

Transformative Justice

= LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY =

Transformative Justice from the practices at the Youth Justice Coalition draws on ancient traditions and indigenous cultures from around the world to promote love, care, healing, and transformation. Community circles are used to build community and address disputes. All members of a community collectively create solutions that are best for both the individual and the group. Transformative Justice is used to heal community conflicts, divert people from getting suspended or expelled from schools as well as prevent people from getting incarcerated. TJ engages people, including but not limited to students, staff, family, community members and law enforcement in circles aimed at building relations, restoring relationship, building trust and solving problems, including failure to follow directives, truancy, fights, bullying, theft, intoxication, vandalism, weapons, youth-youth relations, youth-adult relations and adult-adult relations without resorting to isolation, suspension, expulsion, ticketing and/or arrest. In addition, youth and adult learn skills that they can use to improve relationships and solve conflicts outside of school while transforming the community and society so that we are finding creative and healthy solutions and decreasing the reliance of police and incarceration. Transformative justice leverages the profound and historically rooted knowledge, skills, and love of communities to imagine and create a better future for all of us.

FOR THE YJC: TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE (TJ) HAS SOME OF THE SAME GOALS AS RJ, BUT FOCUSES ON ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES, AS WELL AS COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

Criminal and Juvenile Court:

1. What law was broken?
2. Who broke it?
3. What punishment is warranted?
4. Competition between lawyers - assumes two opposing sides.
5. Assumes guilty and innocent parties - victim and perpetrator.
6. Not responsible for determining or addressing root causes of conflict.

Transformative Justice:

1. Who was harmed?
2. What are the needs and responsibilities of those involved?
3. How do all affected parties together address needs and repair harm?
4. Is non-adversarial. Seeks an outcome all parties can agree to.
5. What are the root causes of the conflict?
6. What community and/or societal change is needed to change relationships, conditions and power?

