

The Red Hook Peacemaking Program

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What is the Center for Court Innovation?

In New York, the Center is a not-for-profit organization that functions as the court system's independent research and development arm, creating **demonstration projects** that test new ideas:

- Community Courts
- Drug Courts
- Reentry Courts
- Domestic Violence Courts
- Mental Health Courts

→ **Training and technical assistance**



What is the Tribal Justice Exchange?

- **Share** lessons learned about problem-solving justice.
- Encourage **collaboration** between tribal justice systems and state court systems.
- **Learning** about tribal justice practices that can strengthen courts elsewhere in the country.

Where is Red Hook?



How did we learn about peacemaking?

- National Roundtable of Peacemaking Experts
 - Research
- Observations (state and tribal)
 - The Sweat Lodge

National Roundtable 2011



What were we worried about?

- Cultural appropriation
 - Getting it right
- Finding local elders in New York City
- Pushback from justice system stakeholders (prosecution and defense)

Getting it right... Training.



Getting it right... Training



Stakeholder buy-in



What did we learn?

- Every in New York we have shared values
 - Elders come in all shapes and sizes
 - Connection through stories
 - Layers of equality
- Building a community of peacemakers

Giving victims a voice

- A chance to be heard
- “When asked how they felt sharing their story, the most common words used to describe the experience were “comfortable” and “supported.”
- “For some victims it was eye-opening to hear the defendants speaking.”
- Always be careful about re-victimization. Ensure a safe space through strategic preparation.

“Results and Outcomes”

2013

- Court referrals: 87
- Total intakes: 133
- Community referrals: 10
- 33 cases completed: 82% successful
- Amount of peacemaking sessions completed: 46
- Total participants: 36

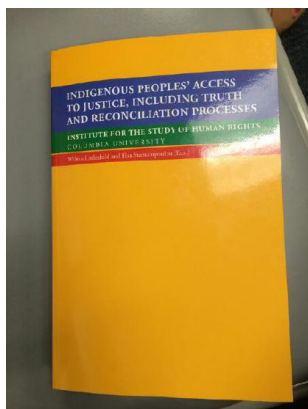
2014

- Less referrals, more cases
- New populations
- Keener intake process
- Upcoming evaluation
- More peacemakers; more commitment; sharper skills.

Evaluation highlights

- **FOOD** *Food was described as a highlight by nearly all the participants, and it helped to break the ice in an otherwise tense situation.*
- **VOICE** *Everyone received an opportunity to speak and respond without interruption in the peacemaking circle. Participants felt comfortable opening up in the peacemaking circle.*
- **RESULTS** *74% of peacemaking participants completed peacemaking successfully.*
- **HEALING** *Peacemaking gave participants the opportunity to talk through a conflict in a safe setting in ways that the court could not. Those interviewed generally perceived that peacemaking had succeeded in healing relationships.*

The tribal connections



- Always acknowledging peacemaking principles while adapting them to the needs in Red Hook
- Honoring our mentors & advanced training

Inspiration



What's next?

- Expanding in NYC
- Advanced training for peacemakers
- Syracuse Peacemaking Project
- Training and technical assistance:
 - Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court
 - Los Angeles
 - Other tribes (process & courts)

Questions? Comments?



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