

## **Restorative Justice in Yellow Medicine County**

### **2001 Circle Sentencing**

Circle Sentencing is a partnership between the traditional justice system, communities, and families. Circle Sentencing in YMC is designed to support youthful offenders to repair the harm caused by their crime, give a voice to the victims involved, and change the behavior of the youth and family in order to decrease the likelihood of recidivism.

\*2007 Local Government Innovation Award – Association of MN Counties

\*2014 President’s Award – Minnesota Corrections Association

### **2003 Parallel Protection Process**

Parallel Protection Process (3P) is used to reach a settlement agreement on a Child in Need of Protection petition by bringing the family’s voice forward as the expert along with their systemic and legal supports. Safety plans are also designed so that lengthy Court trials are not necessary and the family and all involved walk away with an investment in the plan.

### **2009 Family & Community Circle**

Family & Community Circle is a partnership with family services and other system stakeholders to provide community support to families struggling with harm, danger, neglect, and isolation. This Circle brings families together to learn new ways of communicating, problem-solving, and creating safety.

### **2010 Circle of Hope**

Circle of HOPE is a support Circle for those struggling with addiction in partnership with multiple agencies. Referrals to Circle of Hope happen at the time of entrance in to treatment facilities – community volunteers travel to facilities to provide Circles of support and create new sober networks. Upon return to the community, people in recovery have a safe network to utilize when faced with old habits, environments, and friends.

\*2012 Circle of Excellence Award – Department of Health and Human Services

### **2013 Transition Circle**

Transition Circle is designed to build support around youth in placement (relative care, residential, foster care, or delinquency placements) to create communication with family, design safety plans to return home, and keep them connected to their community.

## **2014 Restorative Attendance Review Boards**

Restorative Attendance Review Boards (RARB) take place when a school refers a child for truant behavior. A review board is then convened with system stakeholders and family supports to discuss the potential future problems related to truancy and create a plan with next best steps to support the child and family in getting to school.

## **2015 Circle in Schools**

Circles are used in many different forms at Yellow Medicine East. Circles provide a safe space for youth struggling or at risk. Circles are also used to increase communication around behavioral incidents and suspensions.

## **2015 Restoration Circles**

Restoration Circles are used within Yellow Medicine County to provide a forum for county employees to discuss what is going well in their work as well as what is needed to do better or move through difficulty. This Circle provides a space for discussion that alleviates the secondary trauma to individuals who work with difficult cases within the system while increasing understanding and collaboration between departments.

## **2018 SHIFT Circle**

Shift Circle provides a community and strength based process to enhance the ability of persons currently incarcerated to safely return to their community and maintain a healthy lifestyle upon their return. Acting through the Circle, community members will play an equal role in encouraging and empowering persons in transition to identify and enhance their strengths while finding solutions.

## **2018 Healing Circle**

Healing Circle is designed to support those who have been a victim of domestic violence. This Circle aims to support individuals through the healing process in partnership with the county's victim services coordinator and other advocacy groups in our area.

## **2019 Mother's/Women's Circle**

This Circle is being created to support women, specifically mothers, who are struggling in the community. This Circle is designed for support, access to resources, learning new skills, and discussing the joys and frustrations of parenting.