

CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR RESTORATIVE CAPACITY
BUILDING AND RESOURCE CREATION THROUGH 'CHAIR
WORK'

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 22/11/24, ACT

CATRIONA HARWOOD
JEAN CARRUTHERS
CHRISTINE JONES

AGENDA

1. Introducing the collaborative
2. Restorative Practice and Social Work alignment
3. The Aims - Resources gap
4. Combining skill sets and collaborative working – the restorative way
5. Chair work from a critical approach
6. The sessions purpose and process
7. End results

1. INTRODUCING THE COLLABORATIVE

- The collaborative partnership into the restorative practice sessions between the Queensland Health Restorative Practice (RP) In Mental health project and the QUT school of Public Health and Social Work.



2. RESTORATIVE PRACTICE AND SOCIAL WORK

- Restorative practices and critical social work practice naturally align. Restorative practitioners, conscientiously or not, tend to challenge organisational, social and cultural dynamics that sustain patterns of marginalisation and exclusion.
- The critical SW is committed to challenging systemic inequalities, power imbalances and social injustices.
- In particular, RP enables critical social workers to engage with conflict in ways that traditional ways of disputes processing and conflict resolution just do not. We felt that this was an exciting opportunity for our critical social work students to learn practical skills to integrate their way of being with their way of doing emancipatory practice.

3. THE AIMS – TO FILL A RESOURCE GAP

- Restorative practice is a relational approach to harm to support healing by involving those most directly impacted in having a say and requires a reflective approach to support safety.
- The RP in MH project was supporting MH clinicians to understand restorative approaches – whilst there was emerging literature in the space there was a lack of practical tools, and very few contextual videos for clinicians or consumer within the mental health space (most from USA/with kids/education setting)
- The aim was to create some practical contextual resources on how to use the restorative continuum within an adult (and mental health setting)
- There was an additional gap identified for tertiary students

4. COMBINING SKILL SETS AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING – THE RESTORATIVE WAY



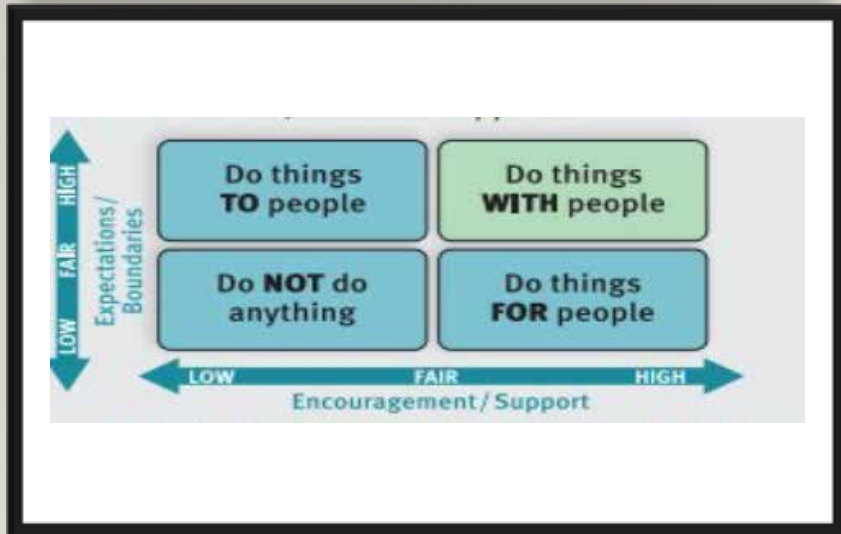
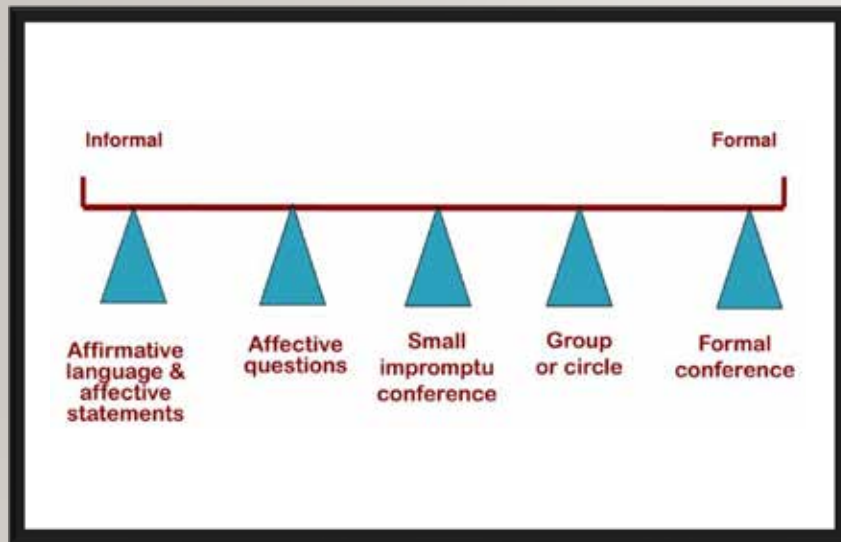
Additional support: Michael Power, Jean Carruthers, Christine Jones, Marg Thorsborne, Andrew Robinson, Jesse Blackman, Cat Harwood

5. THE SESSIONS PURPOSE AND PROCESS

- Between 10-13th July 2023 we had 22 people attended in addition to the organisers/facilitators.
- A half day summary restorative practice taster session for background on theory and practice
- A full day of immersive restorative capacity building with a sprinkle of performance art, chair work and collective storytelling to create some examples of responding to harm in the healthcare setting across the restorative continuum

SOCIAL DISCIPLINE WINDOW AND RESTORATIVE CONTINUUM

ADAPTED FROM IIRP, WACHTEL AND MCCOLD (2001)



SCENARIOS DISCUSSED FOR ROLE PLAY AND FILMING OPPORTUNITY

- New staff or patient on the ward – want to make them feel welcome or wishing farewell
- Building trust in teams – check ins about how they are, goals and how can help others
- Debrief following issue on the ward (e.g. a consumer or staff serious incident)
- Consumer assault on the ward
- Consumer complaint re nursing care
- Staff conflict regarding another staff member's care to consumer
- Conflict within family relationships of consumer
- Reflections of a facilitator
- Staff using affective language with a consumer to support reflection

6. WHAT IS CHAIR WORK?

- Chair work refers to a collection of experiential methods which use space, movement, positioning, and dialogue to bring about change.

Microsoft Teams

Jean Carruthers Chair Work recording

2024-11-14 08:50 UTC

Recorded by

Catriona Harwood

Organized by

Catriona Harwood

7. END RESULTS AND FEEDBACK

- Footage towards contextual video for use within MNMH setting and restorative workshops within healthcare (currently being edited for wider sharing) to support mental health clinicians
- For QUT the main aims and benefits were the ways the collective and creative approach to delivering the workshop/development of the resources aligned with social work values such as social justice, inclusivity, embracing diversity, empathy and care as well as drawing on narrative practices that supported a range of valuable perspectives.
- Feedback from participants indicated that there was reflective understanding of the shared values and ethics within social work that aligned to restorative approaches.
- The organisers were hugely thankful in addition to the enthusiastic roomful of learning participants, to have the shared practice wisdom opportunity

the dexterity of restorative approaches in building, maintaining and healing social relationships in a health care setting

learnings on the social discipline window and affective language

keeping the small things small

Restorative Practice in mental health video project

A collaboration between the restorative practice in mental health project (Queensland Health Victim Support Service), School of Public Health and Social Work, and restorative practitioners within our space

Microsoft Teams

Chair Work snippet

2024-11-14 09:57 UTC

Recorded by

Catriona Harwood

Organized by

Catriona Harwood

CONCLUSION

- Using social work concepts and chair work/role play was a useful exercise for participants in building restorative capacity, as well as innovative experience for institutional cross collaborative working between health, QUT, and restorative practitioners to create a useable contextualised resource for restorative approaches for further learning.

ANY QUESTIONS?



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Contact details catriona.harwood@health.qld.gov.au

Further external links:

- [The NED Foundation Supports Restorative Practice | NED Foundation](#)
- [Restorative Practice - The Prince Charles Hospital \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- [The Mint House \(minthouseoxford.co.uk\)](#)
- [Restorative Practices International \[www.restorativepracticesinternational.com\]\(http://www.restorativepracticesinternational.com\)](#)