

Pivoting Towards an Appreciating Society

If our goal is to build a safe, sustainable, revitalizing community...
what's the best choice when an error/trauma occurs?

Punitive Cycle yields Depreciating Results

- 1) **Creates Victim: Discarded/No healing or Compensation**
Recovery cost passed on to society
- 2) **Perpetrator Penalized/Goes to Jail or Pays Fine**
Cost of Jail/ Collection passed on to society/Debt Cycle
Cost of court passed on to society
- 3) **Prisoner Isolated from Normal Society**
Receives more trauma - loss of love/becomes victim
Breaks up family/loss of income to family/creates stress
Family suffers shame/guilt/blame - social ripple effect
System creates combat/polarization/fear/lose-lose impact
Cost to support family passed on to society
Cost to support the prisoner passed on to society
- 4) **Structures/services remove Prisoner from nature**
Food supply deteriorates body/increases stress/medical costs
Creates survival and defensive behavior/mis-creative behavior
Produces aggressive/dominative/brutal behavior responses
Cost passed on to society - for medical, injuries, medications
Cost of impact on guards, staff - ripples out to impact families
- 5) **Released prisoners face ReEntry with little support**
Unemployable with a record/no job history/lost skills
Confidence is lost/relationship skills are compromised
Return with no home, no income...
Recidivate or live on charity/non-profits = Cost to society



"In a 'punitive' based system,
who *really* pays the penalty?
In a 'restorative' based
system - there is only
revitalization!"
So why not change?



ReStorative Cycle Yields Appreciating Results

- 1) **Mediation Identifies Issues/Addresses Trauma/Heals Victim**
Victim is restored to wholeness/conflict is resolved/Safety is recovered
- 2) **Perpetrator makes Resitution**
Pays any fines, pays for damages sustained
Pays through Community service as contracted
- 3) **Perpetrator is Restored to Relationship in Community**
Learns to appreciate community ripple effect/exchange
Families are maintained as whole
Relationships are improved/family saves face
Jobs are maintained/Income is retained
Future conflict is reduced through experience with mediation
- 4) **Perpetrator continues to Work in Community**
Problems like addictions, literacy, abuse patterns are addressed/corrected
Learning of new behaviors establishes improved citizen action
Stress is reduced, health is maintained
- 5) **Negative Impact on Society pivoted into an Appreciating Asset!**
Perpetrator remains in community as a responsible, taxpaying citizen!
Community is safer, has more skills at dealing with conflict



(Exponentially compounding costs decay the community.)

**(Immediate intervention shortcuts the cycle, and instead
builds vitality and renewal in the community!)**

Result: Perpetuates Societal Self-Destruct Cycle

At ChoicePoint

**Bottomline, the Citizen moves from being a liability to
being an asset - a renewable resource to the Community!**

Case Study Examples:

- 1) Young Man - 26 years old - Incarcerated approx. 9 years @ cost to Taxpayers of over \$250,000 plus emotionally negative and expensive ripple effects on family, community services, organizations
- 2) Woman - 31 - had 26 arrest issues - expected to stay in System for life, or die - cost approx. \$250,000 Had no value - no family support, no contribution, "Did not know how to do this life".

- ➔ WhatcomREC.org invested \$1200 in case management, goalsetting, ReEntry University
Result: He has a good probability of breaking the cycle, repairing lives, becoming sustaining.
- ➔ Whatcom REC.org invested \$900 in case management, goalsetting, ReEntry University
Result: She is gainfully employed, working with abused women, an advocate for recovery

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