

## Information on Restorative Practices in Vermont Schools

Susan Cherry, Executive Director, The Community Restorative Justice Center – St. Johnsbury, VT

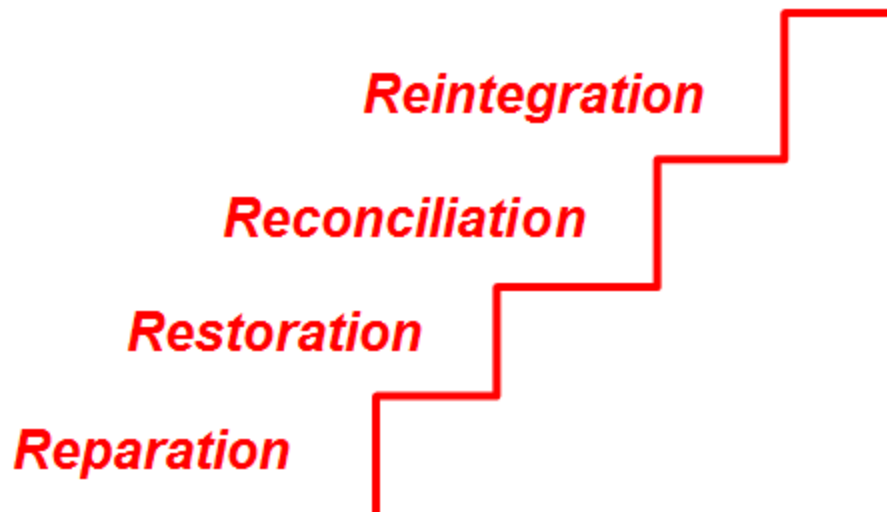
Wednesday, April 19, 2017; 1:30 PM

Senate Education Committee

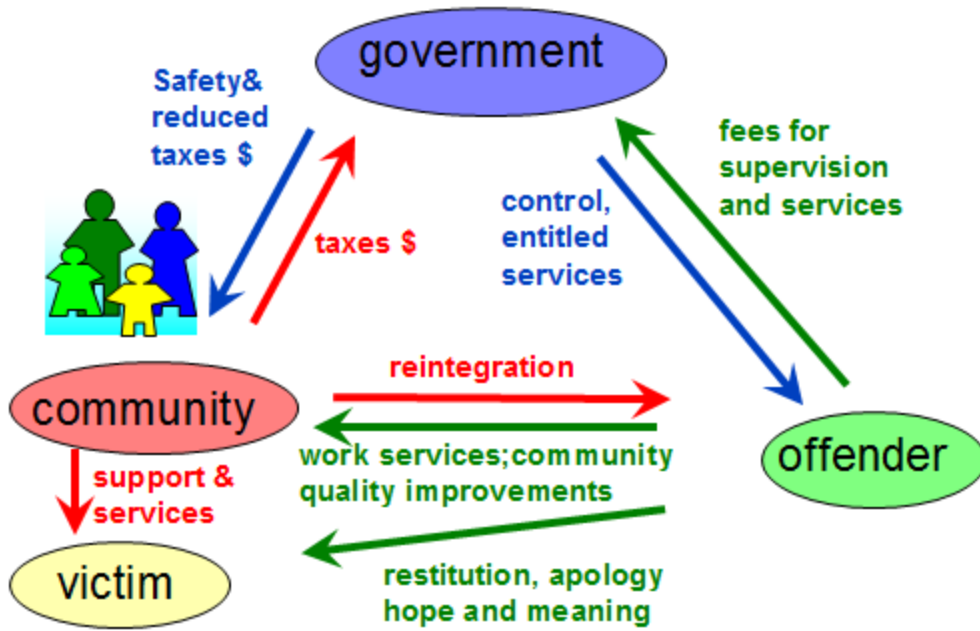
Restorative Practices describe principles that were initially explored in the development of Restorative Justice. These principles have proven to be successful in both juvenile work and in adult reparative work (study by Criminal Research Group, 2014: <http://www.crgvt.org/news/report-vermont-community-justice-center-reparative-panel-programs-outcome-evaluation-2014>)

- Principles:
  - Harmful actions are violations of people and relationships
  - Violations create obligations
  - Restorative justice seeks to engage and support those who have been harmed or victimized
- Prevention:
  - Belonging
  - Community building circles
  - Reciprocity – and community
  - Storytelling and ritual
- Opportunities for repair
  - Circles
  - Peer Mediation
  - Informal Conferencing
  - Formal Conferencing (involving students/responsible parties/affected parties/community)
  - Policy development
- Opportunities for community engagement in repairing harm and dialogue
  - Students, teachers, administration, staff, parents, and community members in dialogue
  - Local government and above are equal players

# Steps toward Restorative Justice



# The Positive Exchange



-John Perry, 2013