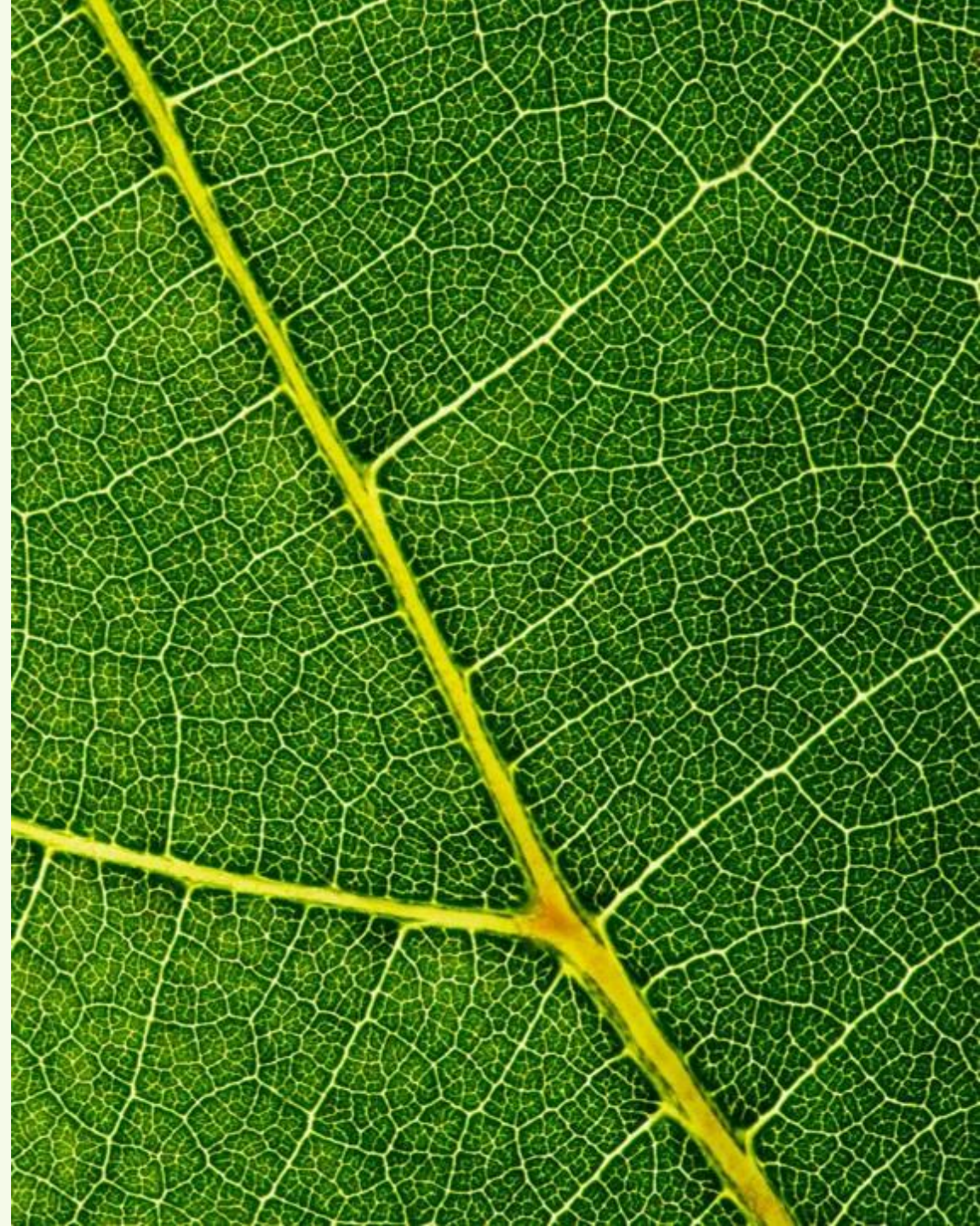
Personalized agreements for meaningful accountability  
and victim restoration



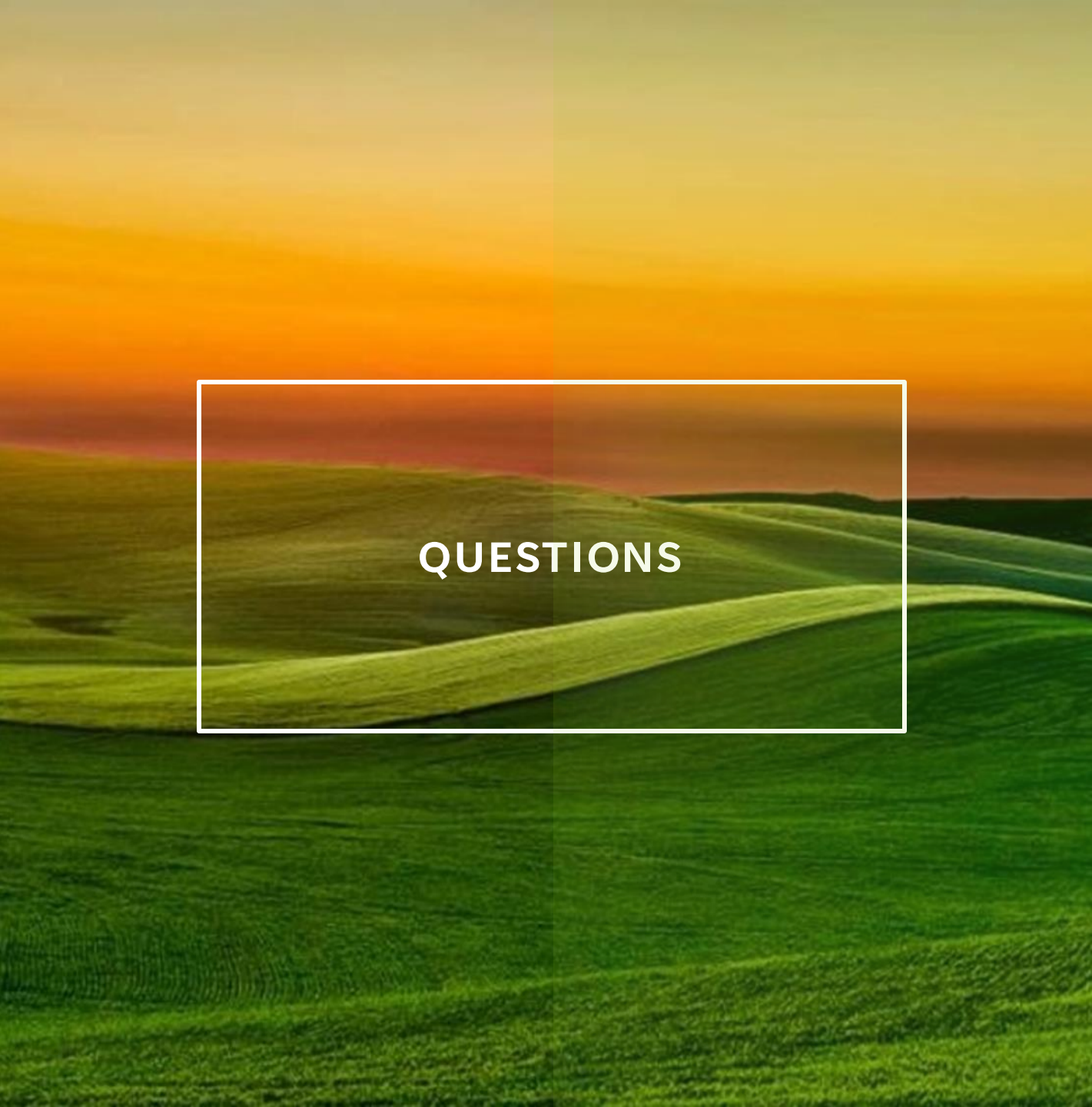


## YOUTH ONLY REFERRALS

- In cases where victim/harmed party has NOT expressed interest, but JCC thinks initial meeting with our program could benefit youth
- Letter of Responsibility
- Speaking with volunteer facilitators about accountability, choice, harm, ripple effect of impact, thinking through moving forward in a positive way, being deeply heard.







## QUESTIONS

- What questions do you have for us?
- Have you seen other examples of restorative approaches/programs impacting victims and youth you work with?
- To learn about and connect with your local community dispute resolution center and their RJ services:  
[www.resolutionoregon.org](http://www.resolutionoregon.org)