

Suggestions for Bringing Restorative Justice to Elder Abuse (meeting Lisa and Kay Pranis)

The first step is to get the word out to the elder abuse network/community. We will be able to find RJ partners if we have people in the EA field who are open to trying innovations.

### **Training/outreach coordinator**

Hire a person from the elder abuse/aging network with expertise in elder abuse to:

- Receive training in RJ
- Speak at regional network meetings, conferences
- Network with interested groups to make contacts, introductions, provide support, be available to discuss project

### **Pilot projects**

Seek funding to begin developing a working model, preferably in an urban area. The LA restraining order diversion program might be a good example.

### **Training**

Plan, in consultation with an RJ/EA Advisory Committee, a 24-hour training program to prepare leaders to start EA/RJ projects. In addition to learning about RJ strategies, participation would demonstrate their commitment to the paradigm shift that RJ requires. Suggested agenda would be an intensive on-site session with weekly 4-hour on-line sessions over 6 weeks.

The training would begin by exercises that prepare people for the work, which includes considering their unconscious assumptions about people, how they view human beings, and how they see themselves in relation to those they work with. Later sessions would include technical instruction for getting started and various RJ strategies. Later sessions would provide opportunities for program leaders to reflect on their experiences and get guidance from experts.

### **Webinar(s) on Emerging Program**

Showcase of existing and emerging programs, followed by Q and A with panel of experienced RJ practitioners.

### **National Convenings**

Convene groups that are interested in starting programs or who are in the early stages of programs to discuss implementation strategies. We can start with the 300-400 people who participated in CEJC's webinar series and the Syracuse symposium. Kay would be willing to assist with this and suggested Arlene. A discussion about strategies would include: who needs to be at the table? How do you start the education process? What have people already done?

This could be done by bringing together teams of elder advocates and RJ practitioners. Attendees who have not already developed partnerships with RJ programs would be asked to do so before the event so they can attend together and continue working together after the event.

Either this group or a separate group of opinion leaders and advocates would meet to explore different ways that RJ can be used or applied to aging. This would be a broader view than elder abuse, to include work with caregivers, guardianship, etc.

Contacts (I've told Kay and Molly that you may be contacting them):

- Kay Pranis: Expert on RJ in multiple settings: [kaypranis@gmail.com](mailto:kaypranis@gmail.com)

Molly Davies: ED of WISE & Healthy Aging. She helped design the LA project, which is a partnership of a court, a legal services agency, and a social services agency that offers clients seeking DV or elder abuse restraining orders the option of RJ alternatives. The program does not have funding at this point.

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