



Walnut Avenue
— FAMILY & WOMEN'S CENTER —

Space for Change

Walnut Avenue & CRC
Collaborative
Alternative Justice
Program





Space for Change

1. Defining alternative forms of justice
2. Space for Change: Program Details
3. Logistics



Participating Agencies

Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County
(CRC)

Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center
(Walnut Avenue)



Defining Alternative Forms of Justice

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Definitions

- **Community Accountability**

Any variety of community-based strategies of addressing harm that occurs within a community without external state entities (e.g. law enforcement).



Definitions

- **Restorative Justice**

Identifying the harm that was done and addressing the needs of person(s) who have been harmed and the person (s) who caused harm to heal. May or may not involve state entities.

- RJ brings persons harmed by crime/wrongdoing and the person who harmed them, along with affected family and community members, together in dialogue that aims to build understanding, explore how the crime has impacted those involved, including the community, and develop agreements for what will be done to make things right.



Definitions

- **Transformative Justice**

Similar to restorative justice with an added goal of transforming the offender to prevent recidivism and, if possible, the community itself to be in a better condition than before the harm was caused. Does not involve state entities.



Underlying Principles

- Violence is a choice and a learned behavior, which means change is possible under certain conditions
- The occurrence of violence involves social and collective factors *in addition to* individual choice
- The violence impacts more than just the survivor
- There is no “one approach offers justice to everyone” solution
- State entity involvement causes more harm than benefit
- Removing the person causing harm from the community is not always the safest or most appropriate response
- Punishment is neither justice nor the impetus for change



Goals

- Survivor safety (always the highest priority, even over the transformation of a person who's caused harm)
- Accountability and transformation of person causing harm
- Accountability in surrounding community
- Change in community and social factors allowing violence to occur



Why We're Doing This

- DV field recognizing need for new approaches
- State and other conventional interventions have not ended DV
- Walnut Avenue's commitment to BLM
- BIPs have mixed success rates
- Emphasizes consent, voluntary participation
- Another option for survivors beyond “leave” or “stay



Where It's Coming From

- INCITE!'s Creative Interventions Toolkit (free PDF available online)
- Data + feedback from analyses of similar programs
- Other formats pioneered by Black, Indigenous, and other historically marginalized communities, though adapted to limitations of being nonprofits
(additional resources listed on Walnut Avenue's program page)



Space for Change: Program Details

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Who It Serves

- Survivors (all ages 12+)
- People who have caused harm
- Youth impacted by violence in household
- “Community” - family, loved ones, neighbors



3 Categories of Service

1. Healing circles (survivors + loved ones)
2. Ally education (loved ones)
3. Accountability process (person causing harm)



Examples of Situations Addressed by Program

- Two people wanting to continue current relationship where violence has occurred (*low or moderate risk*)
- Conflicting coparents with shared custody
- People who have caused harm looking for help in learning how to make safer choices
- Survivors wanting to address indirect harm caused by family, friends
- Youth wanting to engage with a parent that's caused harm or vice versa
- Loved ones wanting education to be safer, more effective support people for the survivors in their lives



Situations NOT Addressed

- The survivor alone (that would constitute advocacy)
- Incidents of harm involving people who do not share an intimate or familial relationship

Note: Space for Change is not a BIP, parenting class, or anger management class.

Logistics

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Participant Eligibility Screening Done by Walnut Avenue

- No time limit on when DV has occurred
- Aged 12+
- Risk assessment: low or moderate risk
- No active court orders which would prevent someone from participating
- Voluntary participation



Referrals

- As a voluntary program, it's a self-referral
- Potential participants would contact Marjorie at Walnut Avenue
- Note: without a ROI, Walnut Avenue *cannot* initiate contact with potential participant
wafwc.org/referrals



Referrals

For VODs and other restorative justice programs not involving domestic violence, the CRC can provide services, information, and resources.



More Info

wafwc.org/spaceforchange

crcsantacruz.org/space-for-change

Staff contact:

Marjorie Coffey (they/them)

mcoffey@wafwc.org



Follow-up: DV Learning Community *Prioritizing Direct Service Providers*

[surveymonkey.com/r/
DVlearningcommunity](https://surveymonkey.com/r/DVlearningcommunity)

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Thank you!