

Annual Report on Implementation of

HB 2013-1254

By the Division of Criminal Justice

&

Restorative Justice Coordinating Council



COLORADO

Division of Criminal Justice

Department of Public Safety

October 2015

This report is being submitted to the Colorado General Assembly in response to the mandate from HB 13-1254 for the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to prepare a report that includes a summary of pilot project sites for diverting juveniles from the justice system through restorative justice practices. This work is being guided by the Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council.

THE COLORADO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (RJ) COORDINATING COUNCIL

Restorative Justice Coordinating Council October 2015	
Member	Representation
Christine Harms, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Council	A representative from a Statewide Juvenile Justice Council
Spiro Koinis, Division of Youth Corrections, Victim and Restorative Justice Services Coordinator	A representative from the Division of Youth Corrections
Meg Williams, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice	A representative from the Department of Public Safety
Greg Brown, Chief Probation Officer, 20th Judicial District	A representative from the Judicial Department
Perrie McMillen, Restorative Justice Services, City of Fort Collins (Chair)	Two representatives from a Statewide Organization(s) whose primary purpose is related to the development and implementation of Restorative Justice Programs
Gabrielle Frey, J.D., Executive Director Restorative Justice Community Council of Larimer County	
Robb Miller, Assistant District Attorney 19 th Judicial District	A District Attorney with juvenile justice
Matthew Riede, Victim Services, 1 st Judicial District (Vice-Chair)	A Victim’s Advocate within the Judicial Department with Restorative Justice Experience
Candace Hawkins, Department of Education, Senior Consultant	A representative from the Department of Education
Rebecca Oakes, State Board of Parole	A representative from the state Board of Parole
Monica Chambers, Victims Services Coordinator, Department of Corrections	A representative from the Department of Corrections
Nancy Lewis, Executive Director, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA)	A representative from a non-government statewide organization representing victims
Alice Price, Founder, Center for Restorative Programs	Three Restorative Justice Practitioners
Lynn Lee, Chair of the Pikes Peak Restorative Justice Council	
Peggy Evans, Training Director for the Restorative Mediation Project	
Pat Kelly, Colorado Juvenile Parole Board member	A representative of the Juvenile Parole Board
Elizabeth Porter-Merrill, Public Defender	A representative of the State Public Defender’s Office
Vacant	Representative of Law Enforcement
Martin Gonzales, Judge, 12 th JD	Representative of the Judiciary

On March 29, 2007 upon signature of then Governor Bill Ritter, the Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council (hereinafter referred to as the “RJ Council”) was created within the State Court Administrator’s Office (SCAO) pursuant to HB 07-1129. The statute enumerated several specific items of responsibility for the RJ Council which includes, to the extent resources permit:

- To serve as a central repository for information;
- To support the development of RJ programs;
- To assist with education and training; and
- To provide technical assistance as needed.

In addition to the RJ Council establishment and duties, the statute also encouraged each local juvenile services planning committee to consider restorative justice programs when developing its resources plan and directed the Tony Grampsas youth services board to consider in the grant award process whether a grant program applicant includes restorative justice components.

HB 13-1254, expanded and clarified restorative justice in Colorado as adopted in 2007, 2008, and 2011, with the goal of keeping juveniles out of the juvenile justice system. Significant provisions of the bill included establishing four juvenile RJ Pilot projects, collecting information about the projects and creating a database, changing the procedure for initiating the restorative justice process, clarifying language in the original bill, adding members to the RJ Council, creating a surcharge establishing the RJ Cash Fund which supports the pilots, a position and funds the previously unfunded mandates.

In 2015, HB 15-1094 further expanded the RJ Council membership to include a public defender, judge and law enforcement. It also expanded the population that can be served by the pilots as now the district attorney can elect to waive the first time offender qualification, can now include petty offenses and can include juveniles charged with a municipal offense if the law enforcement agency refers them directly to an RJ pilot program.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PILOTS

HB 13-1254 created pilot projects in the 10th (Pueblo), 12th (Alamosa), 19th (Weld) and 20th (Boulder) judicial districts. Pursuant to the legislation, in these four pilots, prior to filing charges, District Attorneys would identify juvenile first offenders that committed non-traffic misdemeanors or Class 3, 4, 5 and 6 felonies and screen them for participation. If a juvenile successfully completes the program, no charges will be filed. The pilot programs report certain information to the Division of Criminal Justice, with the ultimate goal of obtaining empirical data about the capability of restorative justice practices to reduce costs, lower recidivism rates, and improve the well-being of victims and offenders. Data submitted to the DCJ will include the number and demographics of juveniles who met the program criteria, did/did not participate, reached reparation agreements, completed the agreements, re-arrest rates, and the results of victim and offender satisfaction surveys.

To facilitate the development of the pilots' RJ Programs, the four (4) statutorily-designated District Attorney's Offices were asked to complete an application for funds which provided the SCAO, as the funding agency, and the RJ Council with the detailed information required for proper implementation. This information included:

- A description of the project's target group of juvenile offenders and an estimate of the number of juveniles anticipated to be served.
- Identification of any partner organizations, if applicable, expected to provide direct services to juveniles. For partner agencies, they were to describe any collaborative effort, partnership, or contract support directly related to this project including what services partners will provide and their qualifications for providing those services.
- Inclusion of a Letter of Commitment or MOU from each partner organization, clearly stating their understanding of their role in the District Attorney's juvenile RJ Pilot project.
- A description of the pilot project including; how RJ principles and best practices were being incorporated, eligibility criteria for participants, a description of the implementation plan, training needed, a description of how they will determine if their project is successful, and for existing programs (12th and 20th JDs) a summary of their implementation & measures of success to date.
- A description of each pilot's project protocols, technology and staff capacity to meet specific mandates of HB 13-1254: 1) appropriate screening for eligibility; 2) administration of pre/post participant surveys; 3) collection of data on participant demographics & case outcomes; 4) collection of recidivism data; & 5) timely reporting to the state of all required project information.
- A list of the goals, objectives, outcomes and timeframes for each pilot project.
- A brief description of each pilot's plan for sustainability of juvenile RJ diversion.
- A detailed budget and budget narrative including a line item expenses to be covered by state funds, other sources of funding or in-kind contributions that are available, fees, if any, to be charged to the juvenile, and the anticipated cost per referral (including the formula used for this estimate).

A subcommittee of the RJ Council reviewed each application, requested clarifications on the proposed projects and recommended funding levels to the State Court Administrator. The four pilots received funding to begin operating their projects as of April 1, 2014.

Restorative Justice Pilot Funding Awards			
	April 1, 2014-June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016
10th JD	\$39,290	\$12,375	\$0*
12th JD	\$30,245	\$155,296	\$155,296
19th JD	\$16,500	\$123,000	\$237,904
20th JD	\$81,200	\$227,850	\$205,100

*The 10th JD, due to staffing issues, had not fully expended prior awards. As of 7/1/15, they had \$33,313 remaining and available for continued services in SFY 2016.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESSES

Following passage of HB 13-1254, the SCAO immediately began exploring options for the data collection mandates for the pilot projects. Several options were reviewed. Because the Division of Criminal Justice administers the state's Juvenile Diversion Program pursuant to 19-2-303 C.R.S. and has a data collection and evaluation process in place with the OMNI Institute, a nonprofit social science agency, using Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), a web-based software developed by Social Solutions, this was one of the options reviewed. The decision was made to proceed with OMNI using ETO to assure reduced duplication of data collection efforts as all 4 pilots also receive State Diversion funding from DCJ as of FY '15. The ETO database for the restorative justice pilots is now in place and each Pilot uses the data to complete written quarterly data collection and narrative reports. This report reflects the data collected from this database and the quarterly reports submitted by the four Restorative Justice Pilots.

CRITERIA FOR PILOT PARTICIPATION OF JUVENILES AS ESTABLISHED BY EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT- JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015

10th JD: To be considered for the program the client must be a first time offender at the District Court level. Once the DA's office receives a charge request from local law enforcement it is processed and sent to the juvenile unit where a charging decision is made. If the case is determined to be a good candidate for Diversion it is then sent to the Diversion Supervisor for a more in depth screening process to determine final eligibility. The Diversion Supervisor then determines which of the programs is the most appropriate for each individual and the case is assigned accordingly.

12th JD: All youth- with discretionary exceptions in individual cases for inclusion or exclusion- not otherwise excluded by following criteria: a) prior felony-level adjudication; b) prior diversion enrollment; c) current charge of class 1 or 2 felony; d) any other statutorily excluded charge: unlawful sexual behavior, domestic violence, stalking, protection order violation; e) Schedule I & II CS possession, use, or distribution; f) Burglary; g) Crimes of Violence; h) Hate crimes.

19th JD: Juveniles aged 10-17 at the time of their first offense, where the offense is not drug- or gang-related are eligible for Diversion. Of those, cases where there is a victim willing to participate, or capacity permits Restorative Justice Conferencing, are referred to RJ.

20th JD: Petty offenses; misdemeanors; class 3,4,5,6 felonies as staffed by DA and diversion coordinators. Eligible juveniles include LRHN youth; low or moderate on CJRA; prior municipal history; drug/alcohol use w/treatment in conjunction with RJ. An initial in-person assessment is conducted to evaluate family support and need for resources to be successful in RJ or RJ+. Juvenile must take responsibility and appear motivated to repair harm. Exclusions include DV; VPO; unlawful sexual contact; history of serious gang involvement; cases with 5BI; and juveniles with prior felony adjudication(s).

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE OF RJ PRACTICE USED AND COST ASSOCIATED
WITH EACH PRACTICE- July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015**

10th JD: Initial contact made by phone call or mail. During initial contact the program is described in detail and questions are answered. An intake appointment is set up during this phone call. Contact victims by telephone call and/or letter. When talking with victims describe the program and the Restorative Justice process. At this time it is explained the different ways that victims can participate in the process. During the intake assessment, the Restorative Justice program and process is explained to the client and guardians. This also allows for the best restorative justice process to be arranged (i.e. Community Accountability Board, Circle, etc). During the intake an assessment is performed to help staff understand family dynamics and any obstacles that may exist. This also allows us to know if additional services may be needed. Set up the restorative justice process, contact community members to attend, contact co-facilitator if needed, set up area to hold RJ in a nonbiased location. Manage restitution if owed, assist with community service arrangements and monitor if needed, make any referrals that are needed (i.e. mental health service, substance abuse evaluations, etc), frequent documentation to follow the progress made. \$9,000 of staff salary per RJ budget fiscal year 2015.

12th JD: Victim-Offender Dialogue (for personal and property crime): Intake & Assessment services, followed by facilitated face-to-face dialogue between and eligible youth offender and one or more victims or others impacted by the offense. Contracts made and monitored, to address impact, accountability and specific steps for repair of harm. Average cost: \$750.

Rethinking Substances: Restorative Circles for Underage Possession of alcohol or marijuana: Intake & Assessment services, followed by participation of charged youth and their parents (or other supportive adults) in an in-depth, two session facilitated group circle process, which addresses their specific offense, as well as general education about the physical, emotional, and social impacts of substance use. Contracts made and monitored, in which youth compete concrete actions to address the harm to the community, their families, and themselves from their substance abuse. Average cost: \$750.

Restorative Interventions for Shoplifting: Intake & Assessment services, followed by facilitated face-to-face dialogue with a managerial representative of affected business; may be in a one-on-one or group circle process. Contracts made and monitored, to address impact, accountability and specific steps for repair of harm. Average cost: \$750.

Restorative Discipline Interventions for School-based Youth Conflict/Fighting: Intake & Assessment services, followed by facilitated face-to-face dialogue between involved youth, to address impact of behavior on selves and school community, and their individual or mutual accountability for harm.

Contracts made and monitored, to address harm and repair personal relationships and school community. Average cost: \$750.

19th JD: The costs associated with the RJ Conferencing include: salaries, training and mileage incurred for the Program Coordinators, refreshments for Circle Conferences and for monthly facilitator meetings, and in kind copying and printing costs. For 2015 quarter, the 19th JD RJ

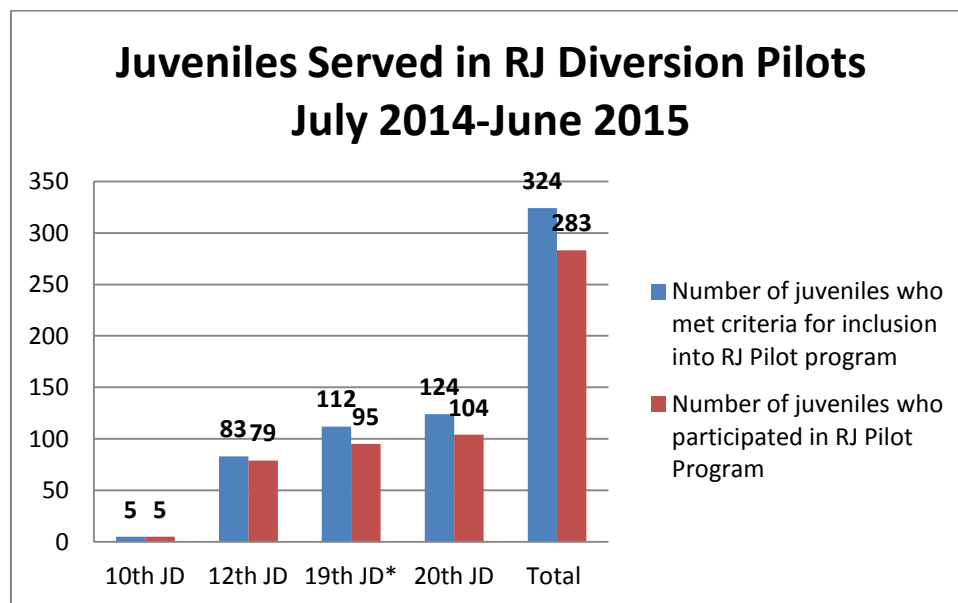
program divided their quarterly award by the number of cases that actually went to conference for a cost per juvenile of \$2827. That number doesn't take into account the work that went into the cases that weren't found to be suitable.

20th JD: RESTORE; \$50 fee per client. DA has been unable to find out actual cost per client. Longmont Community Justice Partnership (Community Group Conferences); \$125. Formula for actual cost: total cost/clients served= \$1000/juvenile. Boulder Sheriffs Dept (Community Group Conferences); No charge. Formula for actual cost: total cost/clients served= \$1260/juvenile. Community Restoration Justice Partnership (Community Group Conferences); no charge to juvenile. DA has not received a response regarding the formula used to determine cost per juvenile. In house facilitation of Family Group Conferencing, connection circles.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF JUVENILES SERVED

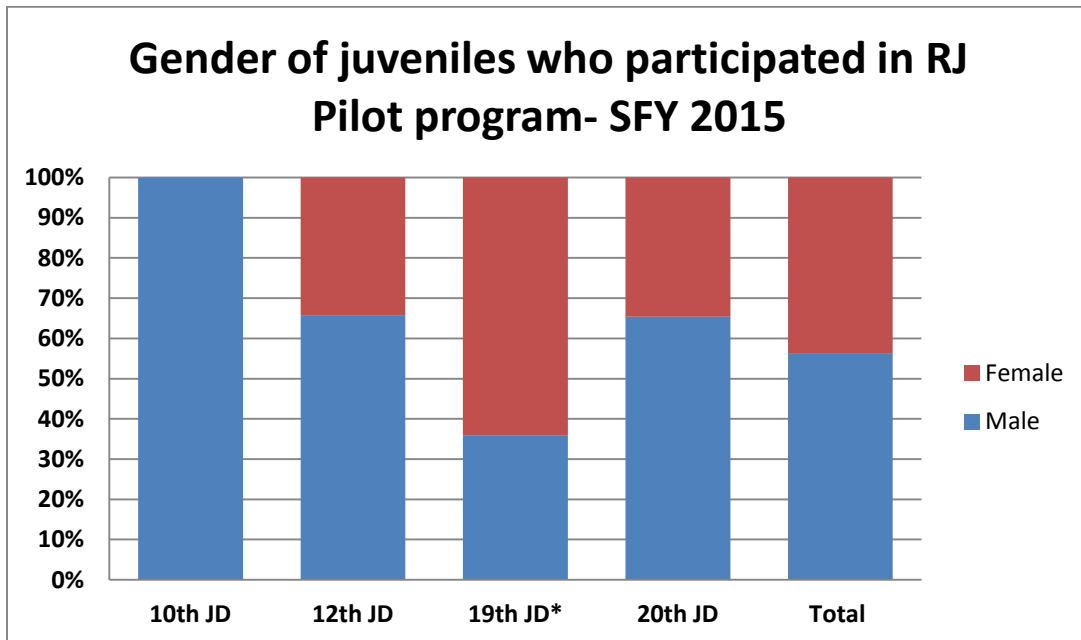
Of the 324 juveniles who met criteria from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 87% (283) were accepted for participation. *19th JD: Eligible juveniles meet criteria for an RJ referral when they first look at the case. However, once they meet with an eligible juvenile, it might be determined that Restorative Justice isn't a good fit for a variety of reasons, therefore the case is not suitable and that juvenile doesn't participate in RJ.

	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD*	20 th JD	Total
Number of juveniles who met criteria for inclusion into RJ Pilot program	5	83	112	124	324
Number of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot Program	5	79	95	104	283



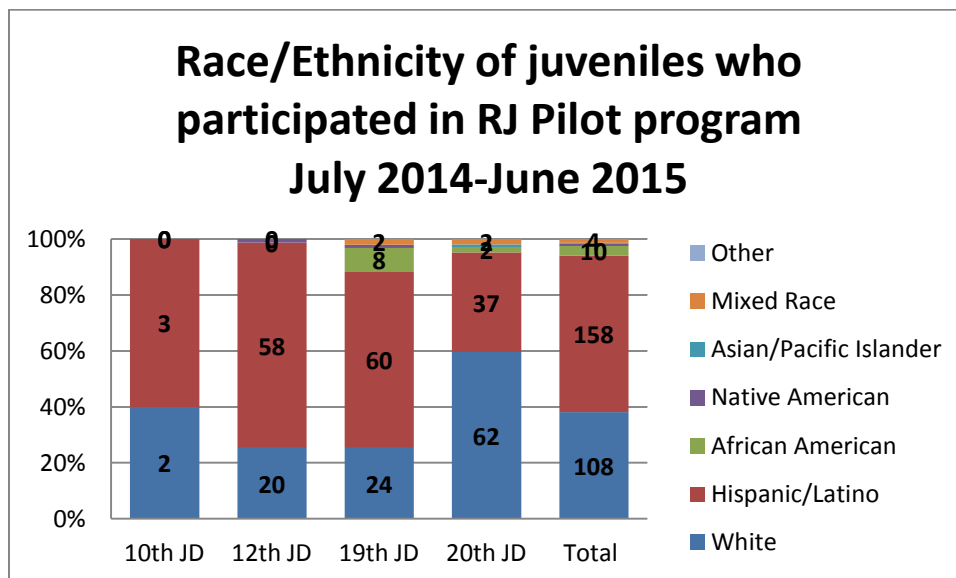
Most of the juveniles served in the RJ Pilot programs are male (56%).

Gender of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015					
	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD*	20 th JD	Total
Male	5	52	34	68	159
Female	0	27	61	36	124
TOTAL JUVENILES	5	79	95	104	283

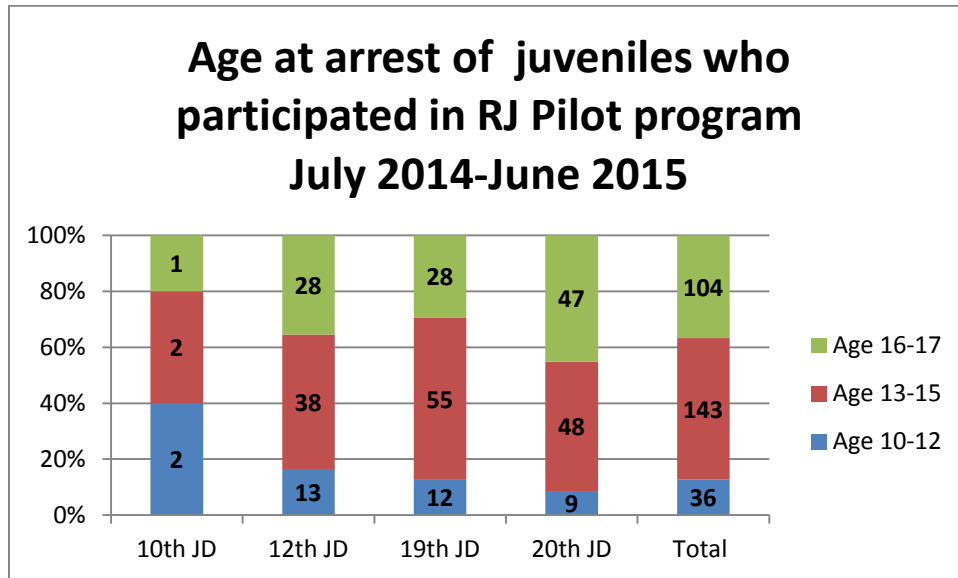


Race/Ethnicity of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015					
	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD	20 th JD	Total
White	2	20	24	62	108
Hispanic/Latino	3	58	60	37	158
African American	0	0	8	2	10
Native American	0	1	1	0	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	1
Mixed Race	0	0	2	2	4
Other	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL JUVENILES	5	79	95	104	283

The RJ Council as well as the pilots are carefully watching the racial and ethnic diversity of participants within the pilots to assure the opportunity for diversion is offered equitably for all youth. In this 2015 State Fiscal year, of the 283 participants served statewide 38% were white, 56% were Hispanic and 3.5% were African American.

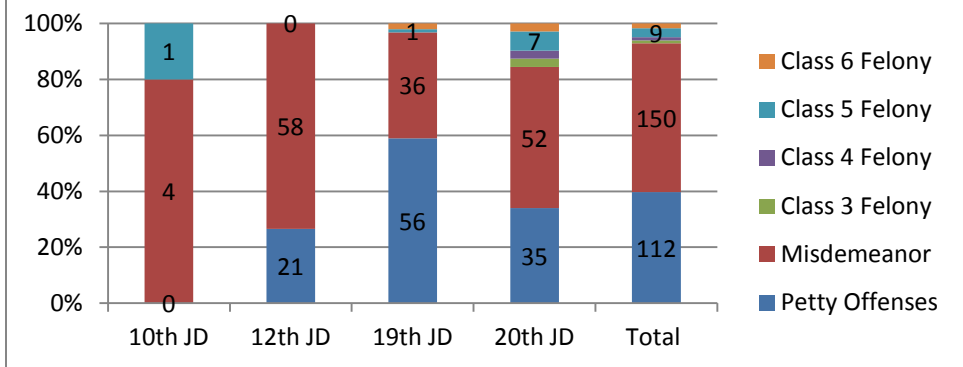


Of the RJ Pilot participants, 12.7% were ages 10-12, 50.5% were ages 13-15, and 36.7% were ages 16 or 17.



Age at arrest of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015					
	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD	20 th JD	Total
Age 10	0	1	0	1	2
Age 11	0	1	3	3	7
Age 12	2	11	9	5	27
Age 13	1	15	17	9	42
Age 14	0	14	20	21	55
Age 15	1	9	18	18	46
Age 16	1	14	10	26	51
Age 17	0	14	18	21	53
TOTAL JUVENILES	5	79	95	104	283

Most serious type and level of charge at arrest of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program



Most of the juveniles had committed misdemeanor offenses at 53.2%, followed by 39.7% committing petty offenses and 7% committing felony offenses.

Most serious type and level of charge at arrest of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015					
	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD	20 th JD	Total
Petty Offenses	0	21	56	35	112
Misdemeanor	4	58	36	52	150
Class 3 Felony	0	0	0	3	3
Class 4 Felony	0	0	0	3	3
Class 5 Felony	1	0	1	7	9
Class 6 Felony	0	0	2	3	5
TOTAL JUVENILES	5	79	95	103	282

RJ ENGAGEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

Of the 283 juveniles served, a total of 223 juveniles successfully completed the RJ program in this fiscal year and 18 were deemed unsuccessful. The completion rate includes the completion of some agreements that were pending from the previous fiscal year.

	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD	20 th JD	Total
Number of juveniles who participated in RJ Pilot program and reached agreement to repair harm	5	52	77	84	218

	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD*	20 th JD	Total
Number of juveniles who successfully repaired harm (successful completion)	4	54	77	88	223
Number of juveniles pending completion (active but not completed)	0	21	28	6	-
Number of juveniles who did not repair harm (unsuccessful)	0	7	5	6	18

*The 19th JD had a juvenile who, after going through the RJ process and beginning some much needed therapy, really needed more services than Diversion could provide. The case was filed with the Court to access probation level supervision and services at the mother's request. The case was marked as an unsuccessful completion.

VICTIM ENGAGEMENT

	10 th JD	12 th JD	19 th JD*	20 th JD	Total
Number of victims contacted for participation in RJ Pilot program	4	56	62	53	175
Number of victims who participated	4	42	13	36	95
Number of victims who submitted victim impact statements	0	0	1	1	2
Number of surrogate victim representatives who participated in RJ Pilot program	0	8	39	20	67
Number of victims who declined to participate in the RJ Pilot program	0	1	45	5	51

* When a big box store is the victim in shoplifting offenses and the juvenile will be participating in RESTORE, by design the merchant is not contacted for participation. Surrogate merchant representatives are used in RESTORE shoplifting conferences.

RECIDIVISM

Because recidivism is defined as new arrests or filings within one year post-program participation, the RJ pilots are only now in a position to look at that data for those who complete RJ programming. The OMNI Institute as the evaluator is collecting this data and will provide an analysis for the RJ Council's Annual report in January 2016.

PROBLEMS/ BARRIERS/SUCCESES/SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED BY PILOTS JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015

10th JD: Unfortunately the 10th JD's RJ facilitator left the position in early April, and they were unable to fill that position until June. During that time they did not accept any new clients for the RJ Pilot project. In addition, they have been working with the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) and Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to expand their referral base and have meetings scheduled with the Municipal Court to invite appropriate referrals for RJ Services in lieu of court.

12th JD: The 12th JD offered some examples of successes within their program.

From a post-survey from an offender: "I think the people were absolutely amazing. I am extremely appreciative that I was able to make amends rather than it being something that haunted my life forever. I thought everyone was extremely understanding, but stern; this will ABSOLUTELY be a mistake I will NEVER make again. Thank you!"

From a victim post-survey: "It was very informative; I was glad to see the people and community that were involved and have taken the time to help out our teens ad parents in need. Big thank you."

A short story from a CRP staff member: A young woman came through our Rethinking Substances program. She had received a MIP ticket for consuming alcohol. She had been drinking with some friends at a local swimming pool, and had so much alcohol that she passed out. Her friends left her there. The manager of the pool called police and the young woman was taken to the hospital. She was very ashamed about her poor decision, and felt too embarrassed to go back to the pool. As one of her projects to repair harm to the community, she wrote and hand delivered an apology letter to the owner of the pool. In response, he wrote back, "It takes a lot for you to come here and say sorry for your actions! We are grateful you are ok and hope that lessons were learned. Thanks"

A comment from a community member who participated in a restorative process: "I really value the way each person opened up during this process. I hope each person can leave feeling like this process made a difference in their life. I like how the circle process asks folks to reflect on the harm to self, family and community."

19th JD: By the end of this fiscal year, the 19th JD noted that the gender break down of participants was more equitable than it had been in the past. For the 14/15 fiscal year, 64% of all participants in the 19th RJ program were females. They are planning for Restorative Justice staff to participate in

gender-specific training in the new fiscal year as a result, even though the numbers were more equal this past quarter.

A barrier the last quarter of FY 14-15 quarter was staffing, as the RJ program experienced turnover. As 63% of participants during the past fiscal year identified as Hispanic, Spanish speaking staff members are being sought. As the program evaluates what functions each staff person will perform, it is becoming more and more apparent that volunteer recruitment and retention must be a focus. This past quarter the program was faced with capacity issues as a result of staffing changes and facilitator limitations. As a result, for a time during the past quarter, referrals were made at a lower rate than in past quarters.

The following narratives highlight some program successes:

- “Carlos” had been in a fight with another student at school. The family participated in the RJ process where it became evident there were some family dynamic issues most clearly between Carlos and his older brother. Carlos chose to participate in some anger management group therapy as part of his program outcomes. When the family returned to the “reintegration” part of the process, the two brothers spent most of that session laughing with and at each other.
 - Since then, Carlos has agreed to serve as a surrogate co-defendant for us and just completed his first round of surrogacy. The older brother is now serving as a community member and is on the list to receive training at our next facilitators’ training.
- A youth in South Weld caused a fire in a school building. She and her mother met with representatives from the school and local firehouse. The firehouse staff suggested she visit the firehouse and meet its staff, then utilize her love of photography and knowledge of Presi to create a presentation to be used by the firefighters in their community during fire-prevention week in October.
- A middle school student who stole school property is writing a children’s book about not stealing as well as creating a music play list for youth who find themselves wound up and who need to calm down. These are two of the items he and members of his conference circle devised as part of healing the harm for his offense.

20th JD: This past fiscal year, the 20th JD identified and solved several barriers, worked through major changes in implementing their RJ Pilot program, and saw many successes.

All three of their diversion coordinators are now trained in both restorative justice facilitation and motivational interviewing to complement the work they are doing with their partner community RJ agencies. 20th’s advisory group of RJ providers remains strong and they are inspired by the collaboration that now exists between the agencies. The RJ providers remain engaged and the 20th continuously hears how much they enjoy working with the pilot youth and appreciate coordinating efforts with the diversion staff.

The 20th JD received great feedback from youth, families, victims, and community members, including stakeholders such as law enforcement and educators. Following are a sample of the positive survey responses they received in FY15:

From victims:

- “My goal was to make sure the person who committed the crime understood that he violated me and my family. I was hoping to hear how and why he did this. My goal was met and it’s more clear to me.”
- “[My goal was] for students to admit their involvement and understand the impact. The boys have all grown in responsibility and realize the consequences.”
- “I hoped that we could be friends and work it out and that [is] what we did.”
- “This was a very productive way for [the] situation to be handled.”
- “[The RJ process was] very well thought through, very organized, and very respectful.”
- “It should be at every school and every state because it works.”

From offenders:

- “My goal is to make up for my actions and take responsibility.”
- “[My goal was] to fix the damage done to [the victim].”
- “I am very thankful for restorative justice it has helped me immensely and it has gave me a chance to my life, it was not ruined forever.”
- “I would like to thank them for taking time and helping/showing me what I did was wrong but also just knowing me and not a bad person and I can change.”
- “This program has helped me so far and really does help over all.”
- “My goal was to get past this and we did and things will be okay.”

From parents of offenders:

- “I appreciate how everyone treated my son and listened to him.”
- “First, I want to give thanks for finishing this program, it means a lot for the best future for my son. Thanks again for helping the youth in general.”

From community members:

- “I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I felt pleasantly surprised. It was great. I felt like I (as a member of the community) had a say in the justice system. Great system!”
- “Parents of victims were mostly affected. They stated that they felt better after meeting suspect. Goal accomplished! Good job to the facilitators.”
- “Very well handled with excellent results. Far more productive than the usual criminal/legal proceedings. Keep this process funded.”
- “I wanted to experience the offender reaching a place in the process where he/she learned from his mistakes and the impact from others. This, I felt, was achieved.”

The following narratives also highlight some of the 20th JD’s successes during FY15:

From a facilitator:

- “Four girls who were referred for fighting at school participated in a restorative process. Facilitators were not sure how the process was going to turn out because some of the young

women were hesitating to be in the same room with each other. After some work with the juveniles on taking responsibility and addressing harms, these young women were able to tell each other just how ridiculous they thought the fight had been. They went on to say how much they had missed hanging out together, and then began reminiscing about fun times they had when they were all friends. They spoke about their hopes and dreams for the future and what they had learned from this experience. One of the young women actually came back and volunteered to be a community member in a similar RJ process.”

From a juvenile offender:

- “While I have been on diversion [and in the RJ pilot program] I have learned how to control my anger and to walk away from things I don’t need to be associated with. I have stopped smoking and feel so much better than before. I also have a whole new outlook on life. This program has helped me find my true self and I now know what I want my future to hold. I am extremely grateful for everything this program has done for me.”

SUMMARY

This report provides information following a full year of implementation. In this past year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) a total of 324 youth met criteria for inclusion in the statewide RJ Pilot programs and based upon suitability, a total of 283 (87.3%) were deemed suitable and served. A majority of the youth serve were Hispanic (56%) followed by White (38%).

Most of the participants were males (56%) and 50.5% were ages 13-15 at law enforcement contact for the current offense. Most had committed a misdemeanor crime (53.2%), with another 39.7% committing petty offenses or disorderly conduct. Only 7% would have been charged with a Class 3, 4 or 5 Felony.

Of the 283 youth served, 223 of the juveniles were able to successfully complete the RJ program, deemed as successfully repairing the harm they committed and 18 who were deemed as being unsuccessful. The others are still in process for completing their RJ contract.

Of the 175 victims contacted for participation in the RJ Pilot program, 95 participated (54%) with 67 surrogate victim representatives participating in lieu of the actual victim of the crime. Fifty one (51) victims formally declined participation, were unable to be located or did not respond.

CONTACTS

Contact Meg Williams, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice at 303-239-5717 or meg.williams@state.co.us with any questions regarding this report. You can also contact Deb Witzel at 720-625-5964 or deb.witzel@judicial.state.co.us of the State Court Administrator’s Office with any general questions regarding the Pilot Program or the State RJ Coordinating Council.