

## Juvenile Community Conferencing:

*Juvenile community conferencing is a style of mediation that has been successfully used when a community is dealing with escalating events that distress more than one community member. The infractions may seem minor on the surface, however there is usually ongoing evidence that the incidents have a major part in escalating the level of conflict and impacting all members of the community. This process as utilized in other areas around the world is known as 'healing circles'.*

*Mediators are utilized to meet with all parties involved in the dispute, the youth, their parents and all members of the business community, school officials, and local law enforcement officers. All issues are given equal consideration. The various community members are instructed in the mediation process and asked to select specific spokespersons. A community meeting is held with the victims, the offenders and their parents. Trained mediators facilitate the collaborative efforts of all participants.*

*These meetings are much like the historical town meetings. A memorandum of agreement, when reached, clearly outline/s acceptable behavior as desired by the community citizens as well as the youth. This process promotes community solidarity, good citizenship and enhanced community safety.*

### **Who Attends The Juvenile Community Conferencing Meeting?**

*The participants in these sessions are the mediators, the child, parents or guardian, key community members, law enforcement officers, school officials and any others that the parties agree should be present because of their essential role in the conflict and resolution of issues.*

**Referrals for this process do not need to be mandated by the court or juvenile probation officer. However they frequently are. If you wish to request this service please complete the attached form and electronically submit it or phone 208-392-6767 and request this service.**