

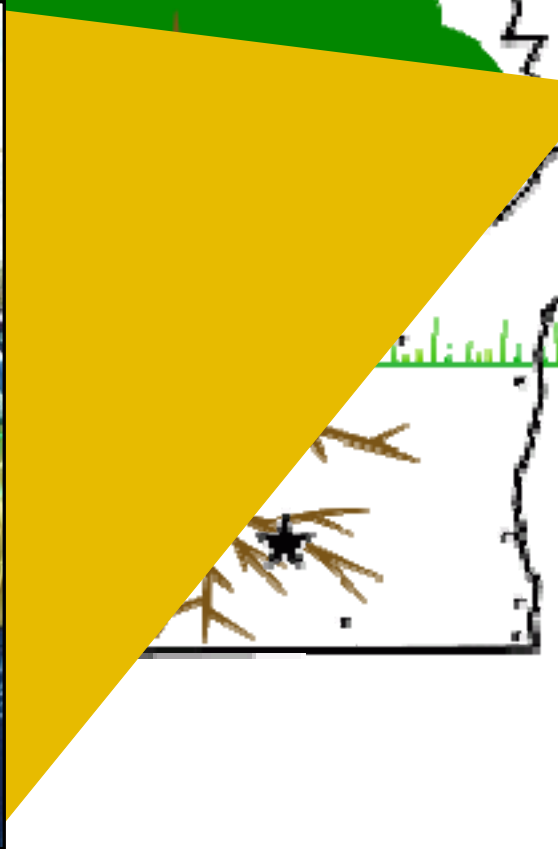
Fulfilling the Promise of Juvenile Justice by Engaging Crime Victims & Survivors and Those Who Serve Them

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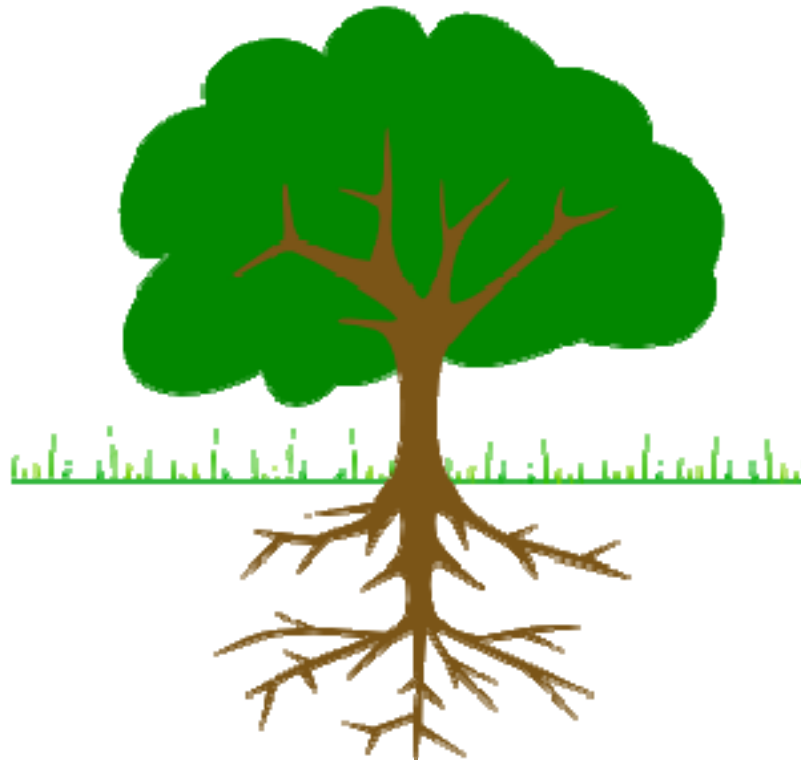
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My Roots...





My Other Roots...



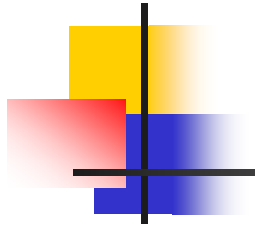


Wisconsin as a True Leader...

- First “Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights in 1980
- First “Child Victim and Witness Bill of Rights” in 1983
- One of the first states to accommodate child victims in the courtroom
- One of the first states to embrace restorative justice that *truly* engaged victims and survivors

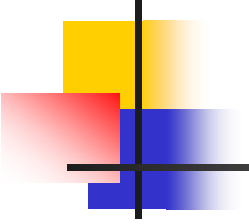
My **Three Theories** on Juvenile Crime and Victimization





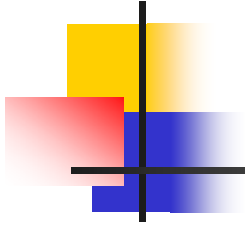
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1. "Victims of crime should *not* be discriminated against due solely to the age of their offenders."

1994 ACA Report and Recommendations on
Victims of Juvenile Offenders



2. You can't "mini-me" the juvenile justice system from the criminal justice system, and expect good results!





3. There is often a “fine line” between childhood trauma & dysfunction & victimization & youthful offending.....



Why Should Juvenile Justice *Care* About Crime Victims?

- Victims have traditionally been among *the most vocal critics* of juvenile justice.
- Many recent juvenile justice reforms are *a direct result of victims reacting* to a system they perceived as insensitive and unfair.
- Should victims be considered “clients” of the juvenile justice system?



Why Should Juvenile Justice *Care* About Crime Victims?

- The “best interest of the child” includes being held accountable to his or her victim, family and community.
- When victims are treated with respect and afforded basic rights, the relationship becomes one of *advocate*, as opposed to *adversary*.



Why Should Juvenile Justice *Care* About Crime Victims?

- There is much *common ground* to be sought and achieved.
- Addressing victimization issues also addresses the *cycle of violence*.



Why Should Juvenile Justice Care About Crime Victims?

- The rights and interests of victims, the community, and offenders should be *balanced*.
- Many victims *do* care about what happens to their offenders (especially *preventive* aspects).
- Victims and their advocates are **wonderful partners** in prevention *and* response!



Concerns Unique to Victims of Juvenile Offenders

- Shock, vulnerability and trauma may be enhanced due to the age of the offender
- Victim vulnerability may be increased when the victim knows the juvenile offender.
- Victims of juvenile offenders may “generalize” about youth.
- Victims may hesitate to report feelings of fear, or articulate the need for protection.



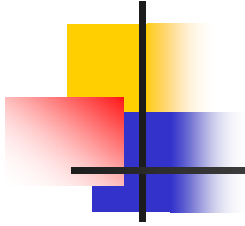
Concerns Unique to Victims of Juvenile Offenders

- Children victimizing other children affect relationships among those who know the victim *and* offender.
- More limited participatory rights for victims in the juvenile justice system.
- Confidentiality protections contribute to victim fears and frustration.
- Likelihood of receiving full restitution decreases with the age of the offender



Concerns Unique to Victims of Juvenile Offenders

- Victim services in the JJS are *much more limited* than those in the CJS
- Most trauma response protocols are based upon research of victims of adult offenders.



What Have We Learned from Research on Crime Victims and Juvenile Justice Reform?

(Bazemore and Seymour, OVC)



Findings Relevant to Victims

- For *virtually all victims*, the juvenile court and JJS experience had been negative.
- Victims were nearly unanimous in their dissatisfaction with the court process.
- Felt a lack of respect for their dignity as human beings.
- Felt there was little in the way of acknowledgment of them as victims.



Findings Relevant to Victims

- Thought victims should be treated as “clients” of the JJS.
- Reported a perceived lack of understanding among JJS professionals about the victimization experience.
- Reported a lack of understanding about the court process, and that they had received little information to guide them.



Findings Relevant to Victims

- Most victims were less interested in punishment for its own sake than in seeing that offenders were held accountable, *especially for restitution.*
- A number expressed strong interest in offender rehabilitation, and several had gotten personally involved in offender treatment programs.



Findings Relevant to Victims

- Cited “information about the case” as most important.
- Cited “being heard” and “having input” as equally critical.
- Victims were very open to restorative justice practices, as long as *participation is voluntary*.
- Thought restorative alternatives to traditional court processes were needed



Wisconsin Rocks!





Victims' Basic Needs

- Information and notification
- Safety
- Voices
- Choices
- Information about victim compensation
(in violent crime cases)
- Restitution
- Greater understanding of JJS programming and options
- Improved partnerships among JJS and victim assistance professionals and agencies

Innovations for Wisconsin

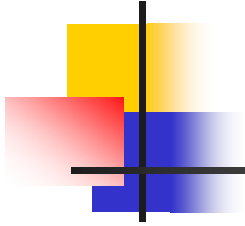
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- Model victim impact statement resource package
- How to help victims document losses for restitution
- Restorative community service
- Guidelines for youthful offender apology classes

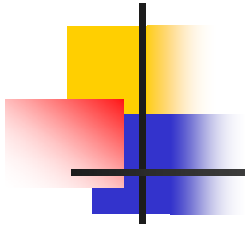
Innovations for Wisconsin *(cont.)*



- OVC's "Impact of Crime on Victims" curriculum
 - https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/about_this_curriculum.cfm
- Victim/offender mediation and dialogue resources from VOMA
 - <http://www.voma.org/>

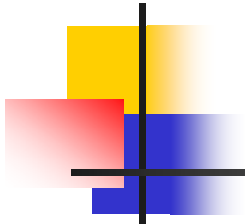


How to “Victimize” Current Wisconsin Juvenile Justice Initiatives.....



WI Governor's 2009 Juvenile Justice Commission Programs

Risk assessments	Educate victims & advocates about RA process
Wrap-around services for youth	Wrap in an awareness of accountability to their victims
Substance abuse and mental illness	Screen for victimization & trauma
Disproportionate minority confinement	Also address disproportionate minority victimization
Social responsibility skills/knowledge	Include victim impact & awareness



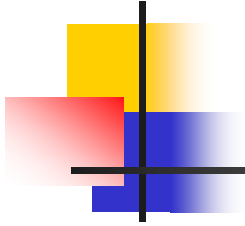
WI Governor's 2009 Juvenile Justice Commission Programs

Competency development	Address learned behaviors and programming to “unlearn” the bad ones
Anything related to “family”	Strengths-based approach that addresses violence & trauma within families
Youthful female offenders	Address child victimization and coping methods
Reentry	Transition for YOs <i>AND</i> for their victims



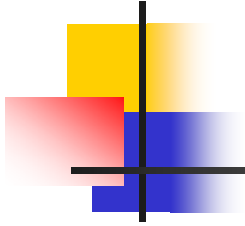
How can we truly “fulfill the promise”?

- Commit and engage *today!*
- Bond with Wisconsin victim resources:
 - <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs/>
- “*Fulfill the promise*” that **juvenile justice in Wisconsin** *also includes* “justice for crime victims and survivors.”



“Promise a lot and give
even more....”

- *Anthony D'Angelo*



"Re-frame
the
Issue!"

