

EXCERPT FROM
Strengthening Restorative Justice,
A Progress Report

for the Joint Committee on Corrections Oversight – March 12, 2014

Preliminary Conclusions

Vermont is strong in its capacity for Restorative Justice. We are strong because our communities and our sense of interdependence create a citizenry willing to participate and engage with one another in solving tough problems.

We have the foundations for expanding the application of restorative justice principles and practices across the system of justice. The history over twenty years of experiment and study has demonstrated both efficacy and citizen approval.

There is substantive agreement across the existing programs on principle, purpose, vision and process.

There is substantive agreement on the need to more fully integrate restorative justice practice across the structure of our criminal justice system, providing decision-makers in law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary, and human services with viable alternative community mechanisms for encouraging offenders to be accountable, ensuring the public safety, and reducing cost.

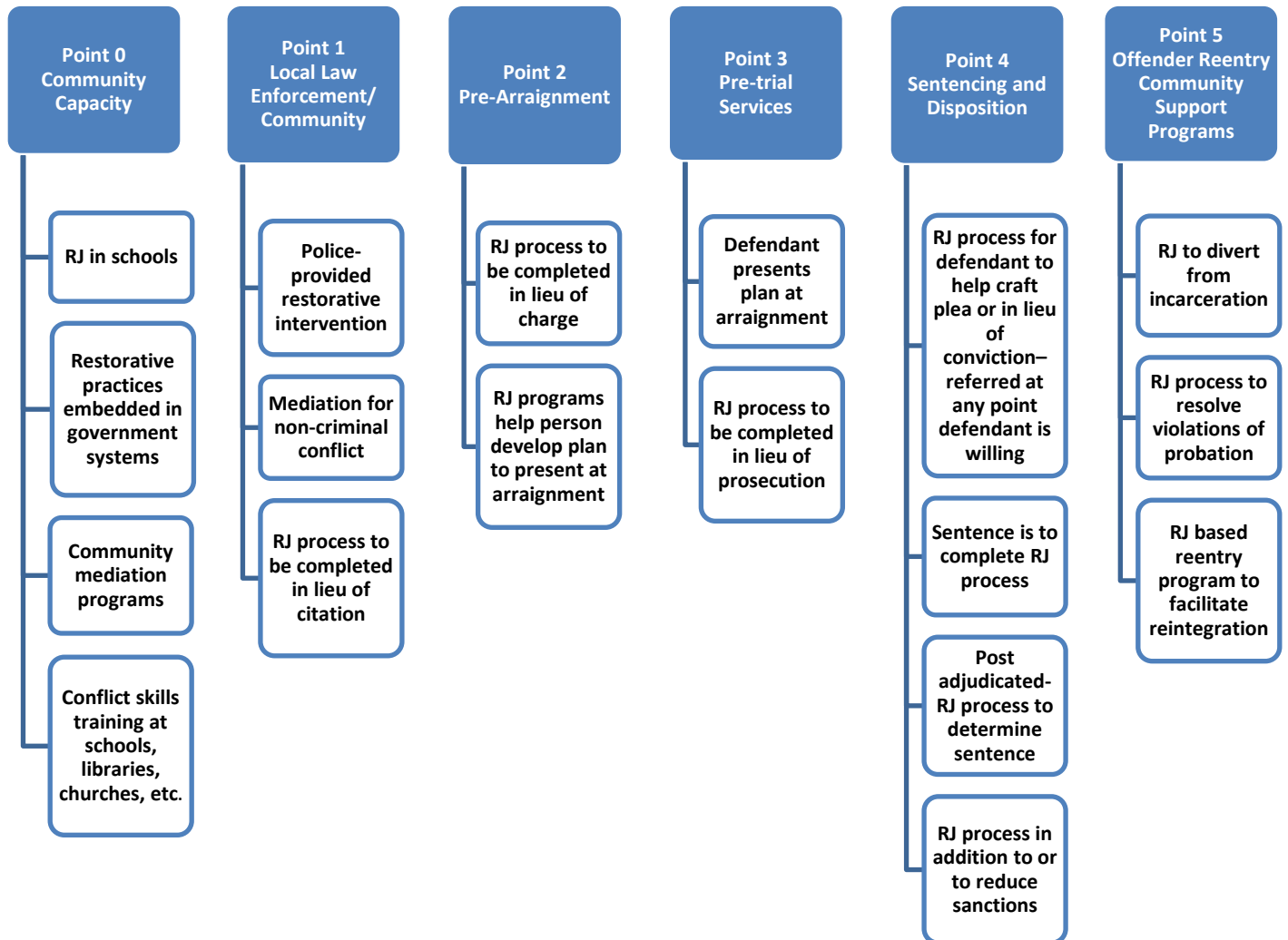
There is also substantive agreement on the need for the establishment of a statewide restorative justice organization, integrating current networks and program components, and providing a forum for development.

There is agreement on the need to maintain the local control of neighborhood justice, while recognizing the need for statewide uniformity of the administration of justice.

There is agreement on the need for standards for training and education for community members, as well as the need for common procedures for referral.

There is agreement on the potential for expansion of restorative justice practices to provide resolution for conflicts that are not criminal, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our neighborhoods.

Sequential Intercept Model in Vermont With Recommended Restorative Justice Opportunities



Willa Farrell
 Court Diversion Director
 Attorney General's Office
 109 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05609
 802-828-1360
wfarrell@atg.state.vt.us

Karen Vastine
 Community Justice Center
 179 S. Winooski Ave.
 Burlington, VT 05401
 Ph: (802) 865-7185
 Email: kvastine@burlingtonvt.gov