“Shaping Justice for the 21st Century”

May 11, 2016

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NACRJ News

The 6th National Conference (June 15-17, 2017, Pre-Conference Training on June 14, 2017)

“Moving Restorative Justice from Margins to Center: We’re the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For”

Elevating and affirming intersectionality of historically marginalized voices in the areas of race, class, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, age, ability, and immigration, incarcerated, or formerly incarcerated status. Promoting radical inclusivity and healing.

Tracks

Calling Forth Our Future
A youth-centered and youth-driven track. Elevating youth voices and lifting up youth innovation, boldness, and creativity in restorative justice practices across the nation. Creating a dynamic and vibrant space for networking, knowledge sharing, collaboration and celebration.

Explorers
This is a Restorative Justice 101 track primarily designed for participants who are new to restorative justice. It will offer sessions on restorative justice indigenous origins, principles, practices, and challenges in the field. This track encompasses overviews of the state of restorative practices in schools, community and justice systems. To what extent we practice restorative justice today through a racial and social justice lens while honoring its indigenous roots are topics that may be of interest to both the explorer and seasoned practitioner.

Deep Divers
This track is intended for seasoned practitioners interested in honing their praxis. Sessions will offer opportunities to critically reflect on the complexities, challenges and bright-spots in present-day restorative justice applications, whether in educational, justice, community, historical harm, or other contexts. Against the backdrop of the rapid expansion of restorative and community justice practices in the last decade, sessions will explore how we build our capacity to practice restorative justice through racial and social justice lenses, and how we maintain the integrity and transformative power of restorative justice as systems go about institutionalizing it. To deepen and strengthen restorative justice praxis, this track will also offer the opportunity to reflect on critical issues arising in the facilitation of Circles, Restorative Conferencing, Victim Offender Dialogue and other restorative justice models.
**Movement Builders**

This track will explore such questions as whether restorative justice is a social movement today. Can it serve as a vehicle of large-scale social transformation? Can we use it to transform historical harm, particularly against African-Americans and other persons of color? How do restorative and community justice practices intersect with other social justice movements; e.g., abolitionism, #BlackLivesMatter, ending the school to prison pipeline and ending sexual violence? What steps might restorative justice activists take to strengthen relationships with other social movements in order to optimize our collective impact? Finally, how do we create a coherent national movement that moves the principles and practices of a relational and healing justice from the margins to the mainstream of North American discourse and life?

**Call for Presentation Abstracts**

On-line Submission Starting Mid-August 2016 and closing Mid-November 2016

We are striving to ensure high overall quality of the presentations at the conference, we will issue the call for abstract submissions a little earlier than usual. This will allow us to provide a more careful and deliberative review process. Notification of the decision by reviewers is planned for mid-February 2017. Presenters will be afforded a reduced registration rate scaled to the registration period – as always later registrants will pay higher registration fees. Register early to obtain the lowest rates.

**Lead Organizers**

Fania E. Davis, Ph. D., J.D. – Executive Director, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth  
(Email – fania@rjyoakland.org)  
Teiahsha Bankhead, Ph. D. – Professor of Social Work, California State University – Sacramento  
(Email – tcb@csus.edu)

**What’s New?**

**Grant Received**

During the fall of 2015 NACRJ applied for a grant to provide funds aimed at creating a sustainable model for funding of the association going forward.

The grant is for one year and provided $50,000 to develop support the development and implementation of a funds development plan. This plan will be used to guide a focused effort each year to obtain external funding from donors who appreciate and support the vision, mission and activities of the NACRJ.

We are deeply appreciative for the funding. We view it as a kind of validation of our efforts to build a meaningful association that:

- Serves the field,
- Provides an intellectual home for practitioners and researchers,
- Facilitates networking and information sharing,
Advocates for sound policy and practices,
Supports research into theory and practice, and
Provides information to promote fidelity to theory and principles.

The donor has asked that they not be identified. This is why we have not identified them in any of our publicly released documents.

Kelly McGrath – To Serve as Page Editor for Legal News on the NACRJ Website
Kelly McGrath is a member of the NACRJ Advisory Council and the founder of the Florida Restorative Justice Association. She has volunteered to serve as the Page Editor for the Legal News page on the NACRJ Website. Given her background and interest in both restorative justice and the law she will be invaluable in help keep NACRJ members informed about legal issues related to community and restorative justice.

We are very pleased to Welcome Kelly McGrath to the staff of the NACRJ website.

NEW Implementation and Management Guidelines for the NACRJ Policy Statement on Victim Offender Mediated Dialogue (VOMD) in Correctional Facilities – PUBLISHED

In the Fall of 2015 NACRJ published a policy statement on Victim Offender Mediated Dialogue (VOMD) in Correctional Facilities. On March 6, 2016, the NACRJ approved and published the Implementation and Management Guidelines that accompany the VOMD policy statement. Links to the policy statement and guidelines documents can be found on the NACRJ website at (copy the URL and paste it into your browser):

http://www.nacrj.org/resources/public-resources/policy-statements

Restorative Well

Ted Lewis, Director of Communications for NACRJ and Camille Maddox are the creative minds behind the monthly publication titled Restorative Well. It is co-produced by NACRJ and the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota. We hope you find it interesting, informative and enjoyable. If you want to provide Ted some feedback on it you can contact him at tedlewis76@gmail.com.

The May issue will arrive in your in-box soon. When you receive it we hope you will forward copies to people you think might be interested in the NACRJ and willing to consider joining the association. A 50% discount code for new 2016-2017 memberships will be included in the issue. The discount will be usable through the end of June 2016.
What’s on the Horizon?

New Website Resource Pages being Developed
Ted Lewis Communications Director for NACRJ as well as the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota has been working on new resource pages for members that will begin to map out the geographical distribution of programs, collaborations and coalitions in community and restorative justice. In the next few months the mapping function should available on the public side of the website and more detailed information will be available on the membership side of the website.

NACRJ Chapters
There is interest in the formation of statewide or local level chapters in three states – Virigina, Missouri and Florida. We hope to see one of more chapters established in the next year or two.

If you are interested in creating an NACRJ chapter contact Mike Gilbert, Executive Director (exec.director@nacrj.org) to obtain the guidelines for chapter formation. You may also contact him by phone at (210) 218-7159.

Policy Statement on Restorative Justice Practices in Schools in Development
Members of the NACRJ are working on a draft policy statement on restorative justice practices in schools with the goal of having it ready for public release in May 2017 just prior to the conference. It seems doable and we are working toward that goal.

Site for the 2019 National Conference – Denver, CO
In November of last year the Executive Committee received five bids for the 2019 Conference. These bids came from
Atlanta, GA;
Birmingham, AL
Chicago, IL
Denver, CO
Richmond, VA

After careful evaluation of each proposal the NACRJ Executive Committee recommended Denver, CO to the Board of Directors and the recommendation was approved by the Board. It was a difficult decision to reach because of each location could have provided a terrific venue.
After the 2017 Conference in Oakland there will be a call for site nominations for the 2021 National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice. Guidelines for submissions will be provided at that time.

Possible Job Opportunity – University of Texas at Austin

The Institute for Restorative Justice and Restorative Dialogue (IRJRD) at The University of Texas in Austin has an opening for Assistant Director. This person assists the Director in developing and implementing restorative justice programs in community agencies, rolling out school-based restorative justice in Texas, procuring contracts and grants to support the Institute’s work, financial accounting, interfacing with the legislature and other decision making stakeholders in Texas, and working alongside the Director to further social justice initiatives including alternatives to the current criminal justice model.

IRJRD has a successful track record in being able to effect change in a socially conservative state. It is currently partnered with the Texas Education Agency to take Restorative Discipline to scale through values-centered training aimed at administrative teams and the development of Restorative Discipline Coordinators.

IRJRD seeks a self-motivated, multi faceted and detail oriented person with restorative justice and training experience, organizational skills and a strong community-based orientation to join its innovative and vital operation. Interested persons should contact and send resume to Marilyn Armour at marmour@utexas.edu.

Membership News

Annual Membership Renewal Period – Now through July 31, 2016

The Annual Members Renewal Period started on May 1, 2016 and will continue through July 31, 2016. Current renewing memberships lapse at midnight on July 31, 2016.

50% of Members Listed on the NACRJ Membership Directory

We continue to struggle with getting our members to provide the information we need to list them on the NACRJ membership directory. At present we have 412 current members and about half are listed in the membership directory. We want to list everyone.

You can check to see if you are listed. Go to the membership directory at www.nacrj.org located under the “Member Directory” tab. If you are not listed and would like to be listed, complete and return the Membership Directory Information and
Consent Form (attached with this issue). By policy NACRJ does not list anyone in the directory without a completed form.

Together, we are building an association that provides support to practitioners, researchers and others interested in restorative and community justice; advances the field; and, speaks out on important policy issues.

In these ways we strive to fulfill our motto:

“Shaping Justice for the 21st Century”.

Michael J. Gilbert, Ph. D., Executive Director
May 11, 2016