

PROJECTS

Community Justice Initiative

In 2010, the JJDPC partnered with the County of Marin Probation Department to develop the Community Justice Initiative in San Rafael. The purpose of the Initiative was to create an alternative approach to juvenile sentencing and school suspension practices by developing Restorative Justice (RJ) processes and programs.

RJ is a relationship-driven approach that offers a supportive environment in which all parties can understand the impact of their behavior and decisions on others.

In an RJ process, all parties affected by a harmful incident or conflict, meet with each other and the community to determine the best way to repair the harm and restore relationships. This allows the author of the act to make direct amends to the recipient of the act and take full personal responsibility.

The Community Justice Initiative was developed to raise awareness throughout Marin County about RJ models, principles and practices. Trainings and pilot programs were developed in some High Schools and communities throughout San Rafael. The most distinctive feature of this effort was that community members leveraged their unique experience and expertise to design a culturally appropriate and inclusive RJ program. It ultimately resulted in the development of the Consejo Program, a community based program in the Canal area of San Rafael that offers restorative justice programs through the Canal Welcome Center. Their work is described more fully in this [article](#).

Youth Court

Over several years, the Commission championed the launch of [Marin's Youth Court](#). Under the Director of the Restorative Services Department of the YMCA, Don Carney, YMCA Marin County Youth Court has become a robust and sustainable program. [Click here](#) for more information.

Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.)

The Commission was involved as a Community Partner in the second phase of the R.E.D. initiative in Marin County.

The Probation Department's exploration of RED accomplished three important goals:

- Created a forum for concerned members of the community to get to know both the people in Marin's juvenile justice system and to better understand how it works and why.
- Raised the profile of the issue of RED, which has been present for a long time but rarely discussed or addressed because neither the forum nor the language for doing so was available.
- Created viable programs that are designed specifically to address the issues that were raised in the RED planning process.

Our process has been to start with a planning phase, then community engagement, and now we are in implementation. The RED meetings went from being monthly to quarterly starting in 2014. Those meetings are primarily designed to check the status of both the "RED dashboard" and progress in the various programs that have been put in place as a result of the RED Collaborative meetings. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Future of Juvenile Hall

The Commission is partnering with the Marin County Probation Department to convene stakeholder groups to discuss the future of Marin's Juvenile Hall.