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Template: Restorative Justice Diversion and virtual circle keeping

Information on what diversion programs can look like and how to create a virtual circle.
GIRLS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DIVERSION PROGRAM

A PATHWAY TO ENDING GIRLS INCARCERATION IN MIAMI

Our Restorative Justice Diversion (RJD) program meaningfully addresses harm while diverting girls* from criminalization, correctional control, and incarceration. We engage communities to achieve healthy outcomes for girls who committed harm while meeting victim-identified needs and reducing recidivism, racial and ethnic disparities, and related social and fiscal costs. We launch our pilot with 15 -25 girls by April 2019 with Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office & Impact Justice.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

After an high-level misdemeanor or felony has occurred that would normally result in criminal charges, the case is diverted to RJD before any charge are filed. During the process, the responsible youth meets with the person(s) they harmed for a well-prepared, facilitated dialogue during which they, along with their supporters and community members, discuss the harm that occurred. Participants produce a comprehensive, consensus-based plan for the young person to repair the harm. The plan is usually completed within 3-6 months, after which the case is closed with no charges filed. RJD is more effective for more serious crimes which have an identifiable victim such as robbery, burglary, car theft, and assault/battery.

WHY RJ DIVERSION FOR MIAMI GIRLS?

Frequent re-offending. Recidivism rate as high as 38% for FL youth once arrested.

Interrupted education. Incarcerated youth are 30% less likely to graduate high school.

Trauma history. Up to 84% of FL girls experience in the juvenile legal system have trauma histories.

RJD creates a pathway away from criminalization and toward healing & leadership!

SUCCESS RATES

A similar California RJD program saw a reduction in recidivism from 32% to 18%, 91% victim satisfaction rate, & significant cost-savings as RJD costs $9,000 while probation costs an average of $23,000 and incarceration costs upwards of $150,000 per youth annually.

*"girls" includes transgender & gender non-conforming youth

www.soulsistersleadership.org
How to Use the Virtual Circle

• Step One: Type all circle participants names around the circle so everyone is present in the virtual circle
• Step Two: Make sure that each name has a heart next to it
• Step Three: Introduce and establish the circle agreements and flame as the talking piece
• Step Four: Move the flame talking piece around the circle as people share
Circle Agreements

- Respect the talking piece (one mic)
- Honor confidentiality
- Speak with respect
- Honor gender pronouns

- Speak from the heart
- Listen from the heart
- Listen with respect
Be present
Listen with respect
Speak from the heart
Take a piece of the pie
Connection