

# Minnesota Restorative Practices Gathering May 7-8, 2025

Department of Public Safety  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of Restorative Practices



## Welcome, Gathering Attendees!

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Restorative Practices Gathering, *we're glad you're here!* This e-booklet provides an overview of the sessions, speakers, and helpful information about the gathering.

## Gathering Facility

Cragun's Resort is the gathering facility and serves as the central location for all activities. The main lodge is where you'll find the registration table, as well as an elevator for easy access to all levels of the facility. Breakout session rooms are located on the ground floor, as well as other spaces to use for taking care of yourself. Pine 2 & 3 serve as the general session space. Find session logistics in the *Gathering-at-a-Glance* schedule.

## Office of Restorative Practices (ORP) Gathering Team— Available for You

The ORP Committee Team is made up of dedicated members of the restorative justice community and Office of Justice Programs (OJP) staff. They will be wearing green ribbons on their name tags during the gathering and are here to assist you. Please bring any concerns or questions you have to their attention.

## Commitment to Safety

ORP is dedicated to providing a gathering experience for attendees that is inclusive, safe, accessible, and welcoming for all. We invite you to help us create and maintain this space of belonging to make it a positive experience for everyone. If related concerns arise during the gathering, please connect with the [Joann Jones](#) or a ORP Committee Team member. Any of these people are available in person or can be contacted by email, linked to their names listed below. All committee team members have green ribbons on their name tags for easy identification.

## Mindfulness Room, Prayer Room, Mothers Room and other accommodations

A handful of rooms have been set aside to use during the gathering to take care of yourself, and for dedicated purposes like meditation and mindfulness. **Pine 4** has been designated as a room to use if you need to step away from a circle or session at any point to take care of yourself, to process a session, or take a short break. The **Birch Room** is the Mindfulness, Prayer and Meditation Room. A comfortable, technology-free room allows attendees to take time for reflection or meditation. A separate Mother's room can be found in the **Aspen room**. We're grateful to have these spaces and thank you for respecting others by engaging in quiet activities when in or near the rooms.


## Open Space Time - Evening

Time and space have been designated in the evening hours to have circle time as topics arise throughout the day. This is unstructured time that can be used by anyone for organic conversations, circles, or to continue a discussion from earlier in the day. **Cedar** and **Pine** rooms 7-8:30 p.m.

## Evaluation Forms

Following each session/circle, you'll have the opportunity to provide feedback and insight into the session via a short evaluation form. Evaluations are used to evaluate the effectiveness, quality and relevance of topics presented. In addition, we want your feedback on the overall conference format and content. The longer evaluation is used to make improvements going forward and will be emailed to everyone after the gathering concludes.

## Expectations

Our time together over the next two days is designed to be inviting, thought-provoking, and considerate of everyone, regardless of experience, engagement, or position. The tone of the gathering is to come together and collectively learn from one another with intention as an inclusive community. We're glad you're here. 

## Office of Restorative Practices Committee

Thank you to the gathering team members for their help in planning, guiding and supporting this event. Their direction and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this first ORP gathering to fruition.

<u><a href="#">Joann Jones</a></u>	Office of Justice Programs
<u><a href="#">Rebecca Kutty</a></u>	Office of Justice Programs
<u><a href="#">Sal Lee</a></u>	Carlton County Restorative Justice Program
<u><a href="#">Cynthia Prosek</a></u>	Restorative Justice Community Action
<u><a href="#">Beau RaRa</a></u>	Legal Rights Center
<u><a href="#">Laura Thro</a></u>	Thro Kindness

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# Gathering Spaces Guide

**Conference Registration:**

Main Lobby

**Gathering Spaces:**

All Pine and Cedar Rooms

**Pine 2 & 3:** General Session,  
Opening and Closing Circles

**Mindfulness/Prayer and  
Meditation Room:** Birch

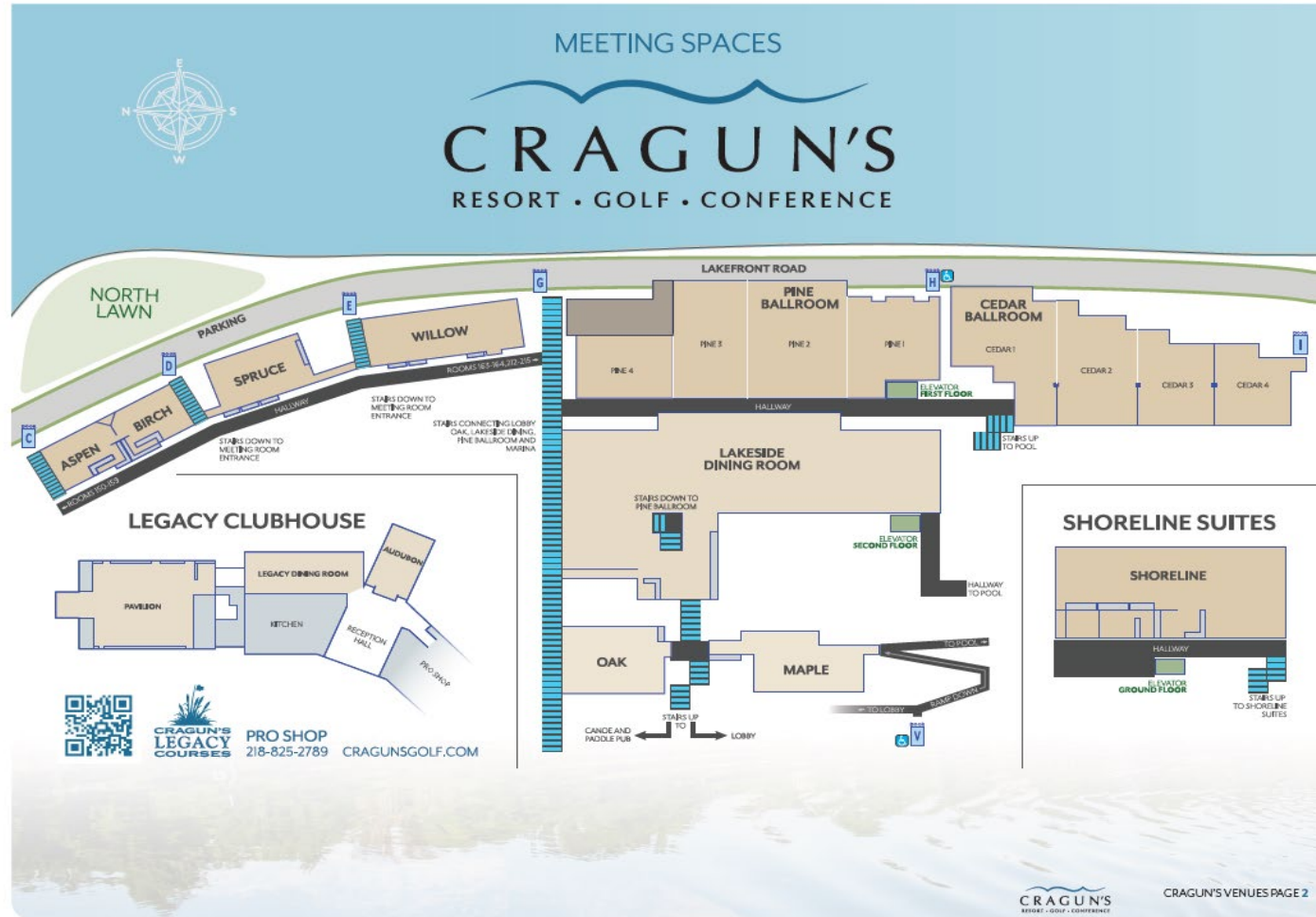
**Mother's Room:** Aspen

**Meals:** Lakeside Dining Room

**Snack breaks:** Pine 2 & 3

**All day refreshment table:**  
Hallway of Pine rooms

**Hotel/Lodging Questions:**  
Craguns Main Lobby - Front



# At-a-Glance Schedule

2025 Office of Restorative Practices At-A-Glance Schedule   Craguns Resort Brainerd, MN			
WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2025			
SESSION	TIME	LEADERS/FACILITATORS	ROOM DETAILS
Breakfast Buffet	7:00 -9:00 am	Lakeside Dining Room - Craguns (Main Lodge) Lower Level	Lakeside Dining Room
Registration	8:30-9:45 am	Craguns Main Lodge	Craguns Main Lodge
Welcome	10:00-10:15 am	OJP/ORP Leadership	Pine 2 & 3
Opening Circle for All; Enriching Relationships for Restorative Community	10:15-11:30 am	Cynthia Prosek, RJCA, Beverly Bushyhead, M.A., MPA, Bushyhead Consulting, Beau RaRa, Legal Rights Center, Sal Lee and Mallory Thorne, MSW, LGSW, Calton County Restorative Justice Program	Pine 2 & 3
Lunch Break	11:45 am-1:00 pm	Lakeside Dining Room - Craguns (Main Lodge) Lower Level	Lakeside Dining Room
<b>CIRCLE/BREAKOUT SESSIONS - BLOCK ONE</b>	<b>1:30-3:00 PM</b>		
Assessing Minnesota's Restorative Practice Landscape in 2025	1:30-3:00 pm	Kara Beckman, M.A., and Dr. Ceema Samimi, MSSW, MPA, PhD, University of Minnesota's Liberation Lab	Pine 2 & 3
Restorative Practices and Child Protection	1:30-3:00 pm	Sharon Hendrichs, Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice Director, and Amanda Sieling, Professor of Justice Administration, Southwest Minnesota State University	Cedar 1 & 2
Black Man Breathe Healing Circles	1:30-3:00 pm	Manu Lewis, ManUcan Consulting	Cedar 4
Restoring Hope and Cultivating Community	1:30-3:00 pm	Brian Andrews, Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project	Pine 1
Afternoon Break	3:00-3:30 pm	Pine 2 & 3	Pine 2 & 3
<b>CIRCLE/BREAKOUT SESSIONS - BLOCK TWO</b>	<b>3:30-5:00 PM</b>		
Making the Case for Restorative Practices for Adults	3:30-5:00 pm	Tina Sigel, RJCA, Brian Andrews, Lakes Area Restorative Justice, Honorable District Judge Bruce A. Peterson (Retired)	Pine 2 & 3
How Restorative Practices Meet the Needs of Victims/Harmed Parties	3:30-5:00 pm	Cindy Cox, M.S., Olmsted County Victim Services	Pine 1
Staying Grounded and Committed When Challenged Politically and Ideologically	3:30-5:00 pm	Dr. Tamara Mattison, Generation2Generation	Cedar 1 & 2
What Does Justice Feel Like? Building a Restorative Culture in Public Education	3:30-5:00 pm	Dr. Nuhu Sims, Restorative Practices Consultant, Minnesota Department of Education	Cedar 3
<b>BREAK FOR HOTEL/LODGING CHECK IN</b>	<b>5:00-6:00 PM</b>		Craguns Main Lodge
Buffet Dinner	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Lakeside Dining Room - Craguns (Main Lodge) Lower Level	Lakeside Dining Room
Open Space Time	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Cedar and Pine Rooms - Craguns lower level	Cedar and Pine Rooms
THURSDAY, May 8, 2025			
Breakfast Buffet	7:00-8:15 am	Lakeside Dining Room - Craguns (Main Lodge)	Lakeside Dining Room
<b>CIRCLE/BREAKOUT SESSIONS - BLOCK THREE</b>	<b>8:30-10:00 AM</b>		
Youth Voice in Healing & Advocacy	8:30-10:00 am	Beau RaRa, Legal Rights Center and Gabriel Arika, Salena Jackson, Adia Hickman and Salman Shafi, Youth Fellows/Network Members	Cedar 1 & 2
Nurturing Self-Care Circle	8:30-10:00 am	Laura Thro, M.P.S., Thro Kindness	Pine 1
Cultivating Restorative Responses to Severe Harms Within a Harmful System	8:30-10:00 am	Sarah King, M.A., Chris Godsey, Tito Campbell, Erin Bruemmer; Victim Services and Restorative Justice Unit, DOC, with Alicia Nichols, LSW, OnBoard Consulting	Pine 2 & 3
Morning Break	10:00-10:30 am	Pine 2 & 3	Pine 2 & 3
Closing Circle for All; Reflecting on our Connected Community Gathering Closing	10:30-11:45 am 11:45 am-12:00 pm	Cynthia Prosek, RJCA, Beverly Bushyhead, M.A., MPA, Bushyhead Consulting, Beau RaRa, Legal Rights Center, Laura Thro, Thro Kindness, Sal Lee and Mallory Thorne, MSW, LGSW, Calton County Restorative Justice Program	Pine 2 & 3

## Message from Rebecca Rabb

Deputy Director for External Relations and Interim Office of Restorative Practices Director  
Office of Justice Programs, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Dear Gathering Participants,

It is an honor to welcome you all to this gathering dedicated to nurturing our connections as restorative practitioners. Whether you are a seasoned advocate, a practitioner, a community leader, or someone new to this transformative approach, your presence here inspires hope that we can accomplish the goal of restorative practices flourishing in every Tribal Nation and Minnesota county.

Restorative justice is more than a concept—it is a movement, a commitment, and, most importantly, a pathway toward justice that heals rather than punishes. It is about restoring dignity, rebuilding trust, and fostering communities where every individual feels heard, valued, and empowered.

As we engage in discussions, share experiences, and explore innovative practices, let us hold space for one another with openness and respect. Let us challenge ourselves to listen deeply, to reflect critically, and to carry forward the principles of restorative justice beyond these walls—into our communities, schools, and institutions.

This event is a restorative way of being, exploring practices that nurture our connections and practices that strengthen a common vision, which can make our vision a reality.

Thank you for your dedication to restorative practices and for making the trip here to be all together, in person. I also want to recognize the people who organized this gathering and hope you'll find a moment over the next couple of days to acknowledge their efforts as well.

Let's make this gathering a step toward understanding and embodying a thoughtful community of practitioners who can depend on one another.



## WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

Breakfast Buffet 7 – 9 a.m.

Lakeside Dining Room

Gathering Registration Table Opens 8:30 – 10 a.m.

Craguns Main Lodge

### Opening and Welcome 10 - 10:15 a.m.

Pine 2 & 3

Rebecca Rabb, MN DPS Office of Justice Programs Deputy Director for External Relations and Office of Restorative Practices Interim Director

### Opening Circle for All 10:15-11:30 a.m. | Enriching Relationships for Restorative Community Pine 2 & 3

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) Executive Director, Cynthia Prosek, Bushyhead Consulting Restorative Practitioner, Beverly Bushyhead, MA, MPA, Legal Rights' Center Intergenerational Lead, Beau RaRa, Carlton County Restorative Justice Program Social Worker, Mallory Thorne, MSW, LGSW and Carlton County Restorative Justice Program Specialist, Stephanie (Sal) Lee

As we open the first gathering of the Minnesota Office of Restorative Practices, we begin by reflecting on our shared purpose: To build and strengthen relationships that will guide the stewardship of restorative practices in our communities and across the state, fostering collective well-being.

In this circle, attendees will focus on establishing community agreements for how we engage with one another, grounding our intentions in the values we bring to this space. Together, we will celebrate the gift of time to reflect on our identity as restorative practitioners and embrace the dreams and goals of Minnesota as a thriving restorative community.

∞ Lunch Hour/Break 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lakeside Dining Room – Wear name badge to receive meal ∞

### Wednesday Afternoon - Breakout Sessions ■ 1:30 – 3 p.m.

#### Assessing Minnesota's Restorative Practice Landscape in 2025

Pine 2 & 3

Kara Beckman, MA and Dr. Ceema Samimi, MSSW, MPA, PhD, University of Minnesota's Liberation Lab

The University of Minnesota's Liberation Lab, with co-founders Kara Beckman and Dr. Ceema Samimi, are working with the Office of Restorative Practices to collect information for (1) the 2025 Minnesota Restorative Services Directory, and (2) a deeper understanding of the reach and depth of restorative practices across Minnesota. In this session, the Liberation Lab team will give a "sneak peek" of findings so far, offer an opportunity to participate in the research for anyone who has not yet done so, and include a demonstration of the planned interactive, searchable website that will host the directory in the future. Attendees can expect the following from this session:

- Learn why this project represents a unique opportunity to strengthen, connect and apply restorative practices work in Minnesota.
- Hear about how to participate in the research.
- Interact and provide feedback on a draft version of a searchable website that will host the directory in the future.

## **Restorative Practices and Child Protection**

**Cedar 1 & 2**

**Sharon Hendrichs, Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice Director, and Amanda Sieling, Professor of Justice Administration, Southwest Minnesota State University**

For more than fifteen years, Yellow Medicine County has been using restorative practices to increase safety for youth under the age of 13 who commit delinquent acts and families involved with child protection, child welfare and truancy. Sharon and Amanda will discuss their respective roles as a practitioner and a prosecutor in these practices and outline strategies on how to partner with social services, the court, and the community to decrease court petitions and reduce the length of child protection involvement and out-of-home placement. Outcomes and cost savings from the use of restorative practices in Yellow Medicine County over the last 22 years will be shared. Attendees can expect to leave with strategies to engage in restorative partnerships within systems as well as within communities, an understanding of what it means to use restorative practices within the context of child welfare, as well as examples of outcomes (such as case studies and cost savings) specifically used in Yellow Medicine County by using restorative practices.

## **Black Man Breathe Healing Circles**

**Cedar 4**

**Manu Lewis, ManUcan Consulting**

Black Man Breathe Healing Circles are culturally specific spaces designed to foster emotional processing and support among Black men of all generations. These groups prioritize creating safe environments for vulnerability, allowing men to share experiences and build communal strength. By addressing intergenerational trauma and promoting healthy emotional expression, Black Man Breathe Healing Circles aim to cultivate individual and collective well-being within Black communities. Attending this Circle can lead to three key outcomes:

- **Increased emotional Literacy and Release:** Participants better understand their emotions and develop healthier coping mechanisms, fostering a safe space to release pent-up pain and trauma.
- **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Attendees experience a powerful connection with other Black men, reducing isolation and building a supportive network that validates their experiences and promotes collective healing.
- **Enhanced Personal Agency and Empowerment:** Participants discover their inner strength and resilience, empowering them to break cycles of harmful behavior and become active agents of positive change within themselves and their communities.

## **Restoring Hope and Cultivating Community**

**Pine 1**

**Brian Andrews, Executive Director, Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project**

In this session, Brian Andrews will lead a circle on Restoring Hope and Cultivating Community. Engaging and exploring core values that not only bring people to work and proactively building techniques and relationships when challenges arise but also reflect on the “why” behind restorative justice approaches in Minnesota. Brian can share his expertise on recommended programs and how they have improved engagement levels of people harmed, and when and where to involve community. In this session, participants can expect to learn the following:

- **Recruiting community members:** new intersections and perspectives to consider.
- **The connection between restorative agreements and community connection**
- **Restorative agreements:** How intentional community member involvement can make a positive impact.
- **General open discussion on LARJP's transformation over 20 years from checking a box to strength-based approach and prosocial community connection.**

∞ Afternoon Refreshment Break 3 – 3:30 p.m. ∞

Refreshments will be in the Pine 2 & 3 rooms.

## Wednesday Afternoon Breakout Session 2 ■ 3:30 – 5 p.m.

### **Making the Case for Restorative Practices for Adults**

**Pine 2 & 3**

Tina Sigel, Program Manager, Restorative Justice Community Action, Brian Andrews, Executive Director, Lakes Area Restorative Justice, Honorable District Judge Bruce A. Peterson (Retired), Vice-Chair, Restorative Justice Community Action

Minnesota government decision-makers, practitioners, and the public typically focus restorative practices on juvenile cases. What about adults? Some agencies have been working with adults for years. Two restorative practitioners will describe their adult programs. A retired judge will provide additional perspective on the challenges, misconceptions, and successes they have seen. Adults can change. These panelists will lead a discussion about how to make the best case for supporting restorative programs for adults and about ideas for effectively operating such programs.

### **How Restorative Practices Meet the Needs of Victims/Harmed Parties**

**Pine 1**

Cindy Cox, M.S., Olmsted County Victim Services

This circle will discuss the needs of a victim/ harmed party and how they have been addressed by the criminal justice system. In addition, this circle will discuss what can be done through restorative practices to remediate harm and empower victims/ harmed parties. Attendees can expect to learn the following in this session:

- Learn about a victim's experience with the criminal justice system.
- Learn about the needs of a crime victim/ a person who has been harmed by crime.
- Explore options that prioritize meeting those needs.

### **Staying Grounded and Committed When Challenged Politically and Ideologically**

**Cedar 1 & 2**

Dr. Tamara Mattison, Generation2Generation

In a world of increasing political and ideological divisions, it can be difficult to stay true to your values while engaging in meaningful conversations. This workshop provides practical strategies to help individuals remain grounded, confident, and committed to their beliefs—even when facing opposition or pressure. Objectives from this session are to develop resilience in the face of political and ideological challenges, learn techniques for staying calm and composed in difficult discussions, cultivate self-awareness to recognize personal triggers and biases, strengthen communication skills to engage in productive, respectful dialogue and build a personal framework for staying committed to core values without being reactive. This session is ideal for activists, community leaders, educators, professionals, and anyone who wants to navigate political and ideological tensions with confidence and integrity.

## What Does Justice Feel Like? Building a Restorative Culture in Public Education

Cedar 3

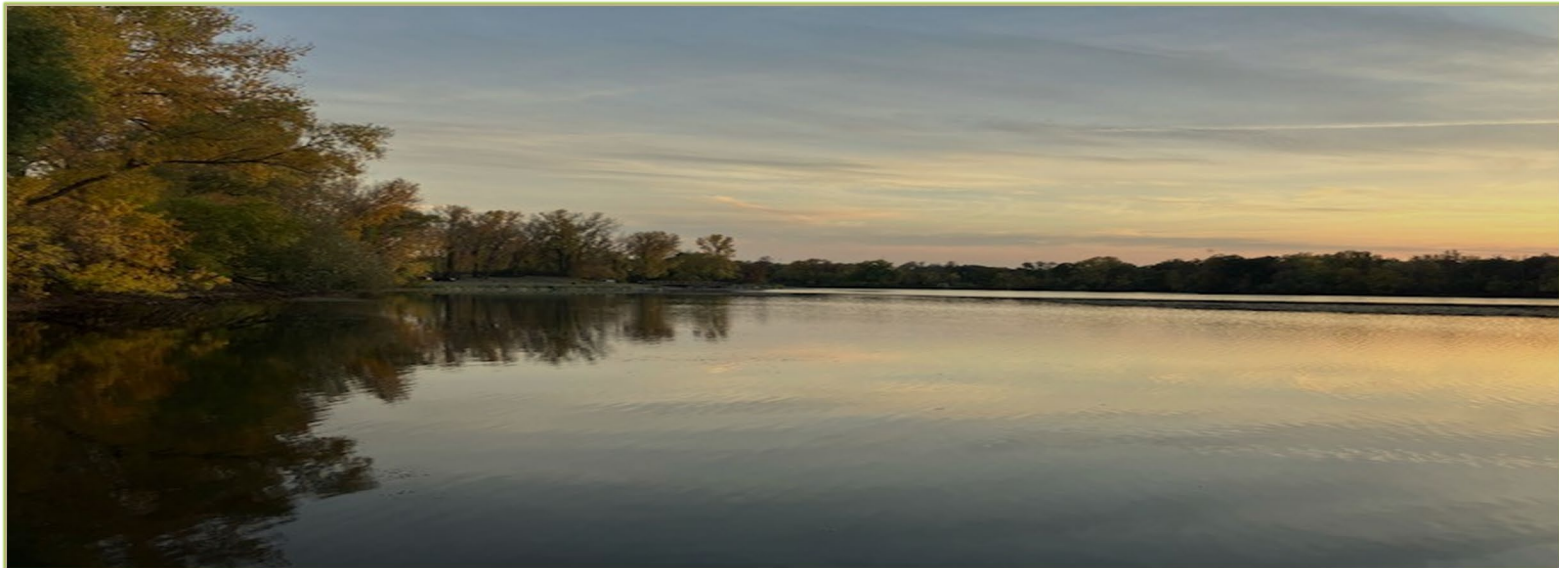
Dr. Nuhu Sims, Restorative Practices Consultant, Minnesota Department of Education

This circle will focus on the inquiry and ideals of “What does justice feel like?” Engaging attendees to the historical grounding for why we need equity, and restorative practices work for every community, grounding in the praxis of doing restorative work, and lastly, developing skills for implementing restorative practices for the people served.

### Wednesday Evening ■ 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Check into hotel/lodging	5:00-6:00 p.m.
Dinner in Cragun’s Lakeside Dining Room	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Networking/Open Space Time (Cedar & Pine rooms)	7:00-8:30 p.m.

Connect with others at the end of the day and enjoy the many opportunities for quiet conversation or larger, more social areas Cragun’s offers, ideal for group settings, casual chatting, and outdoor activities.



## DAY TWO – THURSDAY, MAY 8

Breakfast Buffet 7 – 8:15 a.m.

Lakeside Dining Room

### Thursday Morning - Breakout Session 4 ■ 8:30 – 10 a.m.

#### Youth Voice in Healing and Advocacy

Cedar 1 & 2

**Beau RaRa, Intergenerational Lead, Legal Rights Center and Gabriel Arika, Salena Jackson, Adia Hickman and Salman Shafi, Youth Fellows and Network Members.**

Youth Fellows and Youth Network Members at the Legal Rights Center invite you to join them for an interactive workshop centered on the themes of community, belonging, youth empowerment, and art. Youth Fellows are part of a six-month fellowship centered on legal rights education ranging from interactions with law enforcement to disability rights to restorative practices as a right to access healing and transformative accountability. Youth Network Members are former Fellows who co-lead the facilitation and content creation for current Fellows. Attendees can expect to learn the following from this session:

- To be in community across generation.
- Deepen understanding of rights and youth power.
- Create space for dreaming and building.

#### Nurturing Self-Care Circle

Pine 1

**Laura Thro, M.P.S., Thro Kindness**

This circle will explore various self-care practices from a restorative perspective, with a focus on how we can proactively integrate self-care into our lives, utilize self-care strategies during and after trauma and/or triggering situations, and incorporate self-care into our after-work routines.

- Forms of self-care.
- Preparing through self-care.
- Utilizing self-care in the moment.
- Caring for yourself after work.

#### Cultivating Restorative Responses to Severe Harms Within a Harmful System

Pine 2 & 3

**Sarah King, M.A., Restorative Justice Coordinator, Victim Services and Restorative Justice Unit, DOC, Chris Godsey, Restorative Justice Specialist, Victim Services and Restorative Justice Unit, DOC, Tito Campbell, Restorative Justice Specialist, Victim Services and Restorative Justice Unit, DOC, Alicia Nichols, LSW, Onboard Consulting, and Erin Bruemmer, DOC.**

Minnesota Department of Corrections Restorative Justice (RJ) Program staff will briefly describe their work, share examples to illustrate challenges and opportunities of restorative practices within a state corrections setting, and host a circle-based discussion to explore topics of interest to session participants.

Outcomes to achieve with the time together include:

- Participants will learn about the scope and context of RJ/RP at the MN DOC.
- Participants will learn about post-conviction RJ/RP in response to cases of severe harm.
- Participants will learn about opportunities for involvement and/or cross-pollination with their current work.

∞ Thursday Morning Refreshment Break 10-10:30 a.m. ∞

Refreshments will be in the Pine 2 & 3 rooms.

## **Closing Circle ■ 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) Executive Director, Cynthia Prosek, Bushyhead Consulting Restorative Practitioner, Beverly Bushyhead, MA, MPA, Legal Rights' Center Intergenerational Lead, Beau RaRa, Carlton County Restorative Justice Program Social Worker, Mallory Thorne, MSW, LGSW, Thro Kindness Restorative Practitioner, Laura Thro, M.P.S, and Carlton County Restorative Justice Program Specialist, Stephanie (Sal) Lee

*People will be encouraged into smaller circles for proactive accommodation.*

## **Reflecting on our Connected Community**

**Pine 2 & 3**

The final circle will be a dedicated time for reflection, processing, and honoring the community we have built during our gathering. Together, we will acknowledge the spirit that brought each of us here with intention and the commitment to sustain that energy as we move forward. As we prepare to depart, we carry with us a sense of connection and grounding, rooted in restorative principles. Returning to our daily routines, we find solace in these foundations, sharing our knowledge in the welcoming spaces we've experienced—or perhaps illuminating the path for others, ensuring their voices and experiences are heard.

## **Gathering Closing ■ 11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us in the Pine 2 & 3 rooms as we make any final announcements and bring the gathering to a close.

## Biographies



**Brian Andrews**

Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project

Brian Andrews, Executive Director of Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project, experienced a life of overcoming mental health struggles and managing stress from the darkest depths of addiction, and homelessness, and personal experience with the criminal justice system. Brian has been married to his best friend of over 20 years and they have six amazing children together. Brian is a trainer for SMART (Stress Management & Resiliency Training), Peer Support Specialist, Peer Recovery Specialist, Trained RJ Conference Facilitator, Circle Keeper and community advocate working tirelessly to live his tagline of "Restoring Hope & Cultivating Community."



**Kara Beckman, MA**

U of M Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center

Kara Beckman (she/her) is an applied researcher at the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center. She partners with school- and community-based practitioners and local government agencies to develop meaningful, developmentally-tailored approaches to learn about restorative justice with young people. She fills her soul by being near water or in forests, growing and cooking good food, spending time with loved ones or attending Lynx games.



**Erin Bruemmer**

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Erin Bruemmer is working towards a master's in Restorative Justice. Erin received her bachelor's in Spanish in 2015 and has used Spanish throughout her career since in various educational settings, most notably as an early childhood home visitor from 2018-2023. After doing undergraduate and volunteer work for several years in prisons in Illinois and Ohio, she has eagerly re-focused her restorative work in the context of corrections. She's been with the Minnesota DOC's RJ Unit since September 2024, assisting with program evaluation and collaboratively designing a trauma healing workshop with incarcerated individuals to be implemented within a facility context.



**Beverly Bushyhead, MA, MPA**  
Bushyhead Consulting

Beverly Bushyhead, enrolled citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is a restorative practitioner focused on the intersection of cultural, generational, and complex trauma response. Bev co-facilitated the State of Minnesota vs Michael Forcia, restorative justice response to the toppling of the Christopher Columbus statue at the Minnesota State Capitol. She designs original curricula. Beverly co-authored and administered a groundbreaking training program in the fledgling field of collective climate psychology and justice. Bev creates restorative tools that address generational trauma to transform harm and promote decolonization, cultural pride, and healing. Bev innovates inspirational steps toward social justice.



**Tito Campbell**  
Minnesota Department of Corrections

Tito Campbell is a Restorative Justice Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. In his role with the DOC, Tito leads a Restorative Justice pilot project that employs incarcerated individuals as restorative justice mentors working on preventing and reducing violence in prison facilities. He is the point person for all Restorative Justice councils in Minnesota DOC facilities. Tito Campbell has created and supports a Restorative Justice Committee, an advisory group of formerly incarcerated individuals. Tito serves as a conduit for change and hopes to create a safer and more restorative prison environment through restorative justice/restorative practices. “We are not the labels you put on us.”



**Cynthia (Cindy) Cox, MS**  
Olmsted County Community Corrections

Cindy Cox has 33 years’ experience with the Criminal Justice System. Most of which has been spent as a senior probation officer supervising criminal justice involved women. Other corrections positions held include Juvenile Holdover Specialist, Program Coordinator, Reentry Specialist, and the past 4.5 years as a Crime Victim Advocate. In addition to professional experience, Ms. Cox has been a foster care provider for the past five years. Her credentials include a Master of Science in Sociology, Corrections and a trained restorative practice facilitator for gender-based offenses. Ms. Cox is also a member of the Olmsted County Restorative Practices Steering Committee and the Three Rivers Restorative Practices Advisory Board.



**Chris Godsey**

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Chris Godsey has worked in the Minnesota Department of Corrections Restorative Justice Program since 2022. His main job is helping incarcerated people write apologies for actions that have caused severe harm including death. From 1998 to 2019 he taught college writing courses in Duluth. From 2010 until 2024 he co-facilitated change-focused dialogue among men who use violence against women. And from 2019 until 2021 he co-coordinated the Men as Peacemakers Domestic Violence Restorative Circles Program. He maintains his own practice of accountability (apology, amends, and change) and lives in Duluth with his wife, Shannon, and their brindle super-mutt, Mocha.



**Sharon Hendrichs**

Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice

Sharon Hendrichs is currently the Director of the Restorative Justice Department in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota. Sharon has been a restorative practitioner for 21 years partnering with community members to provide spaces that create change for youth, families, and communities in the areas of juvenile justice, chemical dependency, child protection, and transition from detention and incarceration. She has a background in juvenile justice, serving as a juvenile corrections agent for seven years, as well as creating restorative justice diversion programs for county attorney's offices and peacemaking circle processes for a children's mental health collaborative. Her passion for restorative practices has also led to creating spaces and providing retreats for restorative practitioners and others working to create change in their communities, workplaces, schools, and local government agencies.



**Sarah King, MA**

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Sarah King, MA, is the Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. In this role she is responsible for the people, programs, and priorities of the DOC's Restorative Justice Program. Sarah has over a decade of experience as a restorative practitioner, ranging from local to international contexts, and specializes in applying restorative practices in cases of severe harm. Sarah has a Master's in Conflict Transformation and Restorative Justice from the Center for Justice & Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University.



## Sal (Stephanie) Lee

Carlton County Restorative Justice Programs

Stephanie Lee is a cisgender multi-ethnic woman who lives and works in rural communities in NE Minnesota. She works with youth and their families in a pre-charge diversion restorative justice program within a county system. The program strives to foster compassionate conversations to create an equitable community where all people reach their full potential.



## Manu Lewis

ManUcan Consulting

Manu Lewis is a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience driving positive change in communities. Manu is a skilled Restorative Justice Circle Keeper and Lifestyle Recovery Coach who fosters healing and builds strong relationships. His expertise spans curriculum development, community safety strategy, and executive coaching, empowering individuals and organizations to thrive. With a deep commitment to justice and equity, Manu leverages lived experience and specialized training to create transformative solutions. He is dedicated to empowering justice-impacted individuals and cultivating safer, more resilient communities through restorative practices and human-centered approaches.



## Dr. Tamara Mattison, PhD

Generation 2 Generation

Dr. Tamara Mattison is a restorative practitioner, circle keeper, and founder and CEO of Generation 2 Generation, a community provider of restorative justice diversion for youth in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties. Dr. Mattison conducts circle training for the Minnesota Department of Education and has more than 30 years' experience working in the Minneapolis and St. Paul regions with BIPOC youth who have been over-represented in school pushout and the juvenile justice system.



**Alicia Nichols**

OnBoard Consulting

Alicia Nichols, LSW, is a seasoned social worker with over 20 years of experience in victim advocacy, violence prevention, and restorative justice. She specializes in addressing the intersection of gender-based violence and gun violence, working nationally to reduce firearm-related harm. Through advocacy, education, and outreach, she promotes safer communities. Alicia also provides support to individuals, families, and organizations affected by violence and racial harm, using restorative justice practices to foster healing and reconciliation. Her compassionate approach strengthens community collaboration and equity, driving meaningful change in violence prevention and response efforts.



**Bruce A. Peterson**

District Court Judge (Retired)

Senior Judge Bruce Peterson was a District Court Judge from 1999 until his retirement in May 2019, sitting in Hennepin County, Minnesota. He served as the presiding judge of Hennepin County Family Court and several specialty courts.

Judge Peterson is the Vice-Chair of Restorative Justice Community Action and for many years has taught restorative practices at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Judge Peterson was a 1978 graduate of Yale Law School, a special assistant in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and practiced law in Minneapolis.



**Cynthia Prosek**

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA)

Cynthia Prosek, Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) Executive Director. Cynthia has over 25 years of Restorative Justice experience. Focused on community-based leadership, she has led RJCA on a trajectory of growth, expanding services and deepening community engagement in Restorative Justice practices. As a collaborative leader, she draws on the knowledge and wisdom of the community, building an organization comprised of volunteers and leaders that reflect the diverse communities, and helped implement new programming in response to the community's need to understand and address racial justice. Cynthia is also engaged in national initiatives that address community harm and well-being.



**Beau RaRa**

Legal Rights Center

Beau RaRa (they/them/theirs) is a poet and a lawyer who believes in the power of relationship to transform society. Equal parts learner and educator, Beau believes that youth are the experts of their own lives. Beau spent their first two years as a lawyer at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and the Disability Law Center representing unhoused youth and youth with disabilities on cases ranging from eviction to emancipation to disability-related proceedings in schools or related to county benefits. As an advocate for systems change, Beau currently serves as the Intergenerational Lead at the Legal Rights Center.



**Dr. Ceema Samimi, MSSW, MPA, PhD**

University of Minnesota's Liberation Lab

Dr. Ceema Samimi (they/them) conducts research grounded in the idea of youth power - young people's ability to shape the communities and world they live in. As such, their work examines the intersections of service organizations, societal systems, criminalization, and race, and how these intersections impact young people. Dr. Samimi believes that institutions such as the U.S. education system are responsible for uplifting the power of young people and that the school-to-prison pipeline is one of the most egregious displays of youth disempowerment. They use critical race theory as their primary framework to center race and power in analysis. Their goal as an academic is to do research that is useful to the community, those most impacted, and to those who make decisions about how that impact happens, so that systems (such as the educational system) are transformed into loving environments that contribute to what hooks calls "homeplace" (hooks, 1990).



**Amanda Sieling**

Southwest Minnesota State University

Amanda Sieling is currently a professor of Justice Administration at Southwest Minnesota State University. For over fifteen years she served as an Assistant County Attorney in Yellow Medicine County where she learned about and helped establish a vibrant restorative justice program. Now, as an educator, Amanda is enthusiastic to share the wisdom of restorative practices with the next generation of criminal justice professionals.



**Tina Sigel**

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA)

Tina Sigel is the Program Manager for Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA). Her duties include facilitating restorative justice community conferences, training incoming facilitators and community members, conducting outreach, and coordinating programming, which has included community conversations on implicit racial bias. Tina also is a trained circle keeper for the Youth Restorative Justice Disposition program, a partnership between RJCA, Legal Rights Center, Koinonia Leadership Academy, and Hennepin County Juvenile Probation. In partnership with RJCA and Hennepin County, she is helping to develop a conferencing program with adults on probation. Tina facilitates victim-offender dialogues and is a circle keeper for restorative circles for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. She is a frequent speaker and participant in restorative justice education in Minnesota's Correctional facilities, in addition to other public and academic forums. Tina holds a BA in Sociology, Boston University.



**Dr. Nuhu Sims**

Minnesota Department of Education

Dr. Noah "Nuhu" Isaiah Sims is an educator, scholar, and equity leader committed to dismantling systemic oppression within education and beyond. His passion for equity work is evident through a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. In 2020, Dr. Sims became the Director of Equity and Restorative Practices at Brooklyn Center Community Schools and shaped sustainable change through creating restorative justice frameworks and community collaborations. Since 2017, Dr. Sims has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, offering courses such as Culture, Power, and Education and Enacting Equity-Based Pedagogy. Currently, he serves as a restorative practices consultant for the Minnesota Department of Education.



**Mallory Thorne, MSW, LGSW**

Carlton County Restorative Justice

Mallory Thorne is a Restorative Justice Social worker with 10 years of experience in Social Work and Restorative Justice. She is an experienced presenter and trainer with a passion for working in community. She enjoys her time working with youth to walk alongside them as they overcome barriers and work to lead fulfilling lives. Mallory obtained her Master of Social Work in 2019 from The College of St. Scholastica. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, hiking, sitting with Lake Superior, and fostering dogs.



## Laura Thro, M.P.S

Thro Kindness

Laura focuses on healing after trauma using restorative and transformational approaches through program development, implementation, and training. Holding various degrees in psychology, domestic violence, criminology, and violence prevention. Serving as the Community Outreach Coordinator for a volunteer Fire Department where Laura creates and implements transformational programs for youth. Laura also co-runs a restorative practice program, she created, for individuals in correctional facilities aimed at transformation through accountability. She also developed and taught an Introduction to Domestic Violence course at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and co-hosted a podcast about life after trauma that has been downloaded in over 130 countries.

## Continuing Education Credits

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs Office for Restorative Practices supports continuing education. Professional continuing education credits have been approved from the agency below. OJP maintains an attendance record and can provide verification upon request. Attendees can reach out to [Joann Jones](#) with any questions or follow up for confirmation purposes.

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**Minnesota Board of Social Work**

**Units Approved: 13**

**Event Code: CEP 137**

