

# Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership



Creating Justice in our Community  
by Putting Community in our  
Justice—even in instances of drug  
and alcohol charges.

# Our Children...

“A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.”

Chinese Proverb



# The "Junkyard" Model of Development

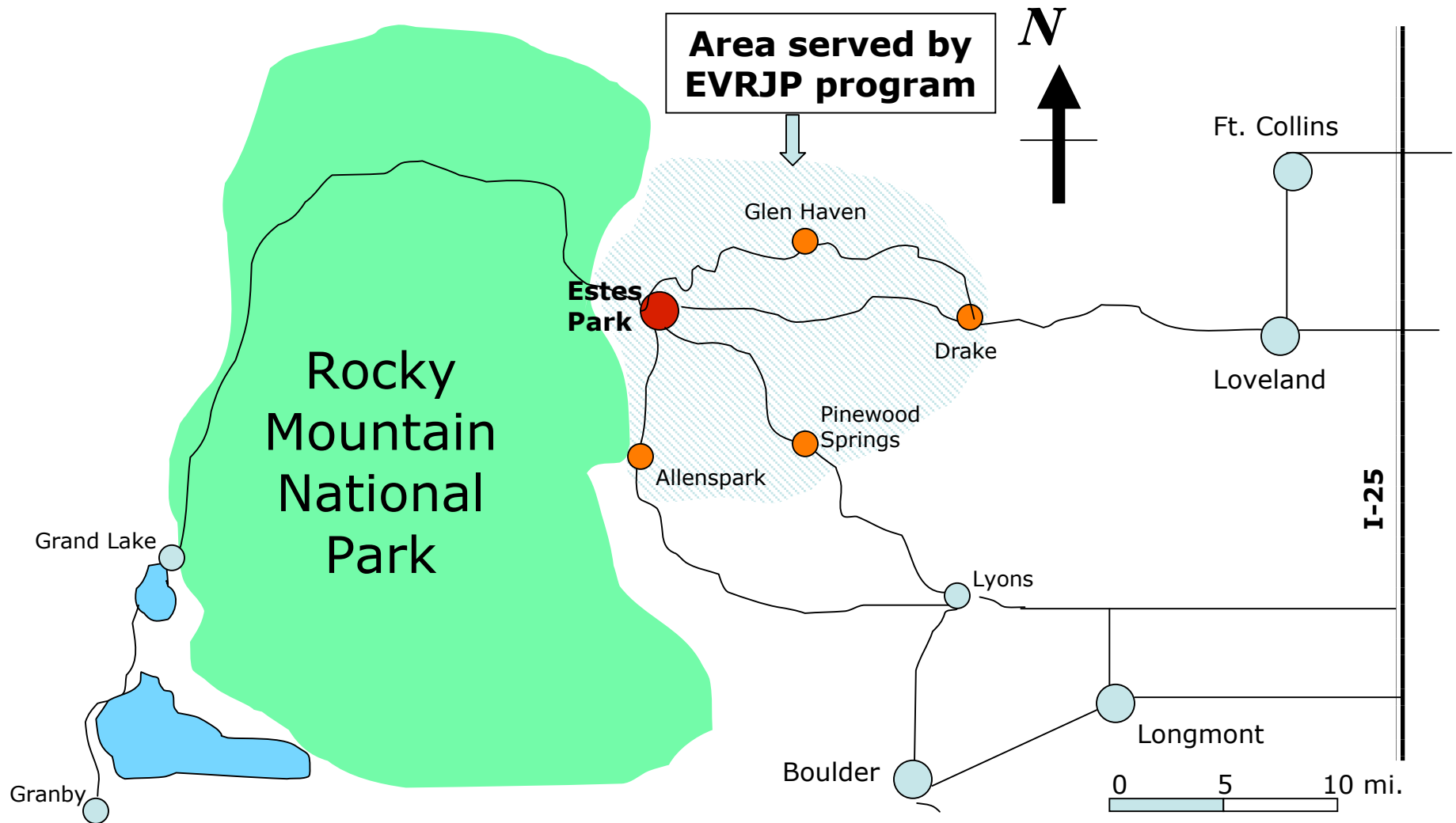


# Merging Two Systems

“To paddle or to row, that is the question.”



# Estes Park and Surrounding Area



# Demographics

- Estes Valley service area is approximately 10,100 residents
- Estes Park (Town proper) is a tourist community receiving 3 million visitors per year (Primarily in Summer months)
- School age population is approximately 1,219 youth; 1000 in the 10-21 age range
- 92% of population is Caucasian
- 30% is Senior Population
- Highly Educated Population

# Advantages and Disadvantages of Hybrid Organization

## Advantages

- Able to access wider range of community resources
- Able to access both types of funding sources
- Buy in is easier

## Disadvantages

- Challenges of blending two different systems and cultures
- Must conform to requirements of both governmental and non-profit agencies

# Number of Alcohol Outlets?

- In 2002 there were 54 licensed alcohol establishments in Estes Park.
- This equated to approximately 1 licensed alcohol establishment per 101.8 residents!





# What is the Law?



- Must be 21 years of age to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages.

## Exceptions:

- Person was on private property; with the property owner's consent; AND was consumed on the private property with the parent's consent who was PRESENT at the time of consumption.
- Consumption due to confectionary sugars with ethyl alcohol present
- Medicinal or hygienic purposes (I.e. Mouthwash)
- Religious purposes (protected under 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment)

# What were the police doing?

- DARE program was taught in schools for approximately 10 years.
- ECHO program currently taught in schools for approximately 3 years.
- CDOT administered federal Underage Drinking Grant
- Liquor establishment Compliance Checks
- Participate with EVCSC—Community Forums
- Youth Line Officer Grant

# Case Referrals

- Referrals from:
  - Estes Park Police Department Patrol
  - Estes Park Municipal Court
  - Larimer County District Attorney's Office
  - Larimer County Courts

# Policy/Who We Serve

- Juveniles
- Any person under the age of 18, or still attending high school, will be determined eligible for Restorative Justice if they are first-time offenders of misdemeanor or lower level crimes. They may also be considered if they have a criminal record, but have never been given the opportunity of Restorative Justice. Cases involving felony crimes committed by juveniles will be turned over to investigations for a determination of (1) referring directly to Restorative Justice or (2) filing to the District Attorney's office with a cover letter recommending Restorative Justice or (3) traditional filing. Investigations will consider prior criminal history and the offenders' willingness to take responsibility as two factors in making their decision.

# Policy (continued)

- Underage Drinking and Misdemeanor/Petty Drug Offenses
- Anyone under the age of 21, charged with minor in possession or consumption will be determined eligible for Restorative Justice if they are first-time offenders or if they have never received services from the Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership. Anyone under the age of 21, charged with misdemeanor or petty drug offenses may be determined eligible for Restorative Justice if they are first-time offenders or if they have never received Restorative Justice services and if they take full responsibility for their actions and want to make things right with the community, stressing this referral under the age of 25 and allowing it thereafter.

# Policy continued

- Adults
- Anyone over the age of 18 charged with first-time misdemeanor or petty offenses will be considered for Restorative Justice referral. Domestic issues will not be considered eligible for Restorative Justice.

# What are the Police Advantages?

- Positive Community Relationships
- Chance to Be Heard
- Tell Their Own Story
- Influence Behavior Change
- Trust Within the Community
- Enforcement has Proven Not To Be Effective for Drugs and Alcohol

# Identify Community Issues

- Acknowledge Drugs and Alcohol as a Community Issue
- Study the Problem—Ask Experts, Become One
- Community-School Survey
- 25 Key Community Members/Leaders Surveyed—They Identified Problem
- Circle Make-up is Critical



# Community

- Finding the right people
- Bringing them in
- Developing partnerships through collaborative efforts
- Serving their needs
- Public Forums
- Disagreements

# Educate Your Community

- Community Presentations
- Prepare Community through Educational Mediums (Brochures, News Articles, Guest Speakers, School Assemblies)
- Community Services
  - Coalition Retreat
- Health Fair
- Police, Courts, D.A., Probation
- Television and Radio Talk Show
- Local Government Bodies

# Involve Your Police

Policies

Training

Cultural Shift

Technologies

Reporting Systems

Community Policing

A Justice Paradigm

# Involve Your Community

- Courts
- Service Providers (Drug and Alcohol)
- Building Relationships with Community
- Probation
- Past Users (Reintroduce as Community Members)
- Past Victims
- Community Services Coalition
- Community Service Groups
- Develop a Personal Relationship or Connection
- Board of Directors (Recruitment)

# Monitoring the Work

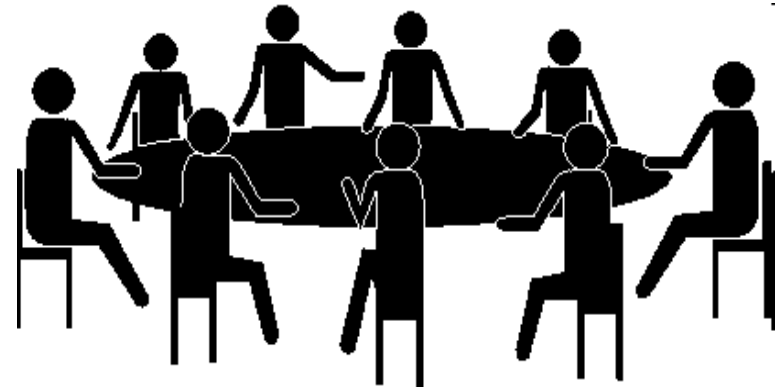
- Number of Cases
- Types of Cases
- Measuring Community Members Satisfaction
- Re-Offense Rates
- Measuring Offenders Satisfaction
- Spreading the Word

# Share Results with Community

- Publish Annual Report
- Publish Newspaper Articles and Radio Reports advertising Results
- Re-visit Service Clubs and Update
- Add Results to Brochures/Pamphlets
- Share Both Successes and Failures

# Community Group Conferencing

- Offender tells story
- Victim and Community share the harm they have suffered
- Co-Facilitator reads the harms as they have been stated and the assets survey
- Agreement phase: ideas are generated and then specified into 5 or less items to be completed by the offender
- Completion is monitored by RJ office



# How It Differs With Drugs and Alcohol

- The community is deemed the victim
- The offender meets with community members in a group conference
- The harm is identified and ways to repair the harm is also identified
- Research
  - Interviews/Videos/ A.A. Meetings/ Posters
  - Research Papers/Interactive CD's
  - Statistics/Surveys/ Brochures
  - Presentation
    - To sports teams
    - Youth groups
    - Newspaper Articles



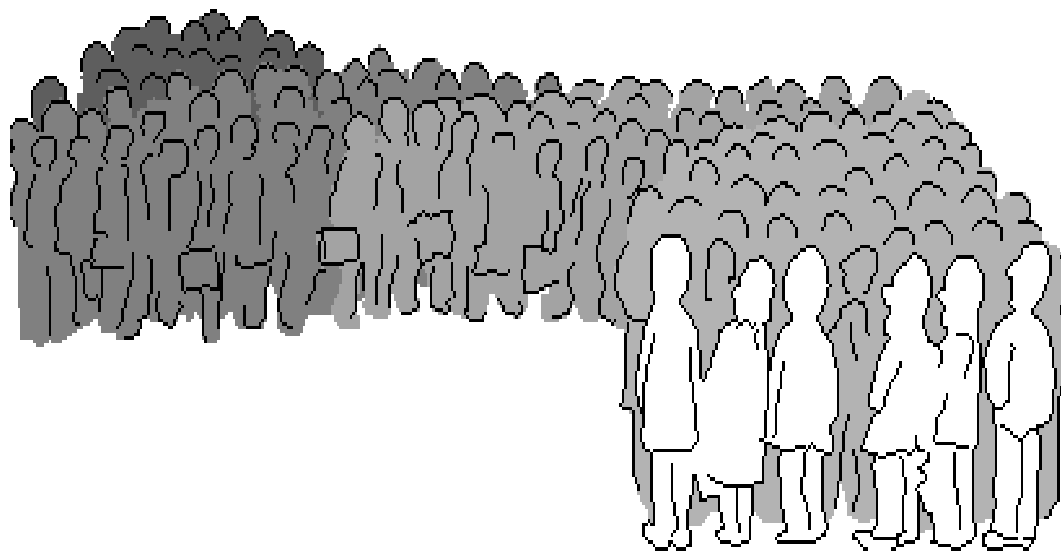
# Who is Victim

- Case Dependent
- Self, Parents, Siblings, Distant Relatives, School, Sports Teams, Clubs or Activities, Church, Teachers, Mentors, Neighbors, Property Owners
- Larger Community Issues: Tourism, Insurance Rates, Risk, Likelihood of Increased Antisocial Behavior

# The Community: the Hidden Victim

- Cost of maintaining:

- Law Enforcement
- Courts
- Probation
- Lawyers
- Prisons
- Parole



- Loss of citizens' safety and public security = fear
  - Will it happen again? To me? My family?
- Lost productivity from victims, families, and offenders
- Rise in insurance costs
- Broken Relationships

<b>Victim</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Your Family</b>	<b>Self</b>
Physical Impact	Physical Impact	Physical Impact	Physical Impact
Financial Impact	Financial Impact	Financial Impact	Financial Impact
Emotional Impact (short term)	Emotional Impact (short term)	Emotional Impact (short term)	Emotional Impact (short term)
Psychological Impact (long term)	Psychological Impact (long term)	Psychological Impact (long term)	Psychological Impact (long term)

# Contract Items

- School Board Meeting Presentation on Drug and Alcohol Problems in School District
- Underage Alternative to Drinking Night
- GED Completion
- Tutoring/Counseling
- Basketball Clinics
- Projects, Presentations, Movies, Posters, Trips, Letters, Papers, Ride-a-longs, Interviews

# Underage Drug Paraphernalia

- Do research on illegal drugs and alcohol and their effects (harm they cause).
- Watch video on John Murphy case
- 15 hours of community service at Prospect Park Living Center.
- Go to AA meeting at the Harmony Foundation with RJ volunteer

# Surveys

- Given to every participant at the conclusion of the conference
- Mandatory for offenders
- Question the entire process up to the conference point
- “All parties were heard and feel okay”
- “reasonable, humane”
- “real”
- “An even-handed, balanced way of dealing with things”
- “Not lacking in consequences, but not overly harsh”

# 6 Month Follow Up Calls

- Underage Drinking Offender Dad:
  - “We can talk better now. It was a real challenge to finish and she felt really good about it when she did.”
- Drug Possession Offender Mom:
  - “It is a great opportunity to have him hear from someone outside the family. I think they may actually get through to him.”

# Why is Process Successful?

- Individual Case Management
- Remain Focused on Specific Offense (Relevant)—Avoid Disconnects
- No Cookie Cutter Approach
- Facilitator Training for Volunteers on Drug and Alcohol Cases
- Community Connection--Exposure to Community Values
- Behavior Analysis of Offender (What Dynamic Led to the Decision)



# Why is Process Successful (continued)

- Outline
- No vacillation on Program Guidelines
- One Six Month Follow-up with Offender and Family
- Community Members Participate with Offender which in turn Insures Contract Requirements are Met
- Communication Breakdown within the Family is Typically Revealed—It Must Be Addressed
- Offender Profile for Drug/Alcohol Offender is Not Dissimilar to Other Criminal Offender—Treat Them the Same
- Personal Stories—RJ Focus

# Contact Information

Lowell Richardson  
Chief of Police  
970-577-3819  
[lrichardson@estes.org](mailto:lrichardson@estes.org)

Amanda Nagl  
Executive Director  
970-577-3829  
[anagl@estes.org](mailto:anagl@estes.org)