

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Engaging Community Partners to Build and Expand Your Restorative Practices Program

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Learn a framework for developing and sustaining program partnerships.
2. Prepare key talking points to engage potential partners and supporters for your restorative practices program.

WELCOME

Please share:

- Your name
- Where you are from
- Name one goal you hope to achieve through developing or enhancing partnerships around restorative practices

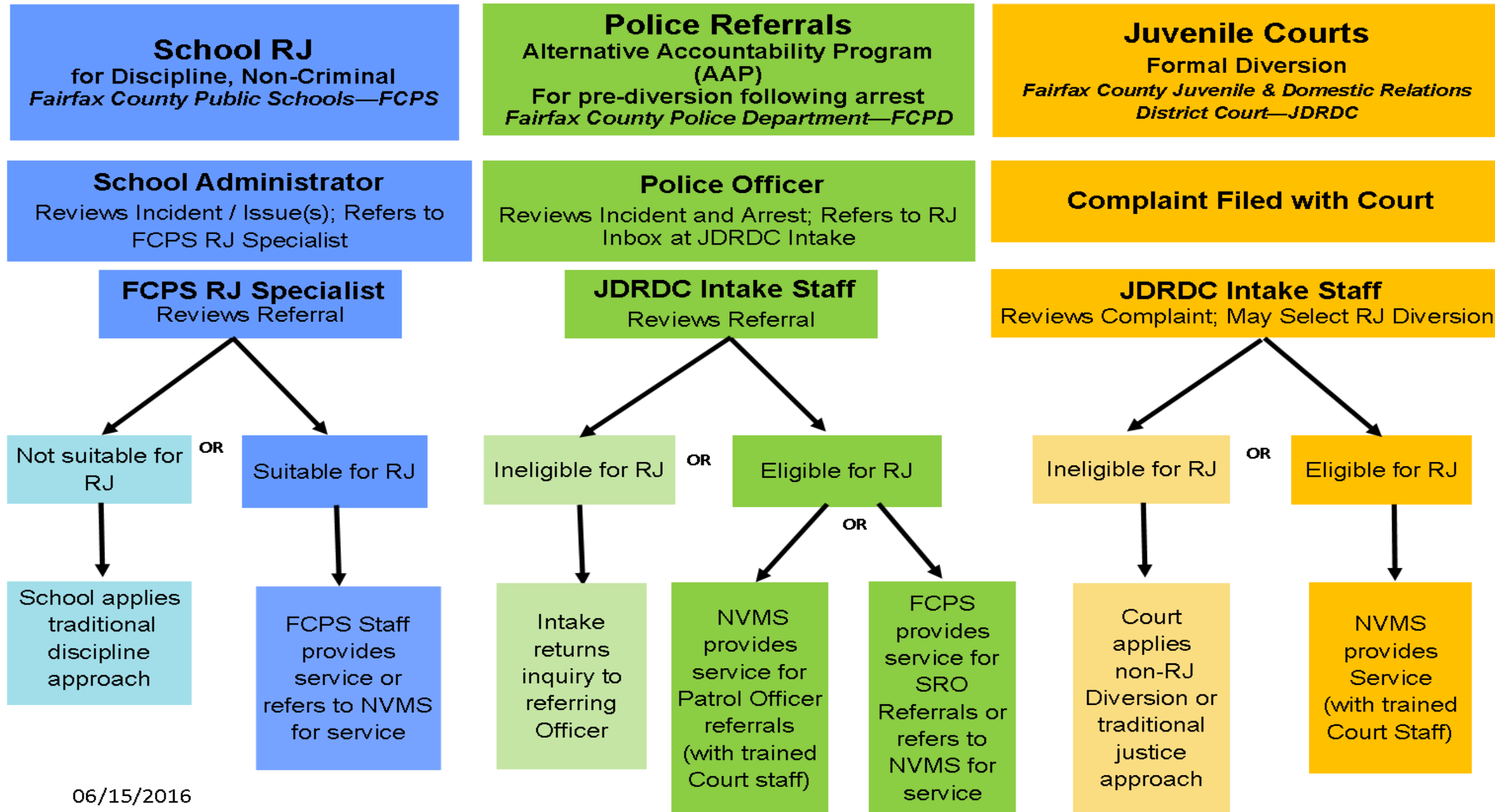
WHAT MAKES A PROGRAM?



FAIRFAX COUNTY ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

REPAIRING HARM FROM YOUTH OFFENSES IN THE COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
A SAMPLE



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STEPS

- Set goals
- Find an entry point/ally
- Get cooperation for a pilot
- Show your stuff
- Build buy-in and support
- Build common purpose
- Set policies and procedures
- Ongoing teambuilding/collaboration
- Ongoing evaluation



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- What are the costs of the problem you want to address?
 - Costs to society?
 - Costs to partners?
 - Costs to individuals you want to serve?
- What value does your proposed program deliver to local stakeholders?

PLAN BEFORE APPROACHING POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Prepare your pitch before approaching any potential partners. Before you contact anyone, you should be aware of their mission, interests, goals to the extent possible and how those may overlap with your program's goals.



PARTNER ENGAGEMENT



What's In It For Me?

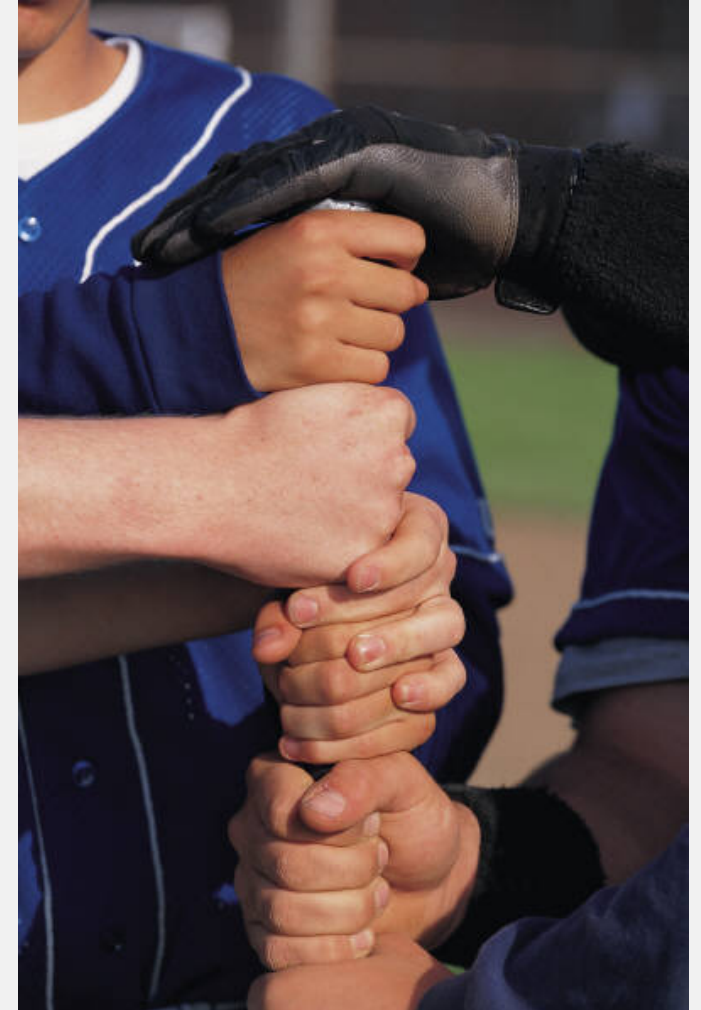
- We all need motivation in order to change our practices or try something new.
- Consider your motivations and those of each of your prospective partners before approaching anyone about building a program.

ACTIVITY: PREPARING TO APPROACH PARTNERS

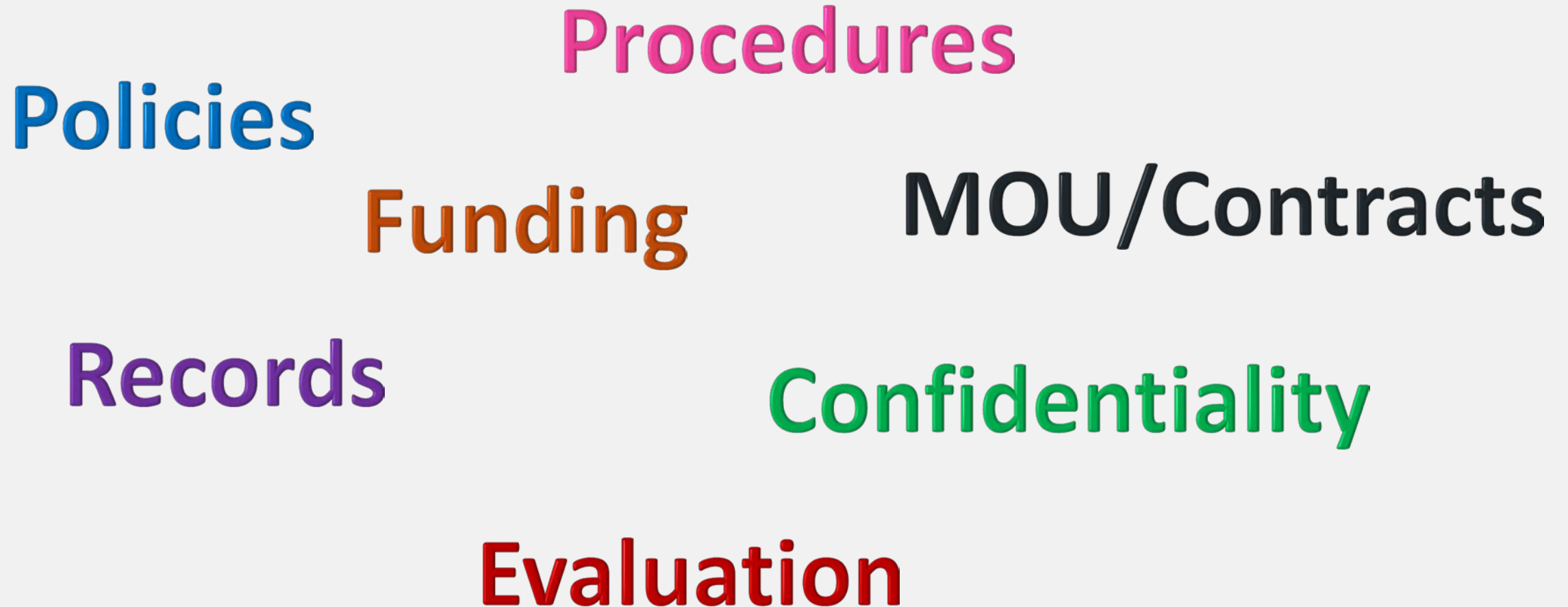
- Consider one potential partner for the Restorative Practices Program you currently work with or would like to create/expand.
- Complete the Partner Engagement Worksheet for that Partner.
- *You may work in pairs if you came with a colleague or don't have a program of your own in mind.*

INTERNAL ALIGNMENT AND SUPPORT

- Identify your team
- Build and maintain alignment to share the workload and support one another for a long-term project



THE MECHANICS OF A PARTNERSHIP



YOUR MISSION



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Throughout the planning and implementation of your Restorative Practices Program Partnership, remember your original purpose.



PARTNERSHIP BUILDING LESSONS

- Your potential partners have other important responsibilities and may need gentle reminders of how you can help them achieve their goals. **Be persistent.**
- You can't change the world alone and will need buy-in from key stakeholders to go the distance. **Be respectful.**
- It always takes longer than you'd like to develop and grow a program. **Be patient.**
- Things may not develop in the way you would have liked. **Be flexible.**
- Building a program is a a long term commitment. **Create a team** to support you and the program; and take care of them and yourself along the way.

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a serene sunset or sunrise over a large body of water. The sky is a deep, vibrant blue, filled with wispy, white clouds that catch the low light of the sun, creating a soft, golden glow. The sun is positioned just above the horizon, its light reflecting across the water's surface. In the foreground, a large, dark rock sits in a shallow pool of water, which perfectly reflects the sky and the sun. The water extends to the horizon, where a faint line of land or mountains is visible. On the left side of the frame, a dark, silhouetted forested hill rises against the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

NVMS (Northern Virginia Mediation Service) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit conflict resolution organization founded in 1990 to help individuals, groups and organizations discuss and create solutions for issues important to them. NVMS' Restorative Justice program launched in 2008.

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