

Shared Learnings in ACEs, Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Approaches from Norway and Illinois

*Session 5:
Working in the Criminal Justice System*

**The Illinois
ACEs Response
Collaborative**

Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

**U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services, Office of the
Assistant Secretary for
Health – Region 5**

Building the Infrastructure for Decarceration

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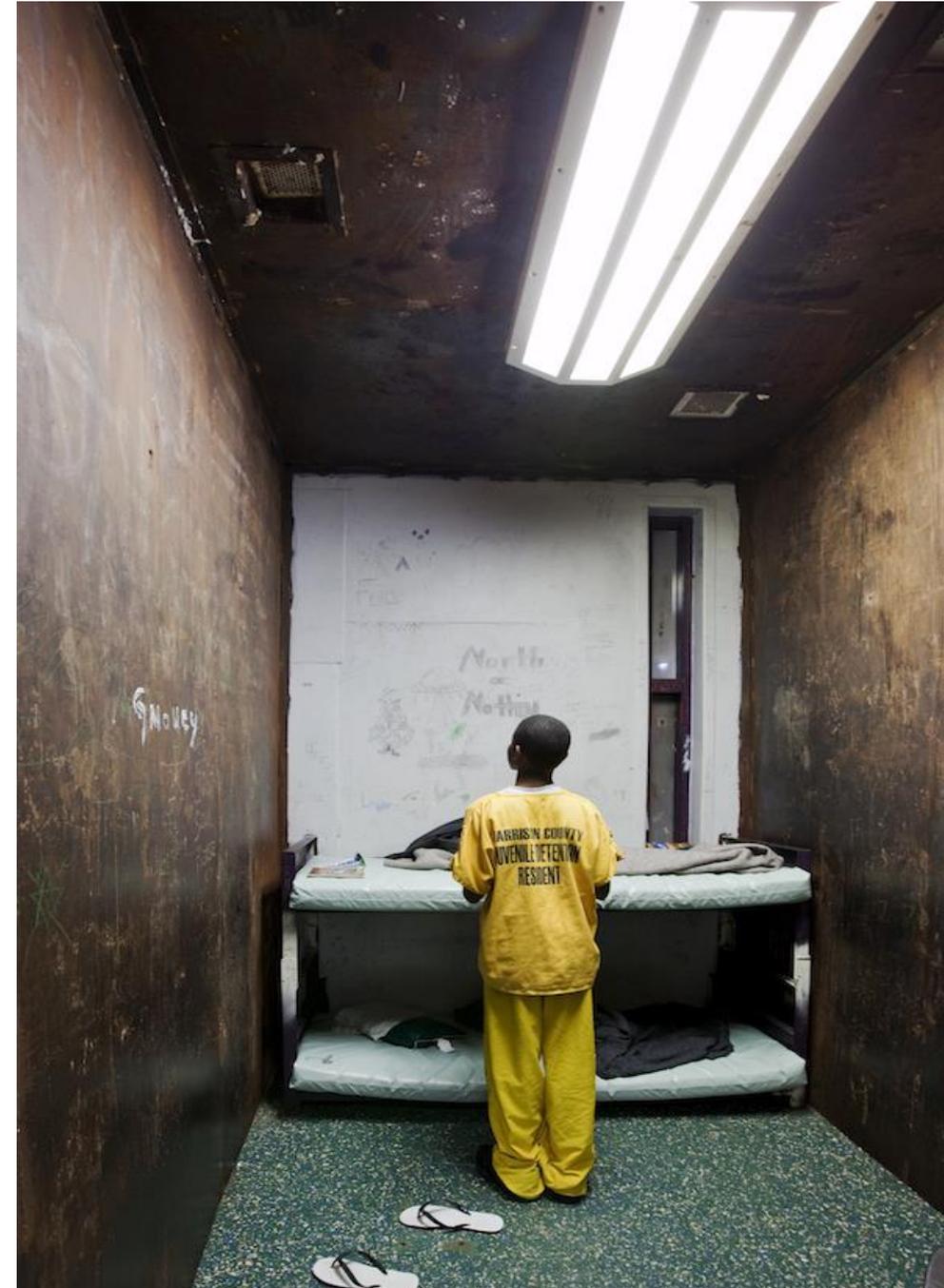


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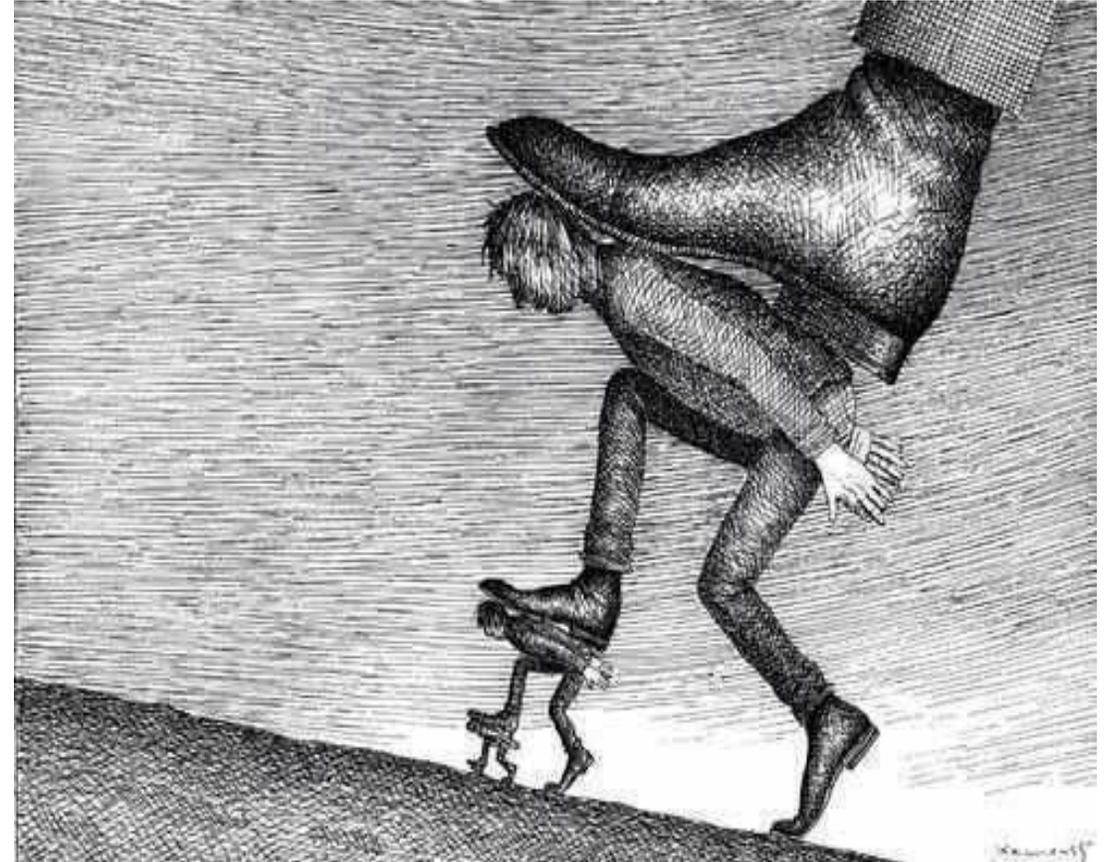
U.S. Investment Gone Awry

- Approximately \$80 BILLION are spent responding to crime in ways that debilitate those who have experienced extreme trauma. (2014, Brookings Institution)
- Our public safety dollars should be spent building healing communities that increase rather than decrease human function.
- Photo by Richard Ross 2005-2012



Addressing Policy as Trauma

- Income Inequality
- Lack of Access to Resources
 - Healthy Food
 - Free High Quality Public Education
 - Health Care
- Historical Trauma
 - Targeted policing
 - Water Protectors/Pipeline Policy
 - Building a Wall
 - Bathroom Bills



We Heal in Community



- Restorative Justice Hubs
- Trauma-Informed Violence Prevention
- Support for People who Work and Live in Prisons
- Operationalizing the Science to Transform Harmful Systems

Restorative Justice Community Court

The Restorative Justice Community Court balances deep community involvement, a commitment to repairing harm by restoring relationships, and a fundamental responsibility to ensure public safety. Its purpose is to increase safety, decrease costly felony and misdemeanor convictions and support a broad based community leadership in administering justice.

Restorative Justice

“Restorative Justice represents a paradigm change from thinking about justice as a mechanism for social control to thinking about justice as a mechanism for social engagement.”

- -Dr. Brenda Morrison, Dir. Centre for RJ, Simon Fraser University

Case Criteria

- Young adults 18 to 26
- Non-violent felony or misdemeanor
- Live in North Lawndale
- Understand and agree to participate in the restorative justice process

Challenges

- For decades, our criminal justice system has over-relied on punishment, policing, incarceration and detention
- To understand and respect that the community has been the victim of oppressive system policies and practices
- For all involved to be true to and live to the grounding principles of Restorative Justice

Opportunities

- Provide court participants the opportunity to be on a path to productive adulthood
- To empower people most impacted by harmful systems as leaders and change agents
- Community takes responsibility when harm occurs, rather than government
- To prove that if our personal and institutional practices are grounded in dignity and humanity, we all benefit
- Safer, connected, restorative communities
- To shift the way we do justice

RJ and Resilience

- ▶ RJ practices provide safe space for relationship building
- ▶ Storytelling uncovers ACEs, social challenges, risky behavior
- ▶ Helps address emotional health
- ▶ Can cultivate a sense of purpose
- ▶ Helps to identify parent and self resilience
- ▶ Assists with problem solving and self regulation skills

Historical Trauma

- ▶ Exposing the narrative
- ▶ Changing the Narrative

Settings for Restorative Justice

- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Office
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Church
- ▶ Prisons

Relationship Building Results

York High School (Cook County Jail)

- Whole school education
- Circles led to information
- Information led to Advocacy
- Advocacy helps with resilience (connectedness)
- Awareness led to re-entry efforts