Adopted by RYCNC on 11-20-2020

Underlying Assumptions - *Restorative Justice Objectives*

Restorative Justice is both a philosophy and a practice. Restorative Justice has three central assumptions (Zehr, 2015):

- When people and relationships are harmed, needs are created.
- The needs created by harms lead to obligations.
- The obligation is to heal and "put right" the harms; this is a just response.

The following are guidelines for practitioners and programs to "hold dear" as they work with individuals in any aspect of Restorative Justice.

- Restore community peace and repair damaged relationships
- Recognize harmful behavior as unacceptable, even behavior of others that has led to a restorative process, and reaffirm community values
- Support those most affected by harmful behavior, give them a voice, enable their participation and address their needs, including those who caused the harm
- Encouraging all concerned parties to take responsibility, particularly by the one who caused harm
- Identify restorative, forward-looking outcomes
- Prevent recidivism by encouraging change in the one who caused harm and facilitating their reintegration into the community

Common Attributes of Restorative Justice Programs

Those most affected by an offense are provided with an opportunity but not an obligation to:

- Be directly involved in resolving the situation and addressing the consequences of the harm done
- Receive answers to their questions about the harm done and the one who caused harm
- Express themselves about the impact of the harm done
- Receive restitution or reparation
- Receive an apology if offered by the one who caused harm

- Restore, when appropriate, a relationship with the one who caused harm
- Reach closure when appropriate

Those who caused harm are provided with an opportunity but not an obligation to:

- Acknowledge responsibility for the harm done and understand the effects of the harm on those most affected
- Express emotions (even remorse) about the harm done
- Receive support to repair harm caused to those most affected or oneself and family
- Make amends or restitution/reparation
- Apologize to those most affected
- Restore their relationship with those most affected, when appropriate
- Reach closure