

**Restorative Justice Initiative**  
**MOU between YWCA Madison, Inc. and Warner Park Community Recreation Center**  
**January 2022 - December 2022**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between YWCA Madison, Inc. and Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Warner Park CRC) to memorialize the ongoing collaboration between organizations in support of the development, implementation, and delivery of restorative justice services and programming on the Northside of Madison, Wisconsin.

***Summary Project Description***

YWCA Madison will continue to work with Warner Park CRC to provide comprehensive Restorative Justice (RJ) programming to Dane County youth 12-17 years old, with a goal of centering the needs and priorities of youth to ensure their healthy development and successful engagement in the community, developing social and interpersonal skills, and supporting 360 degree accountability and transparency in addressing conditions that criminalize and push out BIPOC youth. Through deep investment in Restorative Justice (RJ) practices and the creation of a community of practice for youth circle keepers, we hope to provide preventative and alternative spaces to reconcile conflicts and harm caused to and by young people without the use of police, courts, punishment, and other exclusionary practices that function to replicate and reinforce harm and generally lead to more conflict.

The core principles that will guide the restorative justice practice of YWCA Madison can be found in the following publications: *The Little Book of Circle Processes: A New/Old Approach to Peacemaking* by Kay Pranis; *The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice: Black Lives, Healing, and US Social Transformation* by Fania E. Davis; and *The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education: Fostering Responsibility, Healing, and Hope in Schools* by Katherine Evans and Dorothy Vaandering; *We Want To Do More Than Survive - Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* by Dr. Bettina L. Love.

***Goals for September 2021-August 2022***

- 1) YWCA Madison will continue providing restorative justice (RJ) services to youth referred by law enforcement at Warner Park CRC, offering restorative justice services to youth as a diversion from the traditional municipal court process for eligible violations/tickets.
- 2) Build capacity of the Northside community to engage with RJ and expand community referrals beyond law enforcement (e.g., providing training/education experiences and consultation to Warner Park CRC staff and facilitating education experiences at Warner Park for BIPOC Northside community/family members and youth serving organizations).

- 3) Creation of a youth circle keepers community of practice / club at Warner Park CRC by connecting with circle keepers and youth at Black Hawk Middle School and conducting outreach and receiving referrals from staff, volunteers, parents/caregivers, and other youth engaged in activities at Warner Park CRC.

### ***Agreements to Guide the Partnership***

Both YWCA Madison and Warner Park Community Resource Center agree to the following:

1. YWCA Madison will accept referrals of youth from municipal law enforcement agencies, courts, and schools; conduct intake to determine eligibility for restorative justice services, and according to location and youth preference, invite youth to engage in RJ programming at Warner Park CRC.
2. Warner Park CRC will continue to provide community space where YWCA Madison can provide direct RJ services to youth who are connected with RJ due to direct law enforcement and/or community-based referrals.
3. In collaboration, YWCA Madison and Warner Park CRC will recruit up to 10 youth to participate in bi-weekly clubs to train them to become circle keepers. Trained circle keepers will be offered opportunities to participate and facilitate circles with other young people across our programs and at the community center sites. The intention is to continue building the capacity of youth to care for each other through the creation of a "Youth Circle Keepers Community of Practice".
4. YWCA Madison will provide strategic leadership to the YWCA RJ staff assigned to provide services covered by this MOU.
5. Warner Park CRC will provide a point person to support the running of the RJ Program, designated space and time for weekly/bi-weekly circles, access to Wifi, screen with speakers, and support in identifying and communicating to youth, families, and volunteers for the different RJ engagements.
6. YWCA Madison will provide consultation, professional development, and support on Restorative Justice for Warner Park CRC.
7. Warner Park CRC agrees to work with YWCA Madison and other community and government agencies in efforts to expand and deepen restorative justice work to meet the needs of youth on the Northside of Madison, Wisconsin.

This MOU shall be effective upon approval by both parties as evidenced by the signatures and dates below. Should this Memorandum require modification, such changes will be added by mutual agreement by both parties named in this MOU.

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Signature

Authorized Party from YWCA Madison

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Date

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Signature

Authorized Party from  
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

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Date