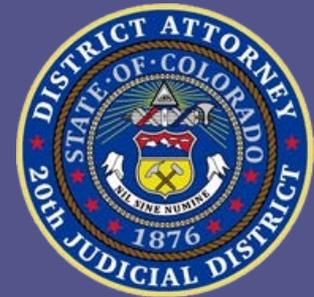


DIVERSION & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:

Promoting School & Community Safety

Erin Siffing

Assistant Director | Deputy DA



Center For Prevention & Restorative Justice

20th Judicial District Attorney's Office

Boulder, CO 80302



20TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT – BOULDER COUNTY



- 
- County-wide approach
 - Trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive services
 - High quality implementation
 - Evidence-based practices
 - Innovative program model of diversion + RJ
 - Nationally-recognized as leader in diversion & restorative justice

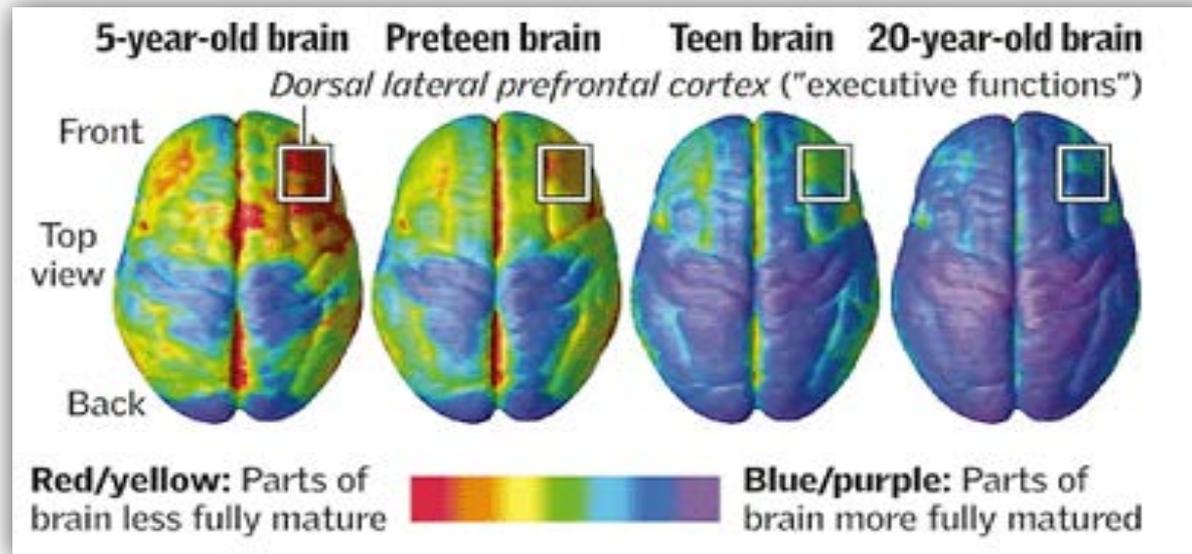
CENTER FOR PREVENTION & RJ



WHY DIVERSION?



ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT



Source: *National Institute of Mental Health; Paul Thompson, PhD., UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging*

Psychosocial Maturity by Offending Group

Persistent offenders have lower impulse control and less perspective than all other groups



PATHWAYS TO DESISTANCE STUDY

Elizabeth Cauffman, Ph.D., UC Irvine

3dlab.psychology.uci.edu

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

- Job applications
- College applications
- FAFSA
- Military entrance
- Immigration
- Housing



- School expulsion
- Extracurricular exclusion
- Labelling
- Lowered expectations & self-fulfilling prophecy
- Deepening system involvement

WHY DIVERSION?

- Early intervention, prevention, & rehabilitation
- Support meaningful accountability
- Reduce criminal risk by addressing needs and reducing collateral consequences
- Meet victims' needs
- Increase community safety

JUVENILE DIVERSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Supervised diversion:**
 - Assessment-based case planning
 - Match services to need to drive down risk
- **Unsupervised diversion:**
 - Community-based interventions such as Public Health and RJ
 - Petty and misdemeanor theft, MIPs, and other low-level charges
- **Expanding program**
 - District Court, County Court
- **Diverting ~40% of all juvenile cases** (up from ~20% in 2013)
- **92% successful completion**, including expansion to include higher-risk/need
- **98% of offenders** say diversion was a valuable experience
- **100% of offenders** say diversion helped them make positive changes in their life



WHY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?



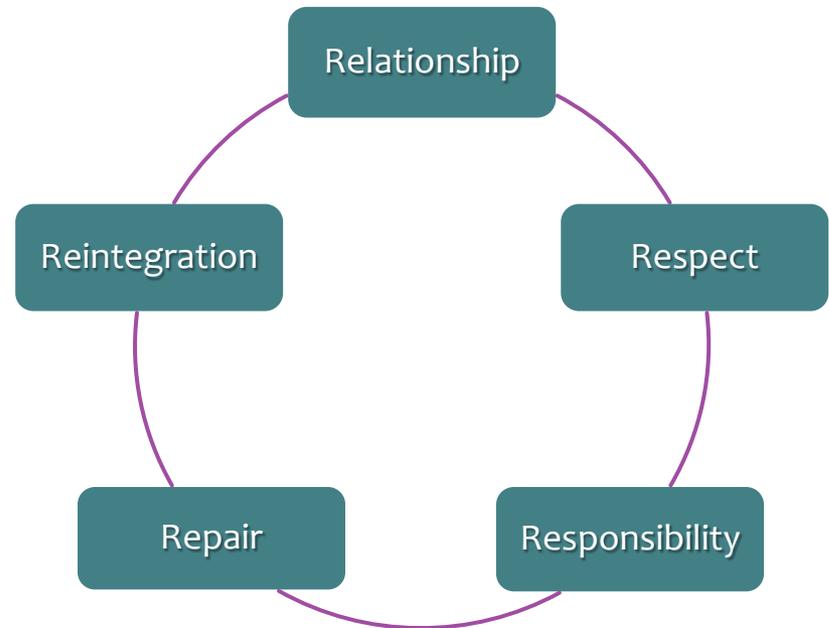
-
- **Accountability**
 - **Victim Satisfaction**
 - **Community Safety**

Restorative Justice Goals

≈ **DISTRICT ATTORNEY GOALS**

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- *Who was harmed?*
- *What needs to be done to repair the harm?*
- *Who is responsible for this repair?*



A **restorative justice process** brings together the people involved in the incident – the offender(s), victim(s), support people, and other community members, to decide what needs to happen to make things as right as possible after a crime has been committed.

RJ IS...



RJ ISN'T...



WHY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE *IN-HOUSE* ?

- **High quality RJ** with fidelity
 - Trauma-informed, victim-centered, culturally-sensitive
- **Greater equity** in service provision
- **Increased accessibility** to RJ:
 - Higher- and different-needs participants
 - Substance-related offenses
 - Complex cases
- **Victim-centered** RJ services
- Fewer contacts for participants
- **In-community** RJ services
- Recruit & utilize highly-skilled RJ practitioners state-wide
- Better **data collection**
- Ongoing program monitoring & improvement

DARJ HIGHLIGHTS

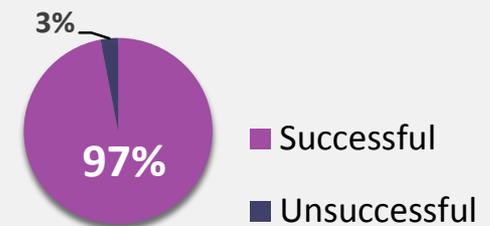
- Launched summer 2017
- **DARJ Outcomes:**
 - 97% projected completion
 - 100% victim satisfaction
 - 98% of participants would recommend RJ to others
 - 100% restitution collection for RJ agreements
- Specialized RJ model for **substance use violations**
- **Community involvement** in process of justice
- Trained, skilled, & **active volunteer base**
- **Staff expertise** in RJ program development, facilitation, training, & victim services
- **Collaboration** with community-based RJ providers

DARJ Growth



DARJ Completion

(projected FY15-FY17)





WHY DIVERSION + RJ?



CORE COMPONENTS OF DIVERSION



Assessment

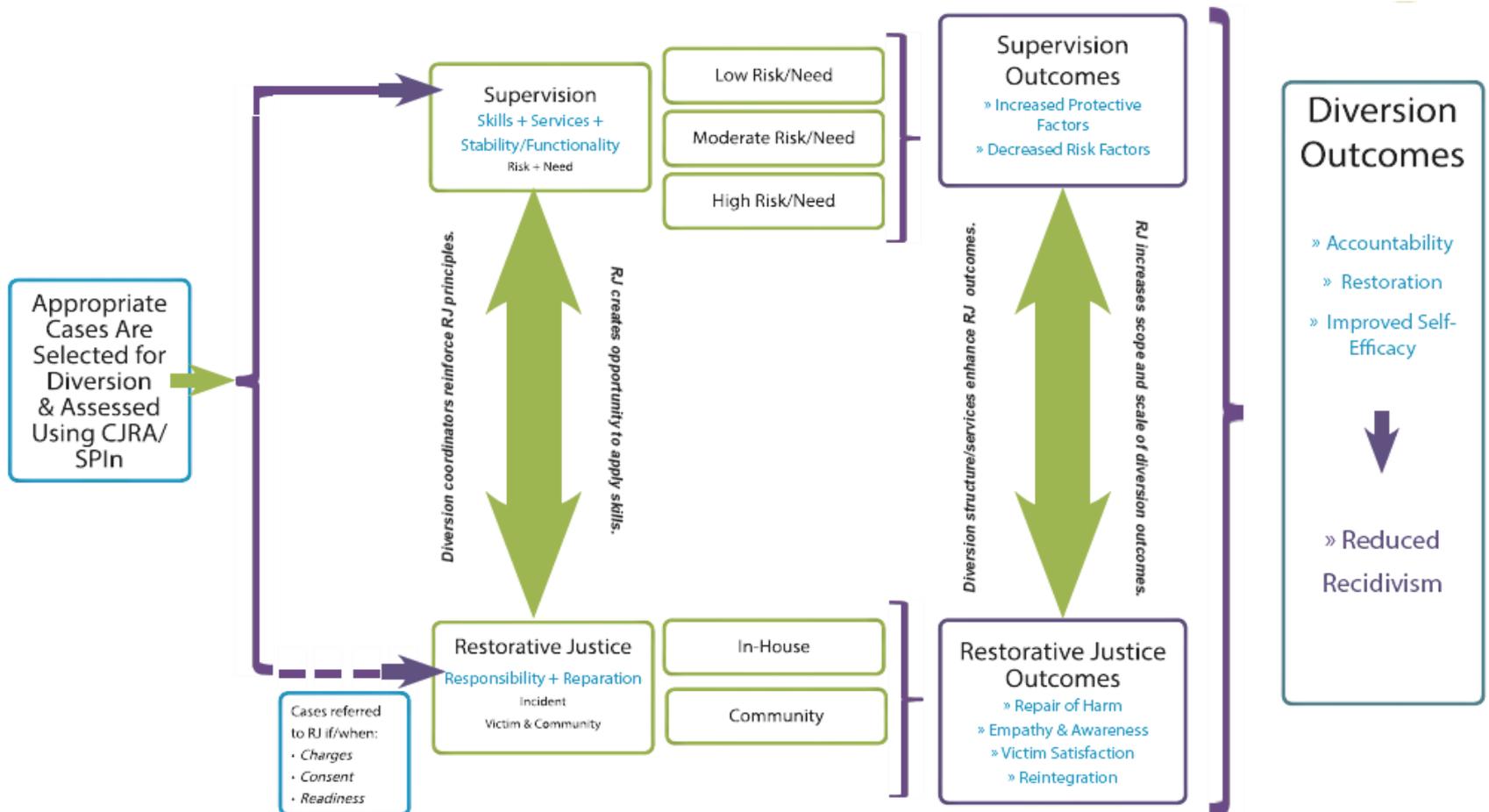


Match services to need



Accountability &
repair of harm

CPRJ DIVERSION PROGRAM MODEL

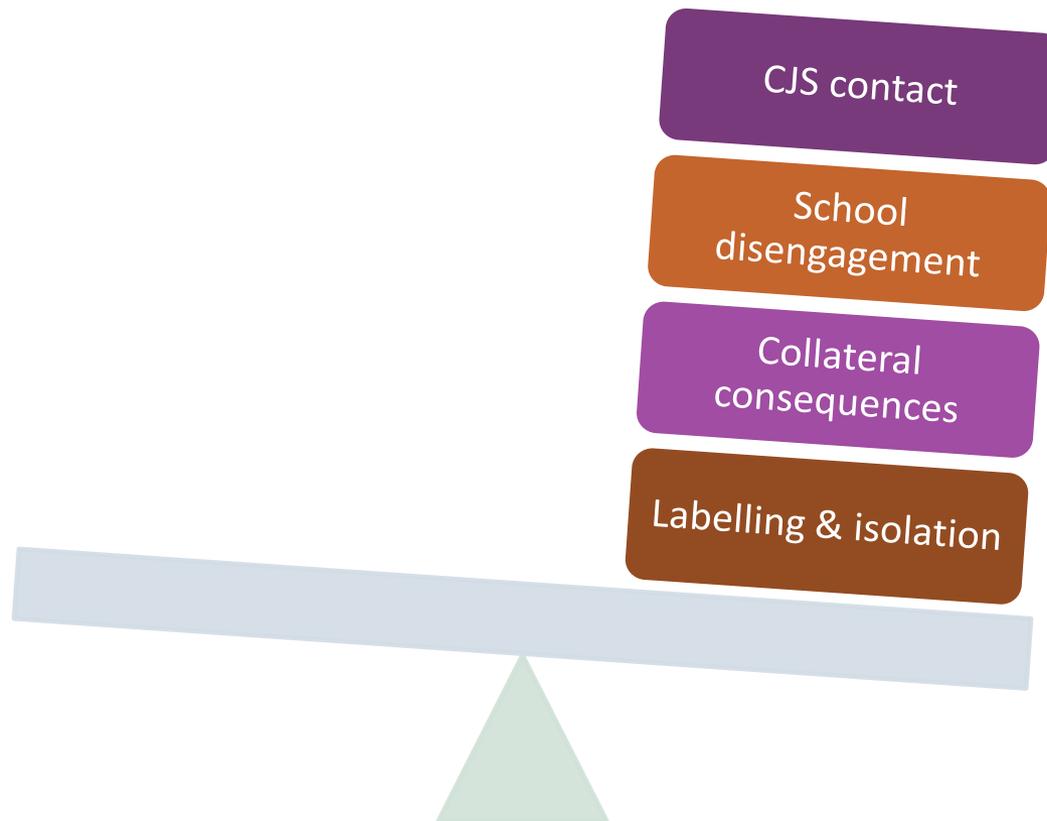


BENEFITS

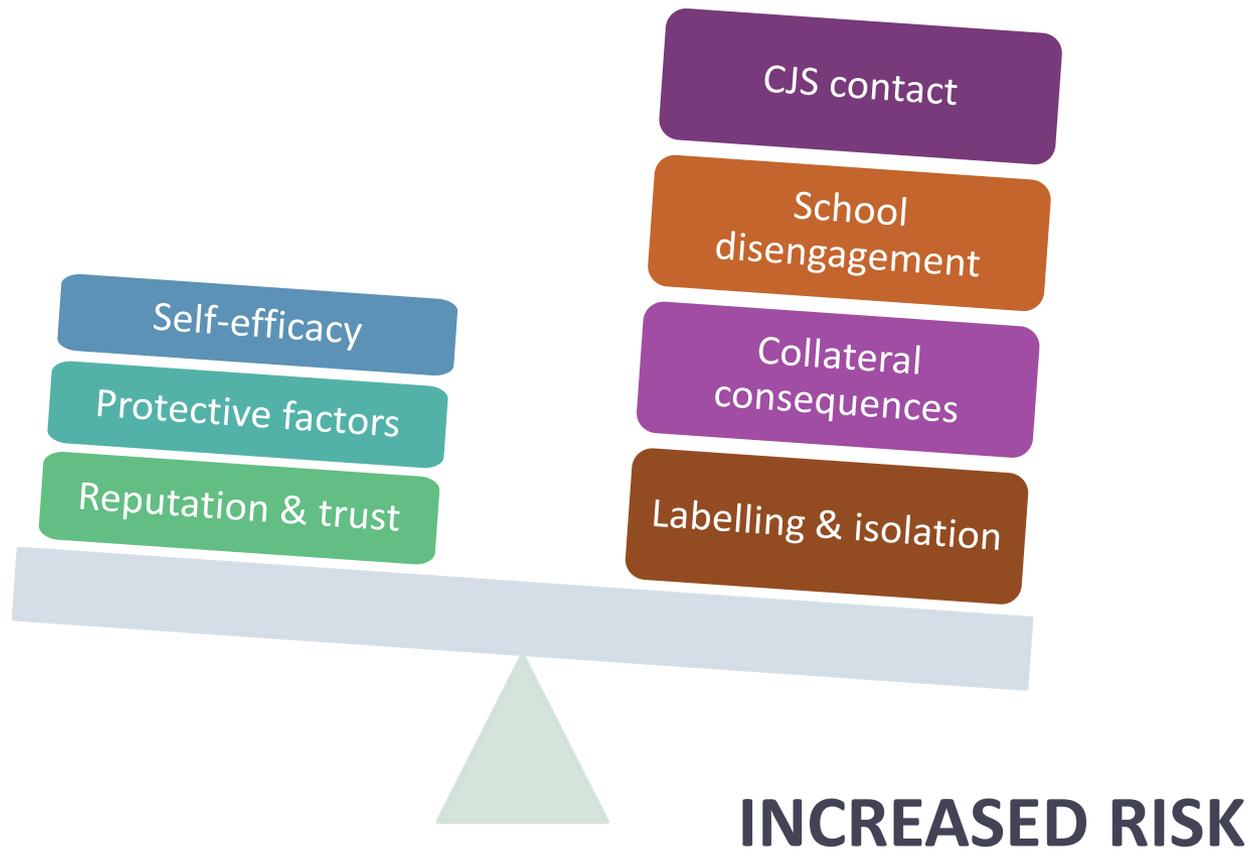
- RJ can focus on specific incident
- Victim-centered
- Clarity of roles
- Consistent contacts for parties
- High-quality, tailored RJ services
- RJ prep & agreement monitoring
- Easier data collection
- Greater efficiency



HOW DOES DIVERSION RELATE TO SAFETY?



HOW DOES DIVERSION RELATE TO SAFETY?



HOW DOES DIVERSION RELATE TO SAFETY?



RESEARCH SHOWS...

Decreased recidivism

High levels of victim satisfaction

Increased accountability and empathy in offenders

Increased sense of procedural fairness (both victims and offenders)

Higher levels of restitution collection

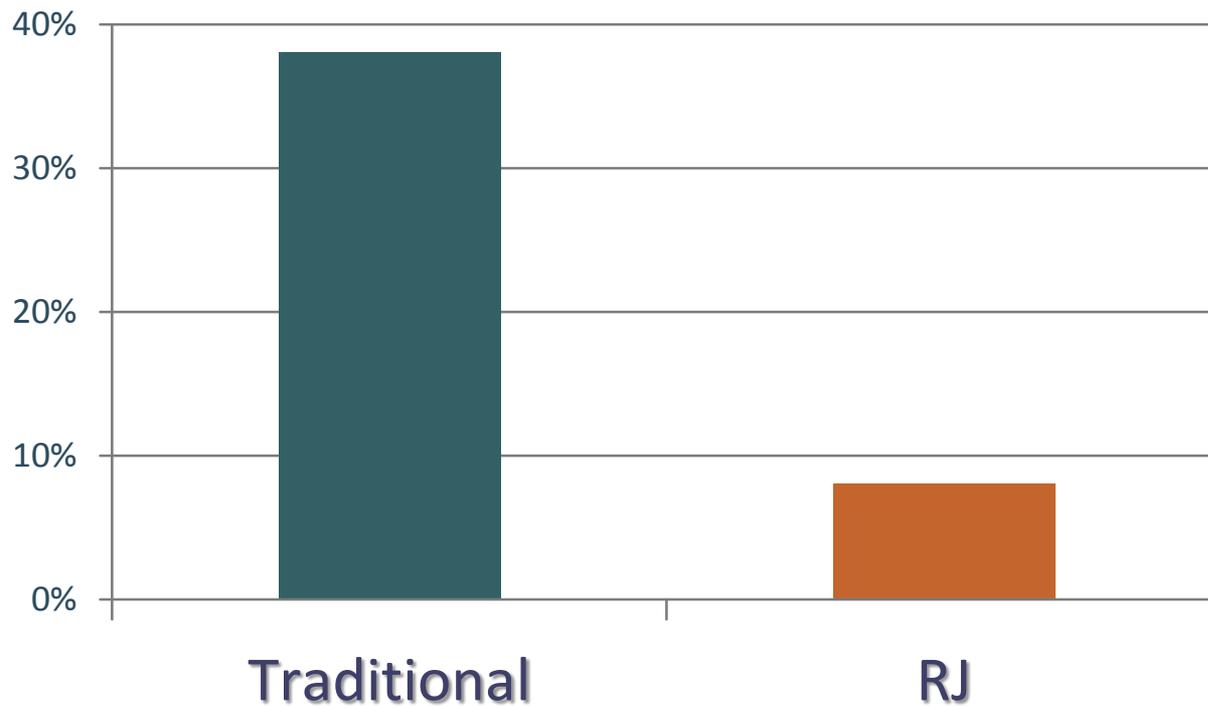
Cost-effective



- **Reduced recidivism**
- **Community involvement in justice process**
- **Reintegration**

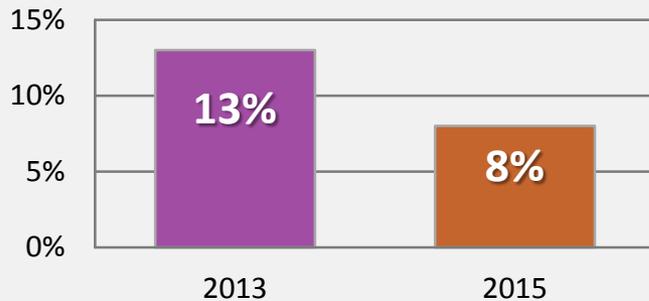
COMMUNITY SAFETY

RECIDIVISM



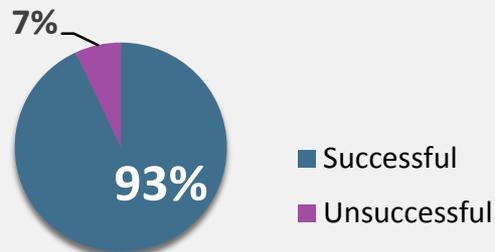
20TH JD DIVERSION & RJ PROGRAM SUCCESSES

Juvenile Diversion Recidivism



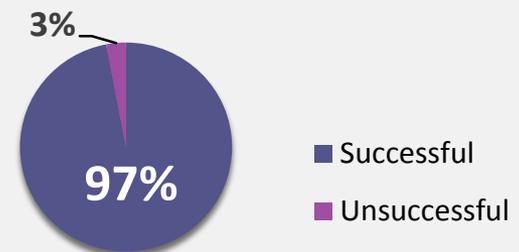
38% reduction in recidivism
concurrent with implementation
of new diversion model

Diversion Completion (FY16-FY17)



RJ Completion

(projected FY15-FY17)



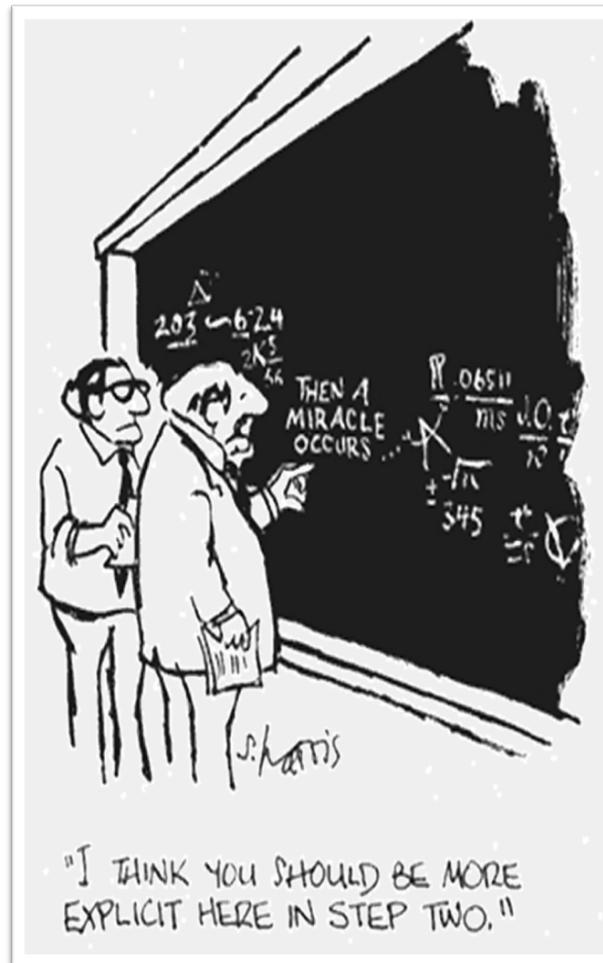
PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

- 100% victim satisfaction with DA's Restorative Justice
- 99% community member satisfaction
- 95% diversion participant satisfaction
- 100% say RJ is a good way to handle certain offenses in their community



CHALLENGES

IMPLEMENTATION



DISCRETION

Discretion exists at all decision-making points:

- Whether to suspend or expel
- Whether to involve law enforcement
- Whether to charge
- Whether to arrest or summons
- Whether the DA files charges (and which charges)
- Whether to divert
- Plea bargaining
- Sentencing

WHAT CAN WE DO?



- **Collaborate** and communicate with schools and community organizations
- **Monitor** our program for quality, equity, and fidelity to RJ
- Institute **procedures and processes** to support quality, equity, fidelity
- Take a **county-wide approach** to increase access and equity to interventions like diversion and RJ
- **“Do the right thing”**

SCHOOL + DA PARTNERSHIP

Diversion

- Communication with school personnel
- Monitor attendance & grades
- Support problem-solving, decision-making, goal-setting
- Improve school engagement, pro-socials, & extracurriculars
- Connection with mentoring and other supports as indicated

Restorative Justice

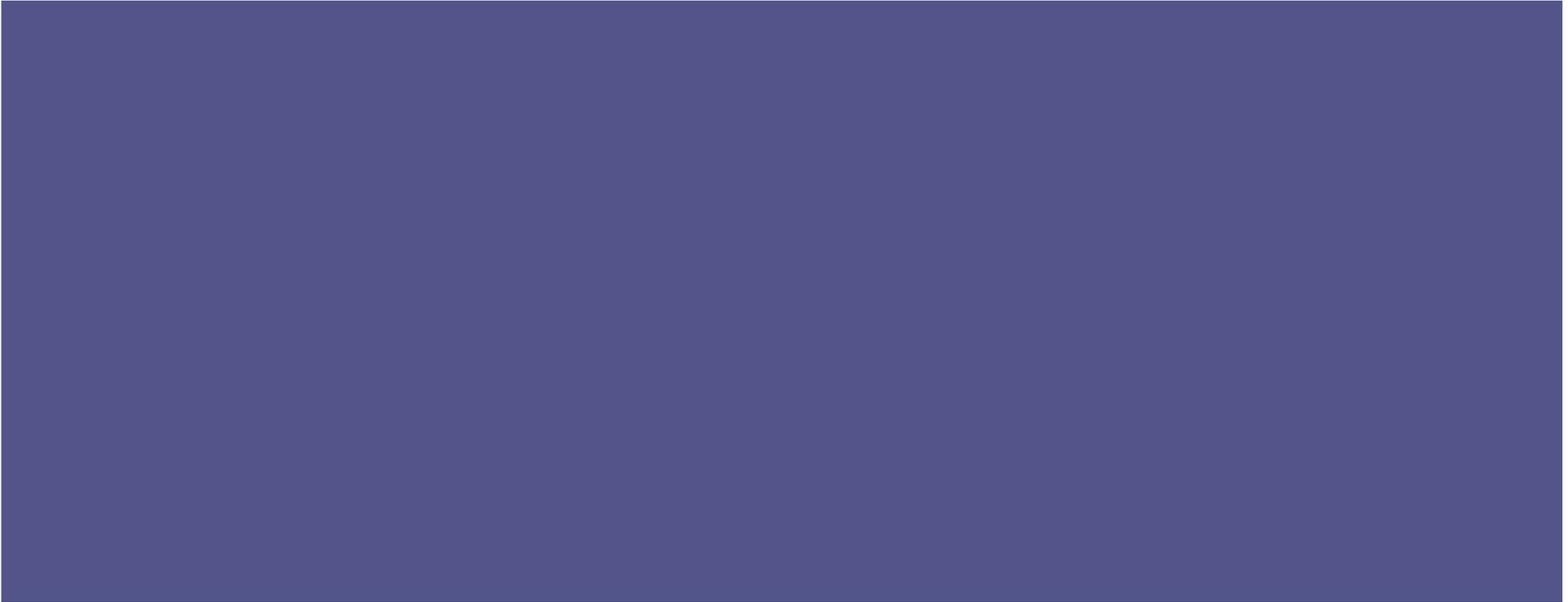
- Participation in RJ process – SROs, teachers, Principals and APs, coaches, counselors, and others
- Impact statements
- Input for steps young person can take to repair harm from incident
- Reintegration into school community
- Reputation repair (self & school)

SCHOOL + DA PARTNERSHIP

- **71%** of DARJ conferences for school-based incidents involved school admin, SROs, teachers, or other representatives



CASE EXAMPLES...



COMMENTS

“I love the idea of having people see beyond themselves and the effects of their actions on others... I want to be a part of more [RJ processes] for my students”

-Assistant Principal, 7/2017

COMMENTS

“I saw another side of the young person”

-School Representative, 5/2017

COMMENTS

The best thing about the RJ process was... *“the fact that the school had the chance to express their grievances and concerns”*

-Community Member, 9/2016

COMMENTS

“I was given peace of mind on school security”

-Community Member, 10/2016

COMMENTS

The best thing about the RJ process was... *“[the student] being able to hear positive feedback about himself”*

-School Resource Officer, 11/2016

CPRJ Participant Satisfaction

Thanks for your sensitivity, thoughtfulness, & patience.

I'm very grateful this option is available. I think [the offender] learned a lot.

-Victim of Trespass

I grew a lot from this process. I learned how to take care of myself. I got back into writing – forgot how much I loved it. I repaired my relationship with my whole family. I'm happy!

-Juvenile charged with MIP

It gave [my son] the opportunity to show the remorse he is feeling for his actions. ***This was a life-altering experience for him and our family.*** I think it will help guide him with his choices in life.

-Parent of juvenile in sexting case

A very positive experience. I think ***this model of justice is hopeful and helpful to all involved.***

-Victim of Disorderly Conduct

I felt like I, as a member of the community, had a say in the justice system. Great system!

-Community Member

My daughter saw the impact to the victims.

-Parent of juvenile in Identity Theft case

I have come away from this experience with a new will to turn things around for myself, to make a legitimate change in my life, to do something good for others and promote the good people can do.

-Juvenile charged with MV Trespass

[RJ was] an opportunity to heal and put the events behind us.

-Victim in Criminal Mischief case



Q & A

Erin Siffing

Assistant Director | Deputy DA

Center for Prevention and Restorative Justice

20th Judicial District Attorney's Office

Boulder, Colorado

303.441.4785

esiffing@bouldercounty.org