Making Restorative Practices and Healing Circles Work for You

Dr. Nathan A. Stephens

Special Thanks

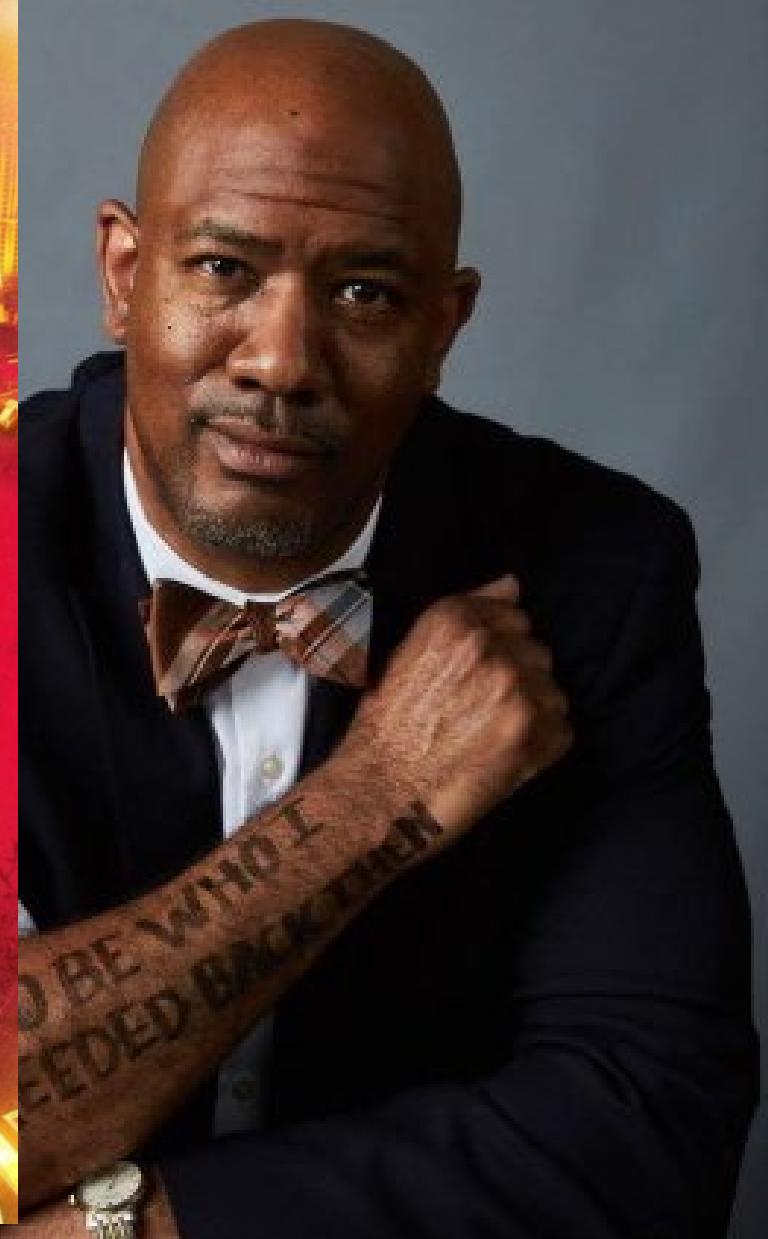# Dr. Nathan A.

Born and Raised in Colu

Graduated - David H. Hi

**Graduated from Columb
with my Bachelor's of Sc**

**Graduated from Univers
'05 with my Master's in**

Graduated from Mizzou

Discussion Guidelines

- **Honor Confidentiality**

- **Know When to Step Forward &**

- **Interrogate Self & Systems**

- **Stay Present (Let's struggle & L**

- **Accept That There May Be a Lac**

- **Please Do Not Personalize the**

- **It is Okay to Disagree But Let's Not Be Disagreeable.**

Puritan Parenting

In the 1600s, children had low life expectancy rates. When these rates improved, children began to be viewed as society's future. Parents and others took a more vested interest in the moral and social development.

Puritan Parenting

Puritans arrived in the colonies with the belief that children were born with sin and needed intense discipline and obedience to please God. This influenced child rearing practices and parental responses to conduct that was anti-social or in violation of God's will.

Puritan Parenting

The *Book of Nature* **urged parents to stomp out behaviors that are thought to be typical and even healthy today. Children could be chastised for behaviors as minor as fidgeting or pointing.**

The axiom '*spare the rod, spoil the child***' and paddling in schools were influenced by this mindset.**

Early Laws

Parents were deemed responsible for their children's behavior and social control.

In 1646, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, enacted *The Stubborn Child Law*, making a child's disobedience to their parents a capital offense.

Bell, n.d.

History of Juvenile Services

In 1824, the New York Legislature passed a law authorizing the House of Refuge for youthful offenders, who were deemed still to be reformable.

- Philadelphia – opened one in 1828

- By the 1850s, eight more were open.

Fox, 1999

History of Juvenile Services

These facilities operated with 3 basic principles:

1. **Segregating youth from adult offenders**

2. **The centrality of rehabilitation as the goal**

3. **Restriction of this system to children who were deemed amenable to treatment.**

Fox, 1999

History of Juvenile Services

"These children were seen as needing not only kindly care with rehabilitative goals, but also stern discipline to remind them that laws had been broken."

Fox, 1999

History of Juvenile Services

Charles Loring Brace

Rev. Brace had witnessed the hordes of children in New York City who lived in poverty with parents who abused alcohol, engaged in criminal activity and otherwise demonstrated they were unfit parents. Parents sent children to beg for money or sell newspapers in the streets.

There were other children who were homeless and unemployed, wandering the street.

These children became notorious as "street Arabs" or "the dangerous classes" due to the street violence and gangs with which they inevitably became members.

History of Juvenile Services

Rev. Brace provided services for poor and homeless children, working women, needy families and disabled children at a time when services for these groups were few and far between.

His first efforts included lodging houses for the thousands of homeless newsboys, as well as industrial schools, and a farm school.
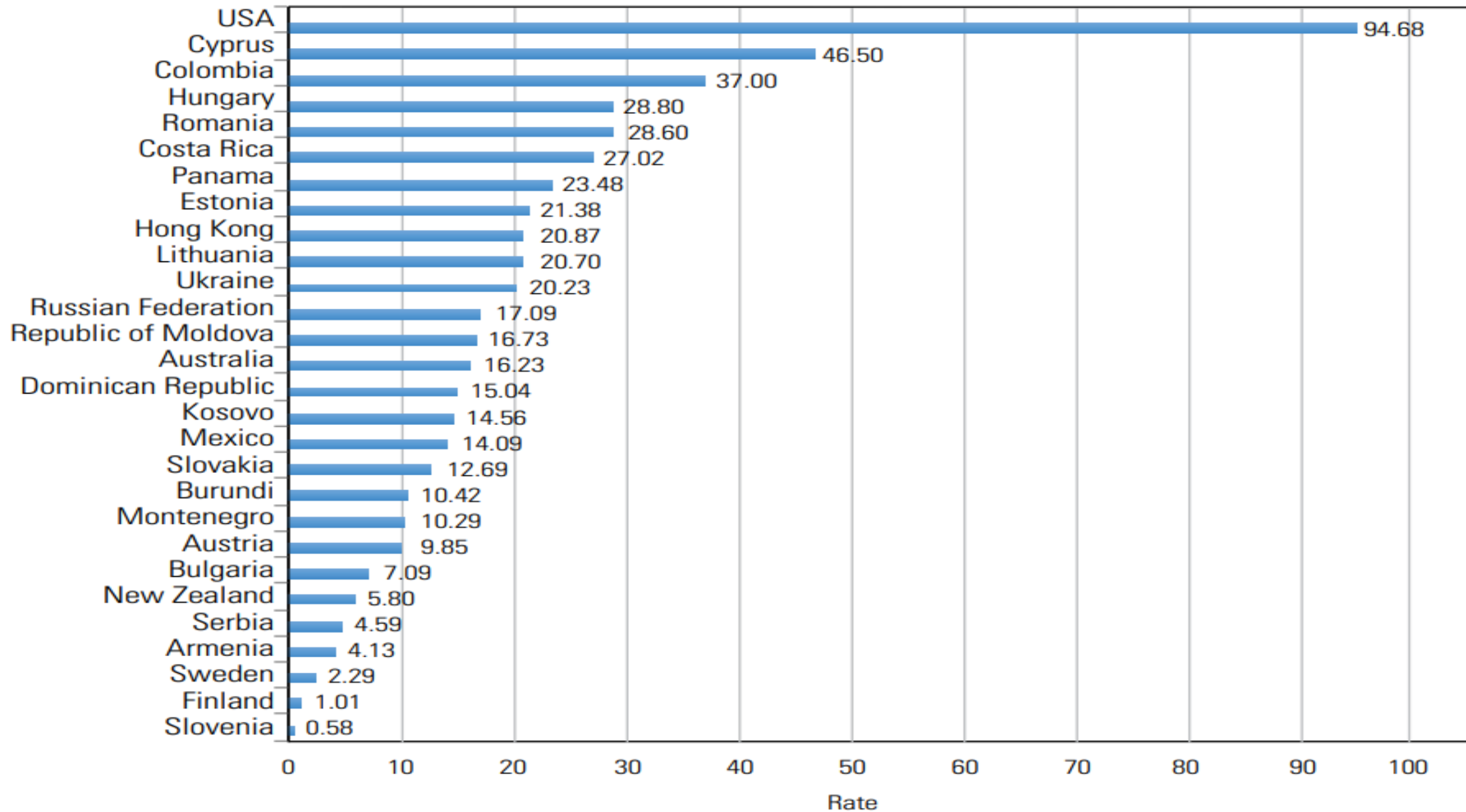
Separate Youth Services

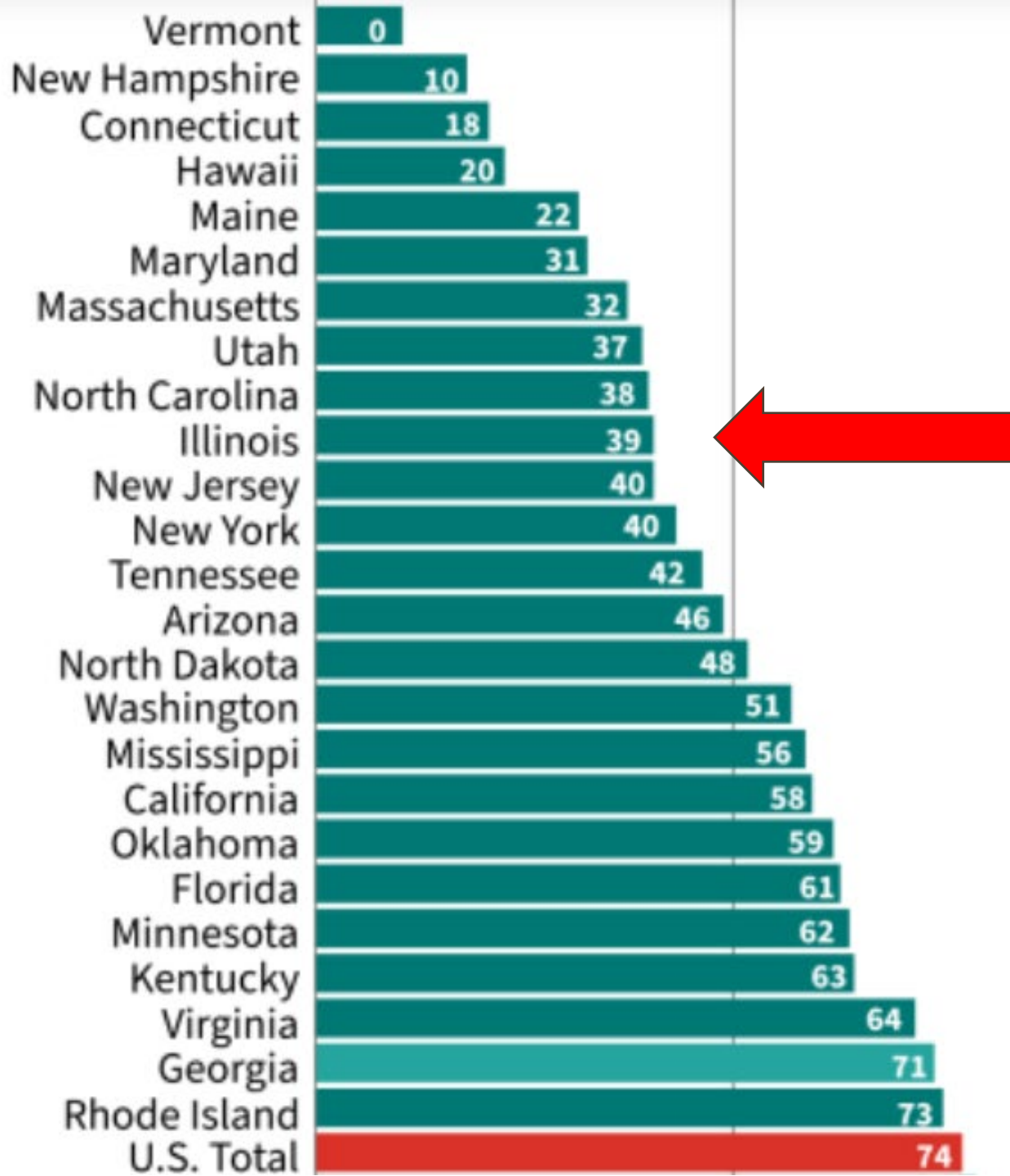**First, it is important to remember that Black children were still enslaved in the Southern states until 1865.**

Black children in many places in the northern states were not allowed into segregated spaces with White children including the House of Refuge.

Separate Youth Services

Country	Rate
USA	94.68
Cyprus	46.50
Colombia	37.00
Hungary	28.80
Romania	28.60
Costa Rica	27.02
Panama	23.48
Estonia	21.38
Hong Kong	20.87
Lithuania	20.70
Ukraine	20.23
Russian Federation	17.09
Republic of Moldova	16.73
Australia	16.23
Dominican Republic	15.04
Kosovo	14.56
Mexico	14.09
Slovakia	12.69
Burundi	10.42
Montenegro	10.29
Austria	9.85
Bulgaria	7.09
New Zealand	5.80
Serbia	4.59
Armenia	4.13
Sweden	2.29
Finland	1.01
Slovenia	0.58

Rate

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2011.

State	Value
Vermont	0
New Hampshire	10
Connecticut	18
Hawaii	20
Maine	22
Maryland	31
Massachusetts	32
Utah	37
North Carolina	38
Illinois	39
New Jersey	40
New York	40
Tennessee	42
Arizona	46
North Dakota	48
Washington	51
Mississippi	56
California	58
Oklahoma	59
Florida	61
Minnesota	62
Kentucky	63
Virginia	64
Georgia	71
Rhode Island	73
U.S. Total	74

Source:

https://www.sentencingproject.org/policy-brief/youth-justice-by-the-numbers/

State	Value
Rhode Island	73
U.S. Total	74
Iowa	77
Colorado	78
South Carolina	78
Wisconsin	79
Pennsylvania	80
Michigan	82
New Mexico	87
Texas	89
Arkansas	90
Nebraska	93
South Dakota	99
Nevada	104
Kansas	106
Missouri	109
Indiana	113
Idaho	117
Ohio	122
Alabama	122
Delaware	138
Louisiana	144
Oregon	146
District of Columbia	165
Alaska	195
West Virginia	202
Wyoming	269

Restorative Practices are…

primarily about healing harm and the re-establishment of individuals, groups, communities, and contexts.

re·store

/rəˈstôr/

verb

bring back (a previous right, practice, custom, or situation); reinstate.
"the policy restored confidence in the banking system"

- return (someone or something) to a former condition, place, or position.
"the effort to **restore** him **to** office isn't working"

My Introduction to Restorative Practices

If I had been the Juvenile Officer...

I would have required me to go back to the store, apologize to that specific clerk, pay the $.03, apologize to the police officer, apologize to my mother.

The apologies ideally would have occurred in a literal circle.

Why a circle?

In many Native American and Indigenous African cultures, circles generally symbolize unity, community, interconnectedness, and the cycle of life, spirituality, representing the idea of wholeness and eternity due to their continuous nature, with no beginning or end; essentially signifying the interconnectedness of all things within a community, including the natural world and the metaphysical.

The 5 Principles of
RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

RELATIONSHIPS
Developing connections

RESPECT
Valuing the opinion of others

RESPONSIBILITY
Being accountable for actions towards self, others and environment

REPAIR
Repairing harm and remaining included

REINTEGRATION
Consistent invitation to be in community

The Case of Clarke

No one is advocating for allowing weapons or disrespect to teachers, parents, or adults. But where is the learning?

If a student doesn't know how to read, we teach that student how to read.

If a student doesn't know how to do math problems, we teach that student how to do math.

If a student doesn't know how to behave, we punish that student?!?!

NEWS SPORTS OPINION OBITUARIES VOX VISUALS SPECIAL SECTION
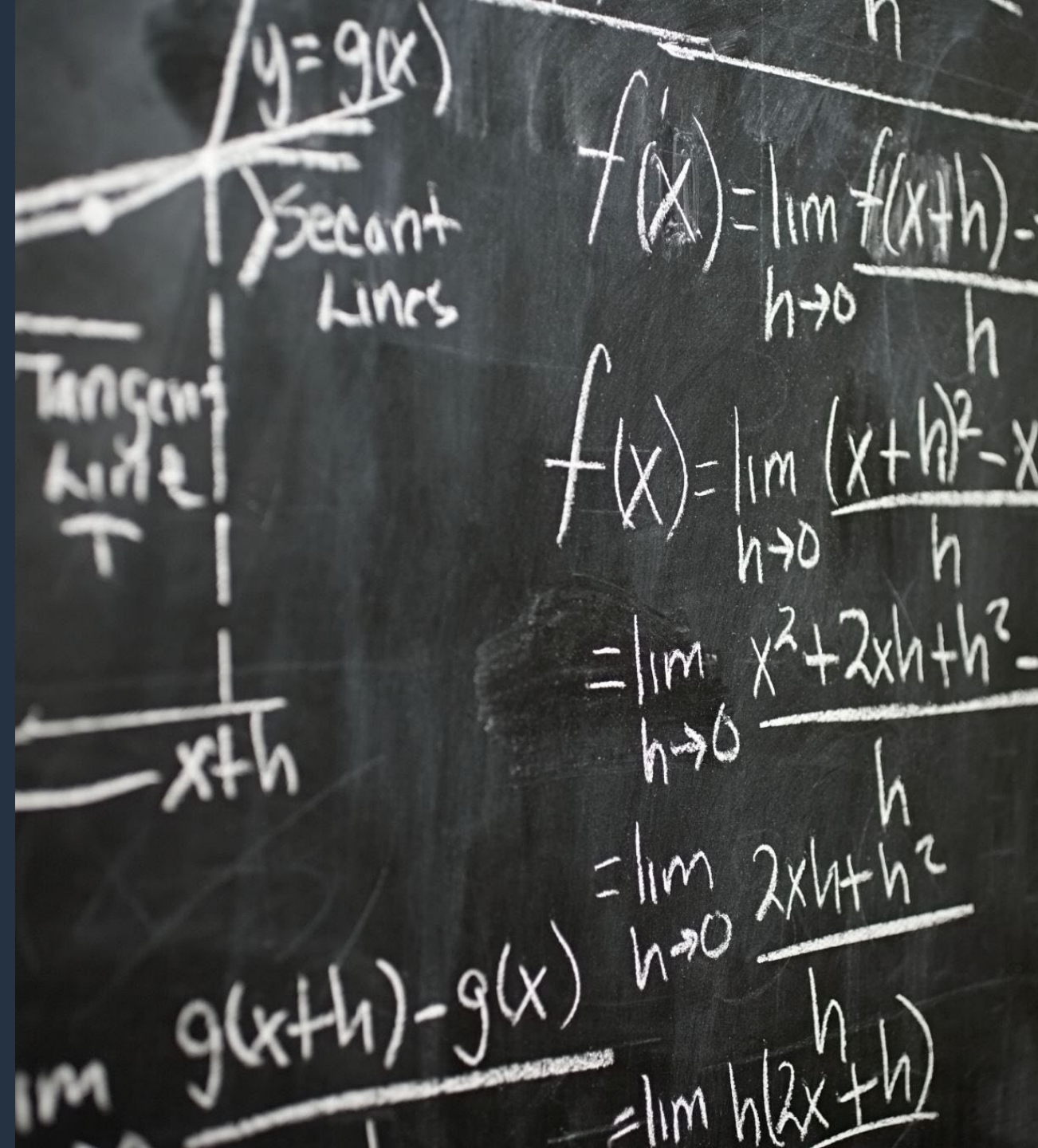
2 MU students arrested in cotton ball incide

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF   Mar 3, 2010 Updated Jun 12, 2015

Sean Fitzgerald, Zachary Tucker mug shots

Courtesy of MU police

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The Dilemma: Mr. Tony Hall vs Student

What would you do?
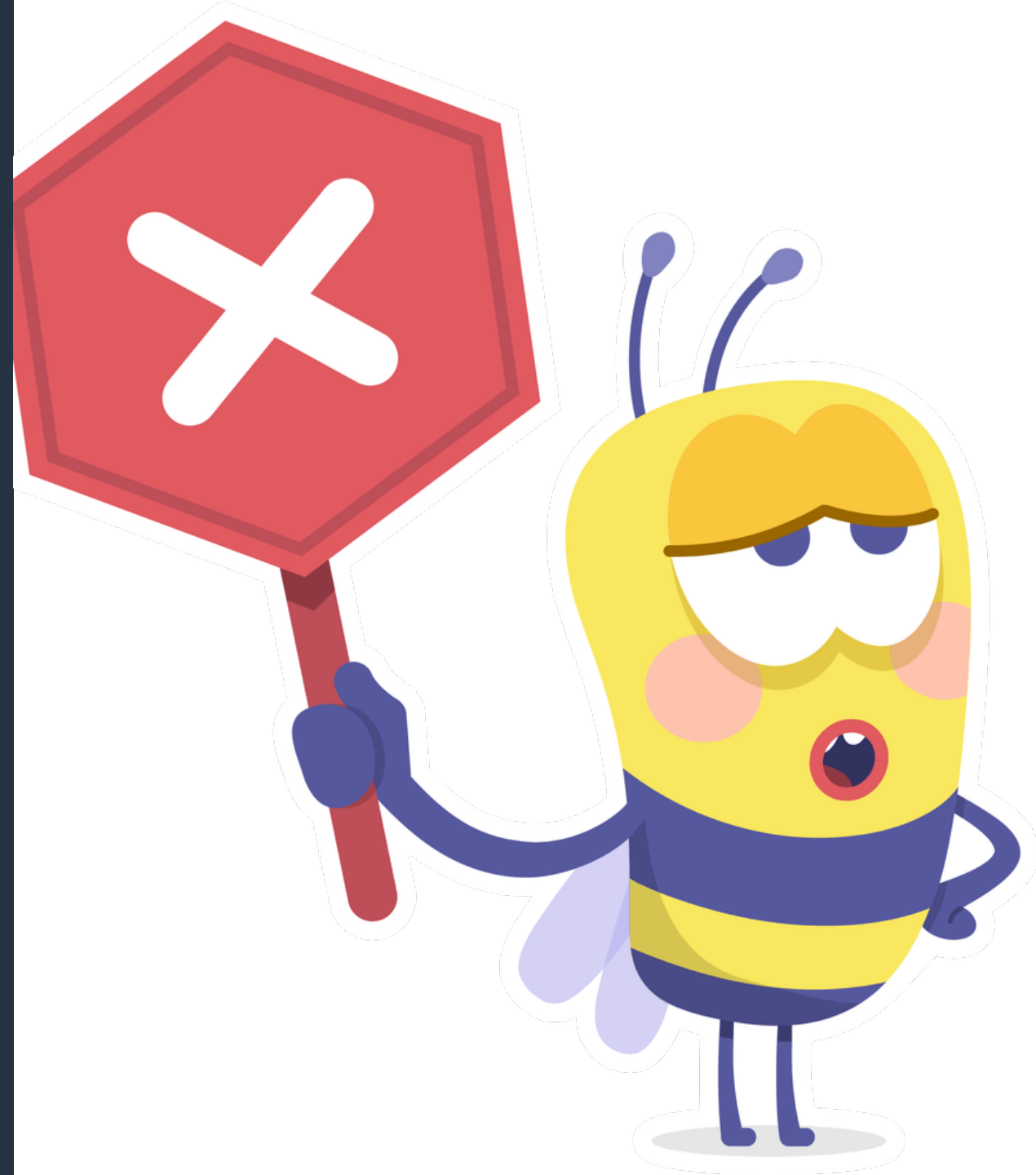
How Restorative Am I?

The Dilemma: w/ Mr. Hall

Revisited

Logic Model & Systems that Can Impede Restorative Practices

Common System Barriers

- A culture of compliance

- Implicit and explicit bias and incongruent beliefs

- Overreliance on structural changes

- Silos or Departments working in isolation

Common System Barriers

- Not regularly looking at disaggregated data and addressing challenges

- Lack of systemwide organization around identified approach or strategy for restorative practices

- Focusing on one aspect and not examining the system as a whole

THE ICEBERG
A Tool for Guiding Systemic Thinking

EVENTS
What just happened?

Practices

PATTERNS/TRENDS
What trends have there been over time?

Procedures

UNDERLYING STRUCTURES
What has influenced the patterns?
What are the relationships between the parts?

Policies

MENTAL MODELS
What assumptions, beliefs and values do people hold about the system? What beliefs keep the system in place?

Beliefs

Restorative Culture

Informs the language that we use to build agency and identity. We strive to create environments that allows young people to pursue their goals and aspirations.

We attend to the ways that we build staff credibility, set high expectations, and foster positive relationships.

Restorative Conversations

Equip adults and youth with the capacity to resolve problems, make decisions, and arrive at solutions in ways that are satisfactory and growth producing for all.

This requires mental reframing to deepen understanding of perspectives, using affective statements, and impromptu conversations.

Eliminate Ageism/Adultism (e.g., "a child should stay in a child's place.")

Restorative/Healing Circles

These are tools for prompting learning and growth through dialogue, building/rebuilding community, and reaching resolution through accountability and healing.

Accountability is different than punishment!

Restorative Conferences

More formal meetings meant to foster guided dialogue, healing, and possible closure between those who have been harmed and the perpetrator(s) of harm.

These include plans for the re-entry into the community and involves other adults, youth, and stakeholders impacted by the incident(s).

Questions????

Contact Info

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