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Neighborhood Justice Program

NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Justice Program (formerly Neighborhood Courts) is a community driven, pre-filing diversion program designed to divert low level misdemeanor offenses.

First time offenders are given an opportunity to take responsibility and repair the harm they caused through a community-based process using restorative justice principles. The purpose of the program is to: reduce recidivism by understanding why people offend, address the harm the offense had on the victim (if applicable) and the community and, using restorative principles rather than punitive principles, effectively and efficiently restore the local community, victim and offender back into community.

Participants must be willing to take responsibility for their actions and are given the opportunity to meet with restorative justice trained community volunteers in a relaxed, confidential conference.

During the conference, volunteer panelists and the participant discuss the root of the harm, the impact it has had on the individual, and a list of agreements that lead to restorative accountability goals. Once these agreements are completed, the case is dismissed.

In the past year, NJP has changed our name to further remove itself from the traditional court system. We had 159 conferences, 132 successful completions, and 32 participants in progress. We also referred 12 participants to CAFES services. We are looking forward to continuing to grow our program by taking more participants and hearing more complex cases.

Anna Chau
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