



## Restorative Practices in Schools and Communities Trainings 2020

### Bemidji June 15-19

Registration is now open for the Minnesota Department of Education School Safety Technical Assistance Center Restorative Practices in Schools and Communities Trainings this June. Restorative practices is an approach schools can use to improve school climate.

Restorative practices are drawn from the traditions of indigenous people and communities of color around the world. They are grounded in a common knowledge that people are profoundly relational, interconnected, and inherently good. Restorative practices include ways of creating community that honor the importance of relationships among all members in the community. And, when harm has been caused, restorative practices also provide ways to repair relationships and to address the needs of all people impacted by the harm.

The trainings are open to everyone—community members, parents and family members, school administrators, school board members, teachers, educational aides, school resource officers, school facilities staff members, student support staff members, out of school time staff, youth workers, school volunteers, family members and community partners. Schools and youth serving organizations are encouraged to send a team to the trainings. Individuals are also welcome.

The goals of the training sessions are to help:

- Expose people to restorative practices.
- Proactively define or re-define equity through restorative practices.
- Strengthen the restorative impulse in participants as they develop a restorative mindset.
- Strengthen the networks of support for restorative practices in schools and community.

### Register

[Register for the Bemidji trainings.](#) June 15-19, the Center is partnering with Peacemaker Resources. Sessions will be held at **Bemidji High School**, 2900 Division Street W, Bemidji, MN 56601.

### Trainings

Descriptions of the trainings follow.

## Beginning the Journey: first step sessions

### **Circle 1: Community Building**—June 16-19

Circle is a communication process for building and maintaining relationships, based in many indigenous values. In this four day introductory session, participants will explore relationship, building rapport and seeing the whole human in self and others. They will discuss who they are as people, their own values in relationship with others, and look again at how they can honor others whom they touch in their lives. Participants will practice keeping community building circles with each other. \$340 plus registration and book fees.

### **Circle with Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indian Educators**—June 16-17

This circle is specifically with Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indian educators, facilitated by people of color and American Indian keepers. The session will provide opportunity for American Indian educators to identify their unique cultural practices within the circle process. By sharing stories and experiences, participants will discuss ways to advocate for repair of harm over punishment in schools. They may also identify opportunities for collaboration with educators of color and white educators to use Circle in a manner that is grounded in the culture of the school's indigenous communities. \$340 plus registration and book fees.

### **Restorative Language and Chats**—June 16-18

In this introductory session, participants will explore their own mindset for working with adults and students. They will reflect on how they listen and how they share who they are as people with their students, including using 'I' statements to express feelings. They will discuss what restorative language is and isn't, including identifying deficit thinking and harmful language. Participants will practice restorative chats, which are quick, in-the-moment guided conversations to help resolve problems early. They will share ideas on how to teach the restorative questions to students. \$255 plus registration and book fees.

### **First Steps: Exploring the Restorative Impulse**—June 15

This one-day session is an exploration of who you are and how your personal restorative impulses show up in the world. An overview of restorative philosophy, including what restorative practices are and what they are not, will help to deepen the exploration of personal practices. Participants of the trainings are encouraged to attend, along with administrators, family members and school board representatives. \$85 plus registration and book fees.

## Deepening the Practice: Circles

### **Circle 2: Deeper Understanding of Circle**—June 16-19

This session is for people with experience with the circle process and who want to invest in building their self-awareness as a circle keeper. In addition to self-exportation, the participants will explore how safety can look or feel within the process, group awareness, the dynamics of verbal and non-verbal communication and how power manifests itself within the circle process. Participant will share their knowledge, building circle resources and ideas with each other and together discover multiple ways of introducing and doing the rituals of circle. \$340 plus registration and book fees.

### **Circle 3: Equity**—June 16-18, Bemidji

Equity is more than addressing current disparities. It is also about addressing past harms. This is need is being

highlighted in our state with the marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lynching that occurred in Duluth June 15, 1920. In Circle, participants who practice circle will build their capacity towards building more equitable schools, including acknowledging past historical harms. They will explore their own comfort and personal understanding of their power and privilege regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs and intersectionality. Participants will explore how to talk about race in circle with peers, community members and students. \$340 plus registration and book fee in Crystal; \$255 plus registration and book fee, Bemidji.

## Repairing Harm Sessions

### ***Circle to Repair Harm***—June 16-18

The circle process supports the community's work to be in right relationship with each other and can be used to repair harm, especially when the harm may require several sessions or on-going support. Participants will learn pre-meeting, the circle to repair harm outline and the celebration/follow-up circle processes. Basic circle training and experience in keeping circle is required. \$255 plus registration and book fees.

### ***Restorative Practices and Special Education***—June 16-18

This session will explore accommodations that can be used in the repair of harm process for students with disabilities. Visual aids and language adaptations, along with guidance for specific disabilities will be offered. Participant will practice holding repair of harm process, as well as how to accommodate young people with special needs in circle. Circle or conferencing to repair harm knowledge is helpful. \$255 plus registration and book fees.

### ***Repairing Harm Practicum***—June 19

This session is open to anyone who seeks practice and feedback on facilitating or keeping repair of harm processes—circle, conferencing or restorative conversations or chats. It is one thing to practice facilitation with 19 other colleagues in a training room; it is another to try and facilitate with strangers playing the part of a colleague or a student in the lunch room of a school. Join other participants as you work in groups of 10 with a trainer, to practice, debrief and reflect upon the process of facilitating repair of harm. \$85 plus registration fee.

## Registration and Reasonable Accommodations

If you have questions about:

Which training is right for you, please contact Nancy Riestenberg, 651-582-8433.

About the Bemidji registration process, please contact Barb Houg or Jennifer Dunham, 218-444-8048.

Contact Nancy Riestenberg, 651-582-8433, to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event.

Note: We require a two-week advance notice in order to provide the requested accommodation and ask for a 48-hour notice to cancel the request.