



## NATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER™

### RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCES

- A Restorative Community Conference (RCC) is a meeting between the person that has been harmed, the youth that caused the harm, and the interested people within the community.
- The goal of the meeting is to create a plan to repair the harm caused by the youth responsible.
- Everyone in the meeting participates in creating an Action Plan which the youth completes with the support of the community members.

**EARLY RESULTS:** An analysis of 46 cases that have been closed for at least 6 months showed positive results within the RCC Program. There have been 6 new arrests within the cohort of cases that had an RCC, a 13% recidivism rate, compared to a 33% recidivism rate under the traditional system.

**PARTNERS:** San Diego Probation Department, San Diego Public Defender, San Diego District Attorney, Mid-City CAN, San Diego Youth Services, San Diego Police Department, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District Police Department.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The responsible youth must be under 17.5 years old, there must be an identifiable victim, and the address of the responsible youth, victim, and/or crime must be in the following:

- City Heights (92102, 92104, 92105, 92115)
- Southeast San Diego (92102, 92113, 92114, 92139)
- Barrio Logan (92113)
- Lemon Grove (91945)
- Spring Valley (91977, 91978)

**FACTS:** City Heights is a community in San Diego with an overall crime rate that is 28% *higher* than the national average, while the overall crime rate in San Diego County is 13% *lower* than the national average (*FBI Crime Reports*). It's also where three out of four parents are worried about gangs in their neighborhood and at school, and where nearly half of residents say they feel unsafe in their community.

*"When you get a chance to say I did this, this is what I am going to do to fix it. It's a lot better than let's lock you up and you're a criminal and you're in here with all these criminals, everybody here is a criminal. It makes him a better person to accept responsibility for himself. Whereas in the criminal justice system, you did it, here's your punishment, you did your punishment and you're out there but you're still the same person, the same person who is going to do it over and over again if something doesn't change, and this program was that change for him." - Parent of an RCC Youth*

**WHY RCCs MATTER:** RCC's provide an outlet for the responsible youth to accept responsibility and explain the circumstances that led to their actions. Undergoing the RCC program allows for the youth to reflect on their actions and engage with the community to ensure that the youth will not become a repeat offender. Upon completion of the RCC and Action Plan, the youth's charges are dismissed and they have further access to community resources that they may not have had prior to the conference.



The person harmed and the community also benefit from the RCC program because they are given a voice that the traditional system does not always provide. Not only can the person harmed have the satisfaction of explaining the impact of the crime to the youth responsible, they also have an opportunity to have questions answered, gain a better understanding of why the crime was committed, and provide input on how the youth can make things as right as possible. The community builds from the RCC program through supporting the youth, repairing harm, and creating cohesion through a traditionally fracturing system.

## **WHAT RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCES DO FOR THE COMMUNITY:**

- Reduce juvenile crime rates by giving juvenile offenders a second chance.
- Create a sense of community through support and awareness.
- Educate the community on restorative practices that they will carry with them for a lifetime.



**JOIN US:** Contact Francisco Carbajal, Program Manager, at (619) 398-0494. [fcarbajal@ncrconline.com](mailto:fcarbajal@ncrconline.com). Learn more about the Restorative Community Conferencing Program at [www.ncrconline.com](http://www.ncrconline.com).