



1035 RESTORATIVE PRACTICES	
Chapter: Introduction to DCYF	Section: Practice Philosophy
	New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual Policy Directive: 19-05 Effective Date: March 2019 Scheduled Review Date:
	Approved:  Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director
Related Statute(s): Related Admin Rule(s): Related Federal Regulation(s):	Related Form(s): Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

New Hampshire's Practice Model outlines the values and principles that drive the Division for Children, Youth and Families' (DCYF) approach to providing services. Within the Practice Model the Division utilizes Restorative Practices to support safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, families, and communities. Restorative Practices are a victim-centered approach to engaging all parties impacted by a situation to address a concern and repair/restore the parties to sense of community to prevent future conflict. The hands-on process of restorative practices can vary from informal to formal based on circumstances and provides staff with a fluid strategy for engaging children, youth, families, and communities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the foundation of how restorative practices are implemented within the Division for Children, Youth and Families.

Definitions

"DCYF" or the **"Division"** means the Department of Health and Human Services' Division for Children, Youth and Families.

"Offender" means the term used in restorative practices to identify an individual whose role in an event has impacted one or more people, causing them to experience a hardship.

Policy

- I. All DCYF personnel will be trained on the scope of the Division's restorative practices;
- II. All Child Protective Services staff, Juvenile Justice Services staff, and Sununu Youth Services Center staff will be trained on types of restorative practices and procedures as applicable.
- III. The Division promotes three (3) types of restorative practices:
 - A. Proactive Circles: A process to check-in with multiple individuals, allowing each an opportunity for equal voice, courtesy and respect, and mutual input on topics to enhance the sense of community and connection among the individuals;
 - B. Responsive Circles: A structured process to address a systemic or environmental concern with multiple individuals, supporting the acknowledgement of a common situation, validating participants' perspectives, and considering ways for each individual to adjust their actions to make a positive change; and

- C. Restorative Conferences: A formal process through which an offender(s) and a victim(s) are engaged with their supports in a circle process to discuss an incident, the impact that each participant has felt, and what can be done going forward among the participants.
- IV. DCYF staff trained and certified in the facilitation of restorative practices will implement and sustain the practices in their offices, in their work with children, youth and families, and through informally or formally educating providers, other professionals, the courts and the general public about the purpose and the philosophy of the program.

Practice Guidance

How do I find a staff trained or certified in Restorative Practices?

- The Division will have staff trained and certified in Responsive Restorative Practices and Proactive Practices available regionally that can be identified through consultation with your supervisor.