

Restorative Community Pathways

2022 Data Summary
Quarter 2

The following summary is intended to support transparency and ongoing learning for Restorative Community Pathways. It includes narrative and quantitative data from April through June 2022.

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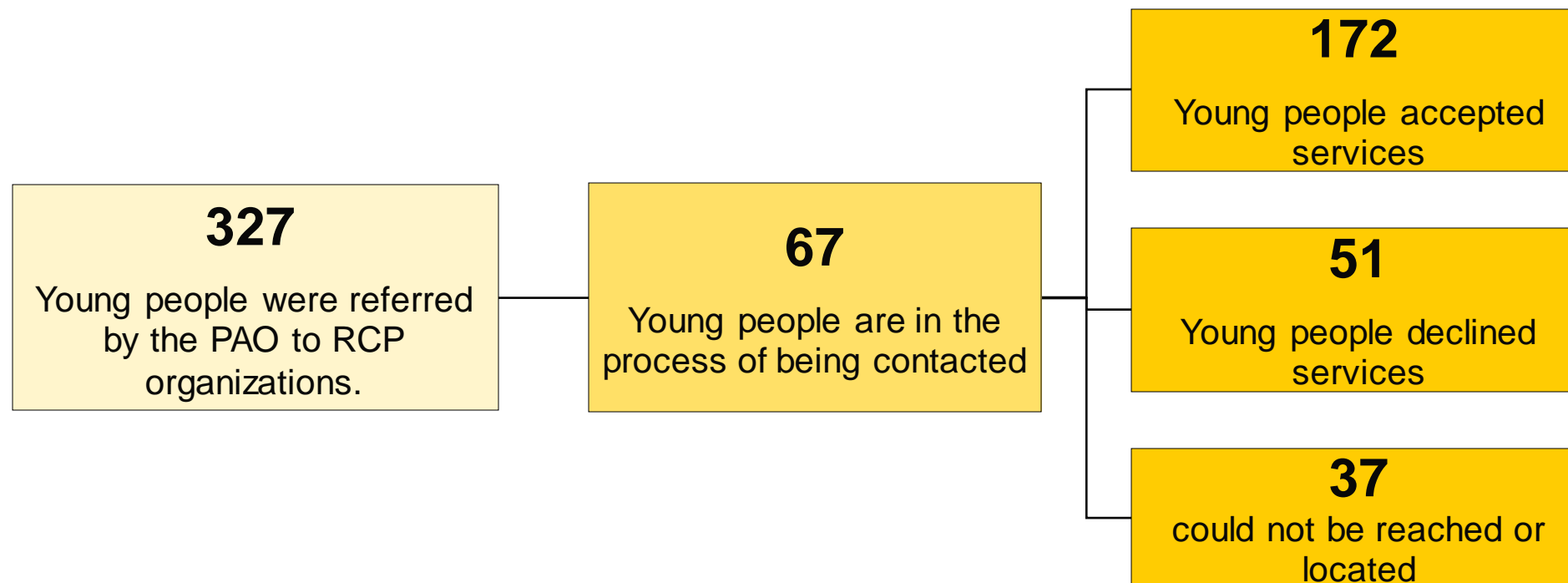
 King County

DCHS

Department of Community
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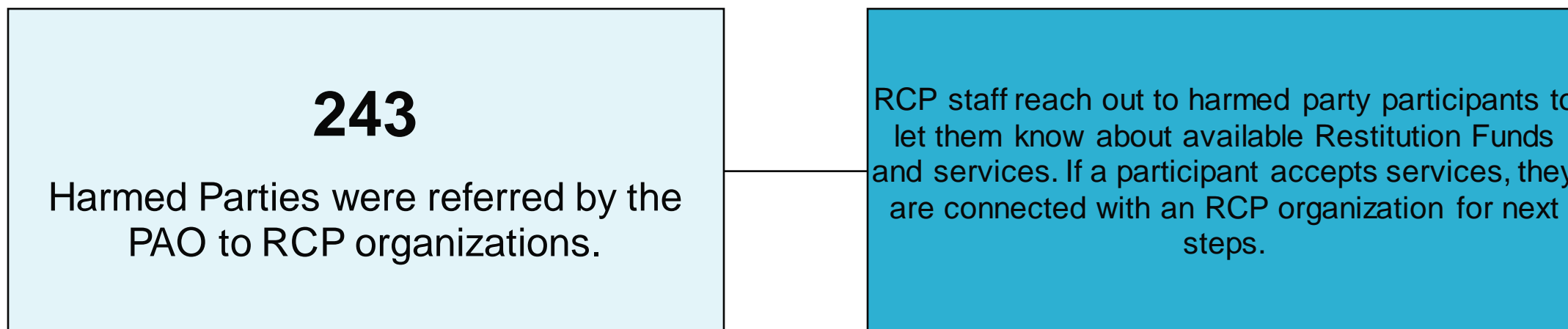
Youth Referrals Summary

The following data summarize youth referrals that took place between November 2021 and June 2022. Statuses are current as of September 2023.



Harmed Party Referrals Summary

The following data summarize harmed party referrals between November 2021 and September 2022.



Support Funds Summary

The following is a summary of the Youth and Family Fund and Restitution Fund between November 2021 and June 2022.

\$2,560.83

Youth and family funds
distributed to **2**
organizations

Restitution funds data not
available this quarter

Program Participation

Number of all participants served.

245
Total young people served

57
Total community members who experienced harm served

Referral source for participants not available this quarter. This summary provides a snapshot of this quarter's data but does not provide accurate year-to-date information. It is not intended to approximate an annual report.

Questions? Contact DCHSData@kingcounty.gov.

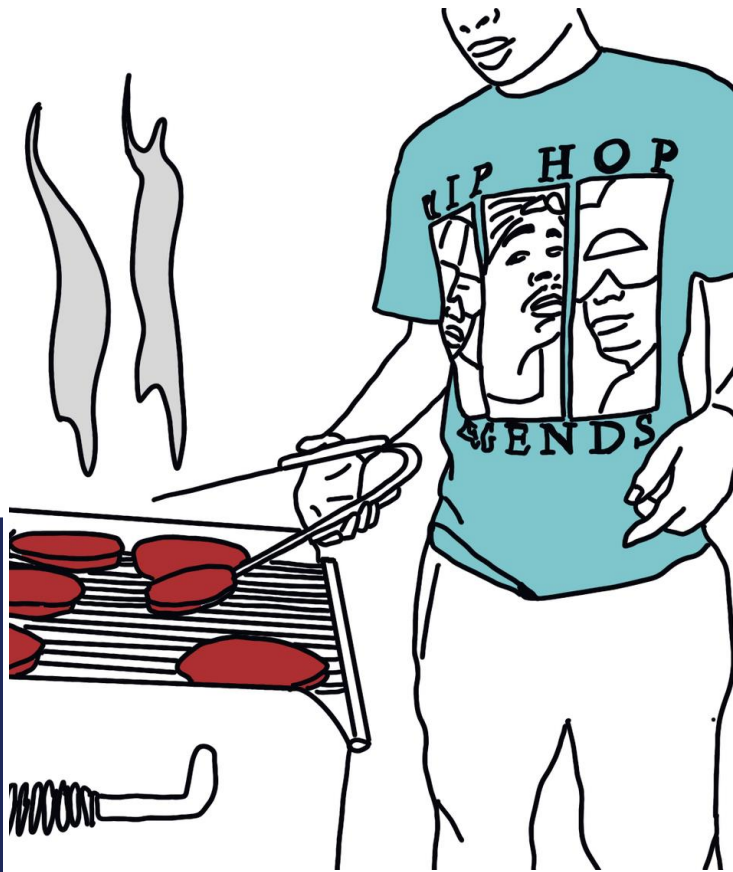


Image Credit: www.restorativecommunitypathways.org

Emerging Themes

Restorative Community Pathways organizations submit quarterly narratives that help tell the story behind the numbers. Questions ask about successes, challenges, and program changes. The following slides include themes and quotes to summarize RCP programming from April through June 2022.

Building Systems and Capacity

- **Partnerships continue to strengthen the network of care.** Organizations collaborated with faith communities, arts and culture groups, behavioral health organizations, and other RCP programs to offer a wide range of services to youth and their families.
- Examples of these opportunities included a **mutual aid project** and a **gunshot wound training** with community medics. Organizations also continued to engage with schools to advocate for the **inclusion of restorative justice practices** in place of harmful ones.
- A partnership with a **mental health agency** also offered services for staff, as one provider shared:

“Our collaboration with [the agency] to provide high quality culturally appropriate mental services has fundamentally changed the way our access to these services occurs. These services are also available to our staff at no cost to address past trauma and the vicarious trauma that occurs through providing direct support services to clients.”

Building Systems and Capacity

- **Programs continue to grow and refine internal processes.** Additional staff joined RCP organizations as they expanded services and outreach. These new staff and existing partnerships help organizations focus on process improvement and supporting youth. One provider shared:

“The diversity of held identities and lived experiences this [hiring] has added to our team has improved our awareness and ability to connect with our [participants]. This onboarding has already begun to allow us to clarify and separate roles and projects within our [program] allowing us deepen in the work we are best positioned to do.”

- Despite program expansion, capacity within RCP organizations, internal RCP staff, and the Youth Steering Committee is still limited. **The RCP Consortium continues to develop communication norms, data systems, and referral processes** as new needs emerge.

Centering Healing

- **Healing circles, mediation, and other restorative processes help youth feel seen and empowered.** Youth use these spaces to process grief, develop identity, connect with peers, and practice self-care. Several youth have even brought friends to the program because of the ways they have benefitted. Program staff continue to receive positive feedback from youth and their families, including improved communication among family members at home:

“We are seeing the growth within our program, from youth advocating better for themselves, to them understanding to heal they must be open to go into treatment for addiction or therapy.”

- **RCP is building holistic systems of community care.** Centering the agency, safety, and needs of community helps create a healing environment that addresses the interpersonal and structural harm caused by racism and oppression – replacing punitive systems. Having their basic needs met also allows young people to focus on healing themselves and restoring relationships:

“By practicing restorative justice, it is helping youth to right their wrongs to the community and at the same time giving youth another chance and focusing on rehabilitating the behavioral issues, rather than just immediately removing the youth.”

Navigating Challenges

- **New COVID-19 variants and recent outbreaks** have disrupted programming, impacting staff capacity and being able to meet with participants. There is also increased health concern for direct service staff who meet with participants in person. Access to at-home testing kits and masks continues to be a need among programs.
- **Youth and families are impacted by systemic and institutional barriers** such as housing access, violence, financial need, and addiction and behavioral health issues. This emphasized the necessity for community partnerships so organizations can address these barriers.
- Additionally, the **court system is difficult to navigate** and does not provide adequate resources for youth and families. This means youth may not have sufficient information to make decisions for themselves.

Navigating Challenges

- **Building trust is crucial and takes time.** Some families are hesitant to engage with RCP since it is new and unfamiliar, which means RCP organizations must be intentional and work to build relationships over time. One provider shared:

“Our families are more than the data you see in the paper, they are families that many times have been in the system in different ways... So, by the time they are meeting us, we are first working on gaining their trust. Once we can do that, only then can we work on serving them in accountability way. We do our best to listen and take guides on how to serve them from them.”

- However, programs are expected to **adapt to current systems and timelines.** One provider shared:

“It’s been a challenge to be asked to answer the needs of community without the proper time and access to resources to develop systems, practices, and structures to gradually roll out this healing ecosystem that is RCP. The work we’re doing is more than just to replace systems of harm that exacerbate the conditions we are forced to live under, where only relative wellness is possible, but it’s work that will take generations. It’s slow, intentional relationship-based community work and having to answer the needs of community when the alternative is either we do it or the criminal legal system will is really causing us to move faster now, which will slow us down in the long run.”

Story Highlights

RCP organizations shared many success stories about the youth and families in their programs, including the following:

“[One youth] shared with a navigator that he wants to have dinner with his family at least twice a week so they can just talk about the things that are going on in their lives, and he felt like that was not something that he could do because of the emotional distance between him and his grandparents. [The program] has helped so many youths in our community find their voice and share parts of themselves that they have felt were not accepted or appreciated in their homes or with their friends. [This youth] has been facing so many adversities in his life that have caused him to end up in difficult situations and because he has never been given the right tools to handle these adversities, he finds himself responding in unhealthy ways. Being a part of the circle has allowed for [him] to gain other tools like communication to work out some of the conflicts that he may be dealing with.”

Story Highlights

RCP organizations shared many success stories about the youth and families in their programs, including the following:

“A number of the youth and young adults referred to us live in different neighborhoods. Sometimes when they get referred we find out that they have struggles with other youth and young adults in community. Initially we were facilitating discussions between the youth to "squash any beef," but as their value and care for [the program] has grown they have taken on leading these conversations themselves. They say to each other things like, "Let's make sure [this program] remains a safe place," or "This is our safe place. Let's keep it that way." With the support of staff they've been self-organizing healing conversations and circles and developing shared agreements about how they will address and resolve conflict.”



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