

Community Restorative Court Update

7/24/2020

COVID-19 Response/Actions

See PowerPoint Slide. Staff continue to work from home. Caseload numbers were the highest in program history last month. These levels are beginning to decrease slightly as case flow is moving again due to virtual circles. A county-wide hiring freeze has created a hold on the transition of Teresa Tellez-Giron to the Program Leader position (budgeted to begin 4/1/20). She remains in her current YJ position until her replacement is hired.

Virtual Intakes and Circles

CRC staff are currently utilizing virtual platforms to conduct meetings with respondents, including intake appointments and Restorative Justice Circles. The Repair Harm-Confidentiality Agreements are shared, signed and returned using available technology. There was an initial pause on virtual circles to determine procedure. This caused a temporary backlog of cases resulting in high caseload numbers for all CRC staff. Virtual circles were implemented in mid-May and cases began moving through the Restorative Justice process again. A highlight has been our amazing community- a considerable amount of Peacemakers answered the call to adapt their role and join us in Zoom circles. Feedback has been very positive.

New Space- 818 W Badger Road, Madison WI 53713

CRC staff moved into our new office space on March 12. Next to our former space at Centro Hispano, the CRC program is now co-located with the Dane County Immigration Affairs office and the JFF Badger Road office. There are also a few offices allocated to community partners (MMSD, UW Law School RJ Program). Formerly leased by DOC-Probation & Parole, the building has a reception area, large conference room and ample parking. We look forward to the day we can return to work in this new space.

Open Lattice

This agency created the software/new app CRC staff use for texting with respondents, Peacemakers, victims, etc. The transition from Code for America's Client Comm to Open Lattice's Heracles program was completed on July 22. So far, so good! Open Lattice will next work with CRC to develop a database for case management and program records.