



# Parks and Recreation

**Safety Presentation**

# Agenda

- Recreation Services
- Right Track
- Awakenings





# Recreation Centers are at the Heart of Public Safety

- Provide free and low-cost recreational activities for all residents
- Designed to be flexible and meet the needs of individual communities
- Work with hundreds of partners to help meet community needs





# Recreation Programming Provides Opportunities to Pursue Happiness

- Free and low-cost opportunities for all residents
- Sense of belonging
- Connects youth and adults to caring community members (staff, volunteers, other participants)







## Recreation Programming for Youth and Teens

- Free sports
- Rec Check
- Teen programming beyond video games and open gym
- Mobile Recreation





## Partnerships are Key

- Public Safety
  - ONS, SPPD, Ramsey County Sheriff
- Saint Paul Public Schools
- Resource Distribution
  - Food, clothing
- Sport Affiliates
  - Local pro teams, Booster Clubs
- District Councils & Community Organizations
- Community Events
- Safe Summer Nights, Backpack Giveaways, Family Nights





## Community Response

- Dedicated team ready everyday to respond to the community's needs with compassion and care
  - Mental health crisis
  - Domestic violence
  - Youth "meet ups"
  - School struggles
- Staff led update to internal procedures on how we address unwanted behavior within centers





## Right Track Public Safety Initiatives

- 'Power Within Us' partnership with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions
  - Work with youth on probation or justice involved
  - Recruit participants at the Juvenile Detention Center
- Intentional Recruitment
  - School counselors, social workers and intervention specialists, probation officers
- Enterprise partners
  - Awakenings
  - Office of Neighborhood Safety
  - Saint Paul Police







# **CREATIVE YOUTH WORK THROUGH A MENTAL HEALTH/PUBLIC SAFETY LENS**

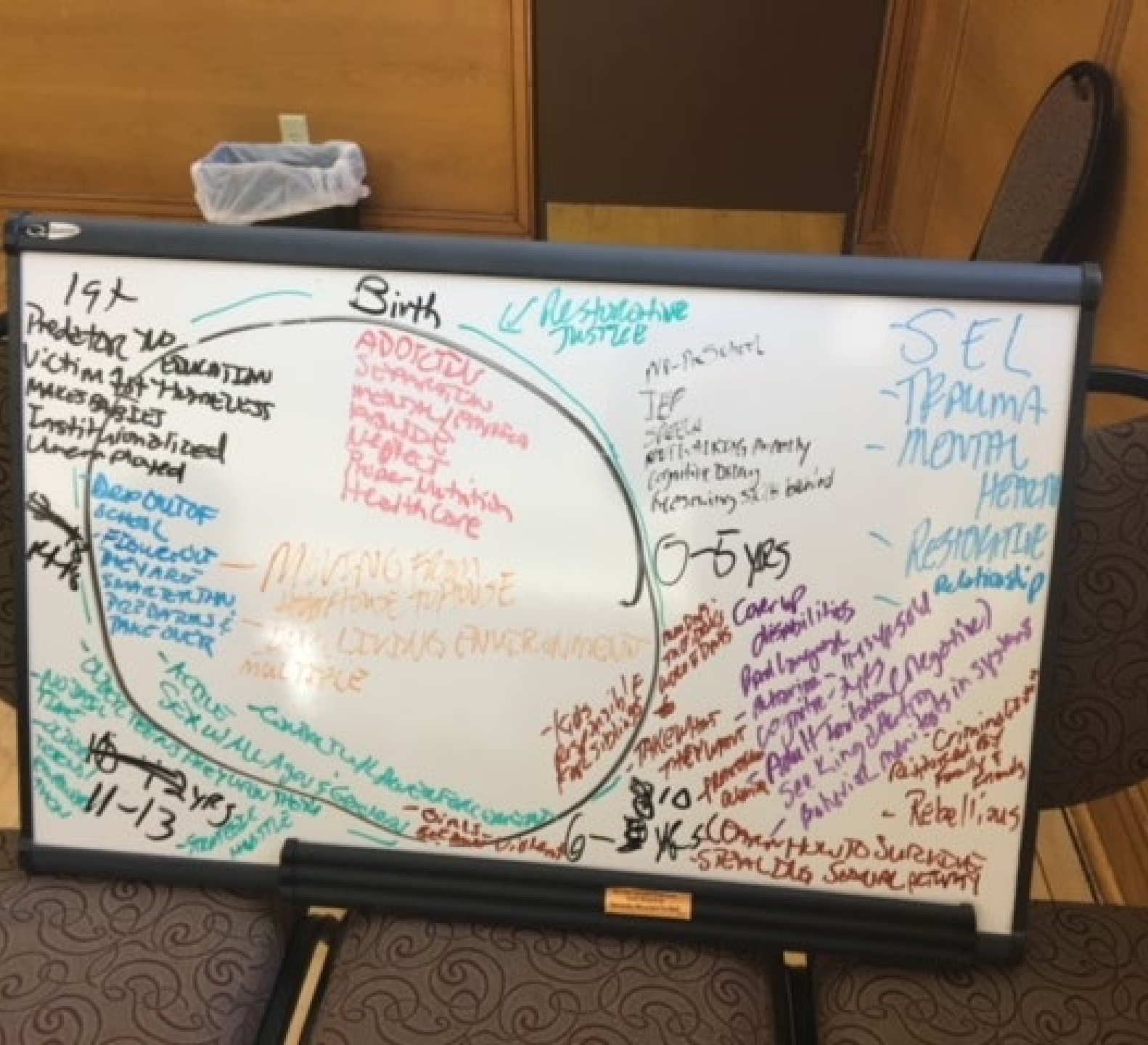
**August 27, 2025**

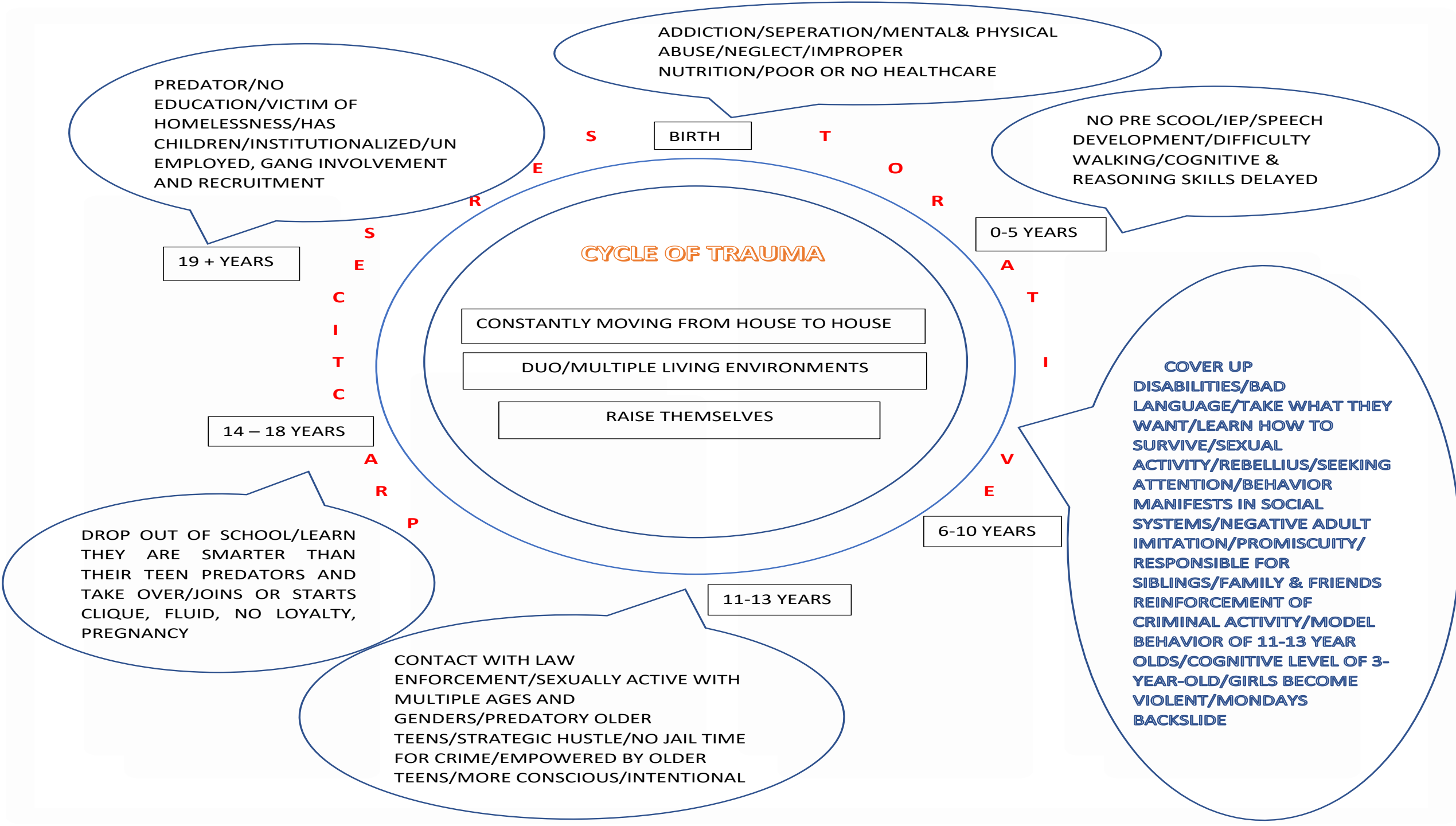
**Public Safety Committee**

**Saint Paul City Council**



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION**



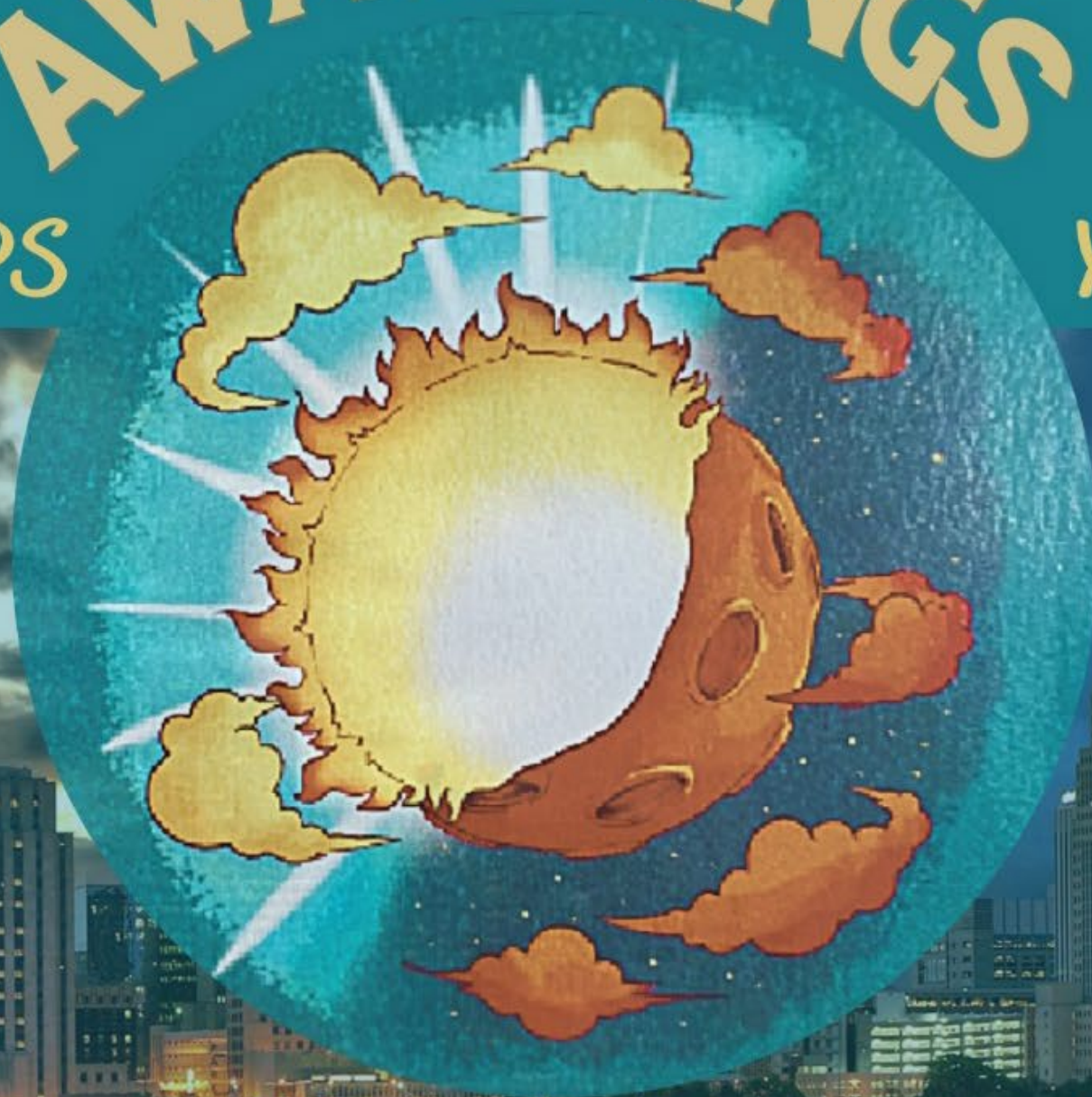




# AWAKENINGS

*A Saint Paul CFPS*

*Youth Program*







CHALLENGES AND EFFECTS  
OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE  
MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

# Managing Anger and Rage

POST PANDEMIC  
RECRUITMENT-  
RELATIONSHIP-RETENTION

# Fixed vs Flexible Mindset



AUTHENTIC CONNECTION IS DEFINED  
BY WHAT THE CHILD PERCEIVES  
AS CONNECTION, NOT BY WHAT WE  
INTEND AS CONNECTION.



TO CONNECT WITH A CHILD, WE  
MUST OBSERVE, SLOW DOWN,  
UNDERSTAND THEM, AND MEET THEM  
WHERE THEY ARE.

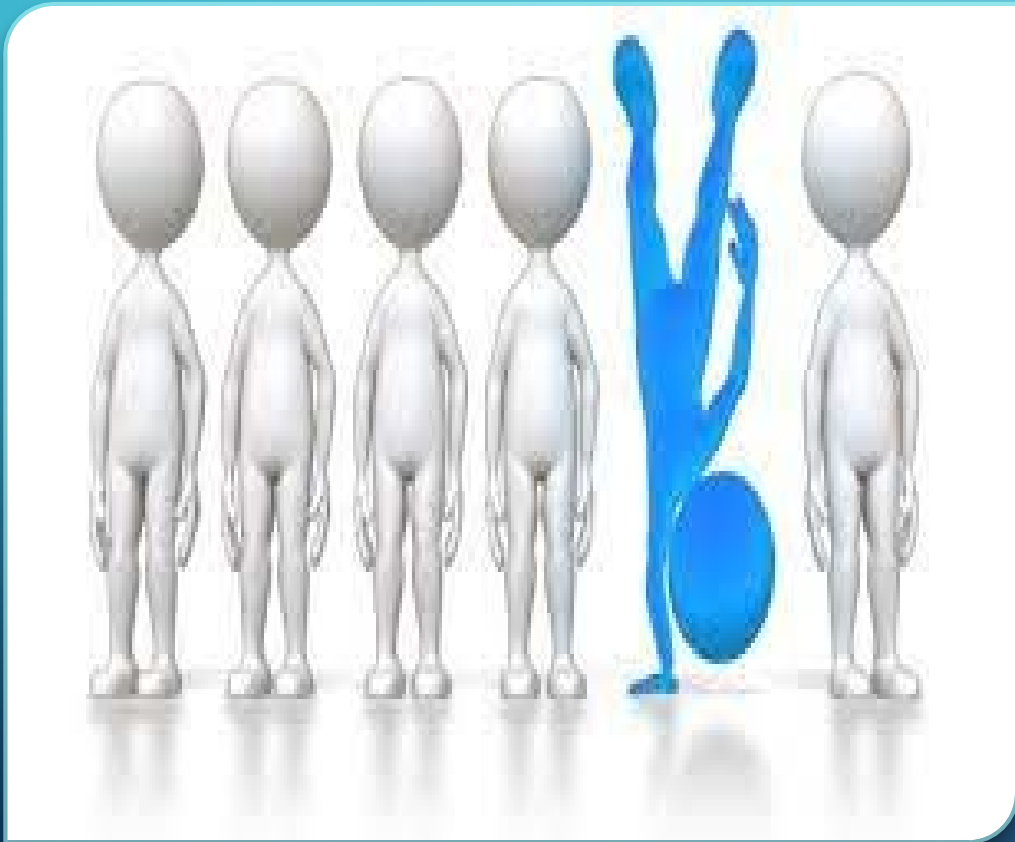
VISIBLECHILD

PERSONALIZED  
PROGRAMING

**Acknowledge and  
Clarify**



# WHAT MAKES AWAKENINGS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS?

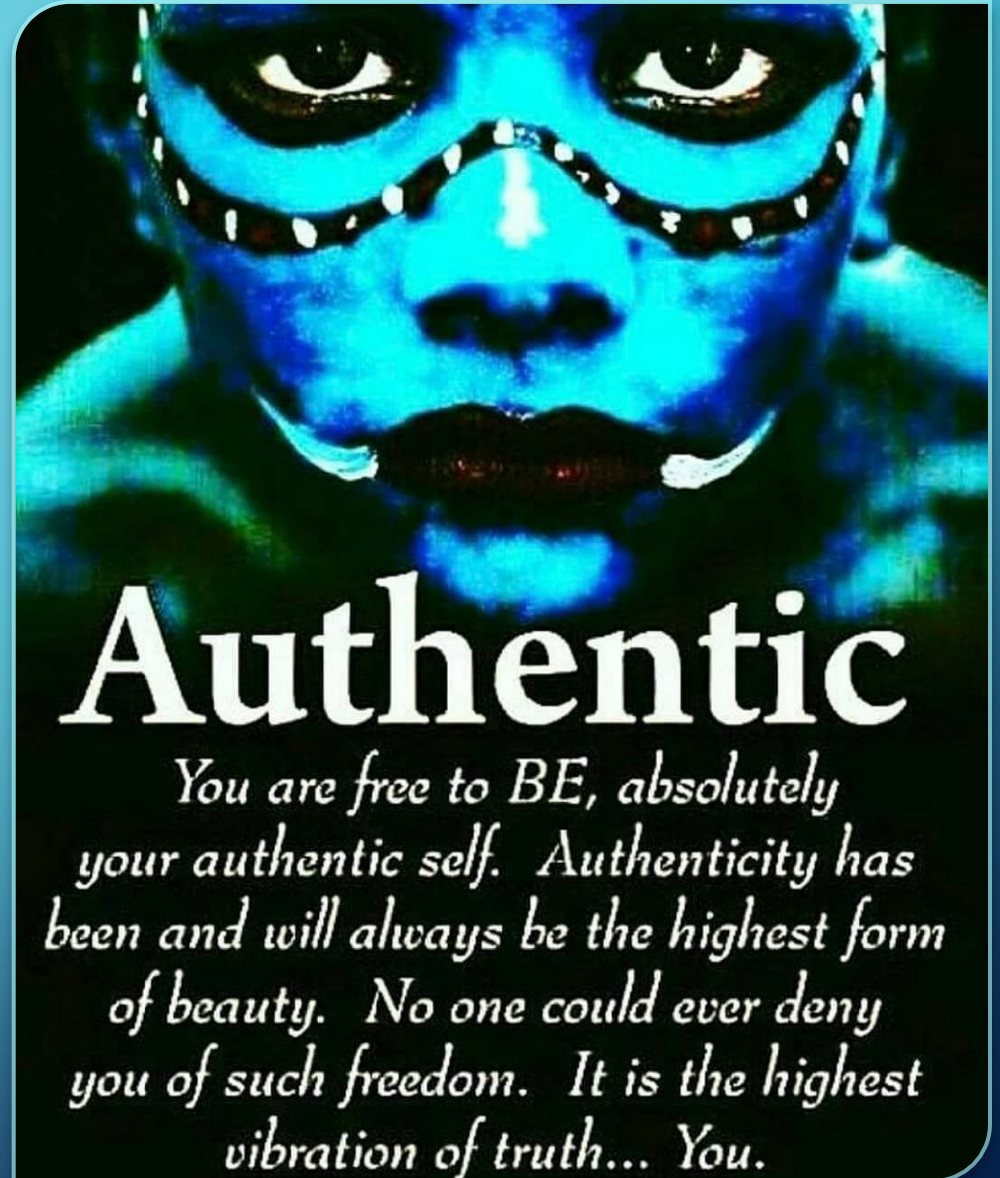


## Intentionality



BRINGING YOUR MOST  
AUTHENTIC SELF TO  
GROUP

# Layers of Work



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Psychotherapist, Consultant,  
PsychoEducator, Peaces and  
PuzSouls: Journeys Through  
Healing, LLC



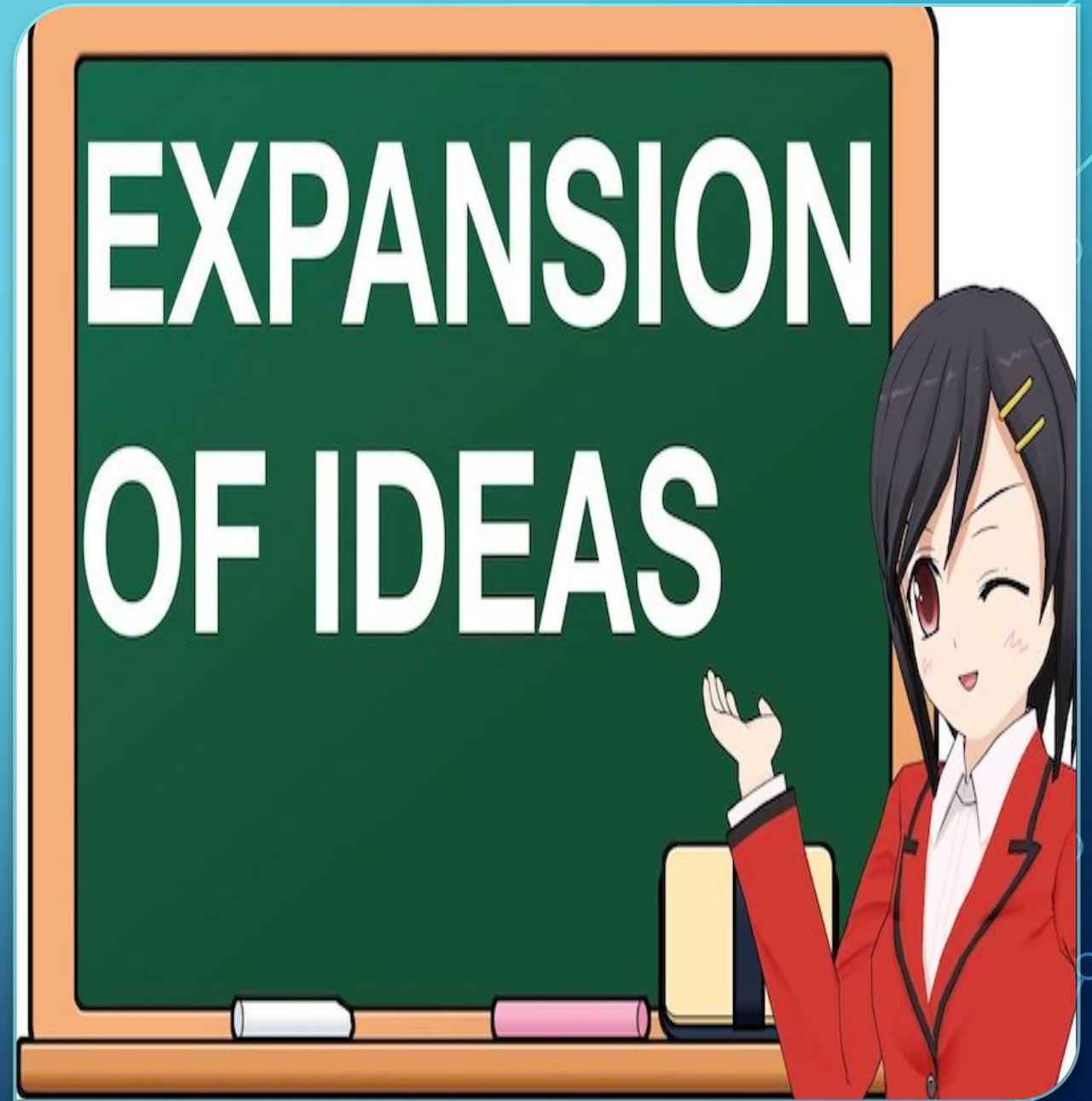
SELF CARE

# The Necessity



# 2025 AWAKENINGS PROGRAM EXPANSION

- ONE TO ONE 15-18
- AWAKENING PROGRAM  
GRADUATE  
VOLUNTEER/MENTOR 18+
- AWAKENING PROGRAM  
GRADUATE YOUNG ADULT  
MENTORSHIP 18+  
(OPTIONAL)





# Intentional Interrupter Youth Work

Can Produce Improved Behaviors In Youth (such as...)

- Use of forward-thinking skills
- Development of Socialization Skills
- Positive activity participation i.e.: Sports, work, school volunteerism, etc....
- Managed verbal/emotional outburst
- Staying cool under pressure
- Decrease in theft activity
- Improved family dynamics
- Demonstrates more respect for others and themselves

# Improved Behaviors in Youth Can Benefit A Community By...

- Reducing the number of youth involved in negative public incidences
- Decrease the use of adverse verbal language, lessen the perception that all youth are violent, loud and aggressive
- Reduction of 'hanging out' in the community and evoking change into existing negative relationships with other youth
- Decreases public disturbances, increases the appearance of approachability
- Actively willing to be part of the solution
- Demonstrates respect for their community
- Open to opportunities and change
- Less restrictions in and to public and private spaces
- Reduced negative contacts with authorities

# A Community Could Experience An Effect On Public Safety (Such as)....

- Decreased public physical fighting and/or domestic incidents
- Disruption of implicit biases such as youth who wear masks, hoodies, backpacks, etc..
- Youth connected to their immediate community, stronger sense of belonging
- Improved decision making skills
- Increase in welcoming public spaces for youth,
- More empathetic thinking and increased positive human being functioning within a community
- Increased sense of safety due to a decrease in personal threats i.e.: sense of security in home, parks, stores, etc.



# AWAKENINGS PROGRAM DATA POINTS 2025

Households Served	Program Participant Attendance	Community Service Learning Projects Attendance	Community Service Learning Projects	Right Track - Awakenings Internship Various Locations	Employment Outside of RT	High School Graduation
118 Participants	93 Participants	52 Participants	6 Services/Sites <i>Keystone Food Shelf Amazing Race Serving Meals Fishing Canoeing Trash Pickup</i>	50 Interns	20 Participants <i>The Nook SPPR Men's Warehouse Target Batteries Plus Sanneh Foundation Food Truck Salvation Army Walmart YWCA State Fair Taco Bell UPS Science Museum of Minnesota Urban Boat Builders Tree Trust Taco John's</i>	10 High School Graduates (2025)





# Questions?



# Thank You!

