

## The Embracing Project's Mission

□ The mission of The Embracing Project (TEP) is to promote peace and healing for children and youth victims/survivors of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and gang violence through the development of specialized programs, traumainformed care, and unconditional support.

### The Embracing Project's Purpose

□ TEP's purpose is to create a safe environment for youth survivors of sexual exploitation and violence and a therapeutic setting to provide healing, education, and opportunities. We do so by providing specialized court advocacy and services at TEP's drop-in center such as specialized case management, educational opportunities, skillbuilding classes, and trauma informed therapy, outdoor activities, and leadership opportunities, among other victim-centered services.

## MHAT DO ME DOS

### TRAUMA/VICTIM-CENTERED SERVICES

- Specialized Victim Centered Court Advocacy
  - Juvenile Court
  - Witness Support
  - Legislation
- Trauma Informed Case Management
  - Individual Needs Assessment
  - Transportation Support
  - Vital Document Acquisition
  - Basic Needs (clothing, hygiene items, etc.)
- Crisis Intervention
- Education
  - CCSD Adult Education onsite program
  - Tutoring

#### TEP TRAUMA INFORMED SERVICES

- Skill Building Groups
  - Support Groups
  - Employment Readiness
  - Independent Living Skills & Referrals
  - Sex Education
  - Healthy Relationships
  - Internet Safety
- Trauma Informed Therapy (Individual & Group)
- Strength Based Activities
  - Gardening
  - Nature fieldtrips
  - Journaling
  - Leadership opportunities
  - Meditation

## WHERE DO WE DO IT?

### TEP'S DROP-IN CENTER

- TEP has the only drop-in center for sexually exploited youth (SEY) in Southern Nevada.
- Youth have access to a safe place with shower, kitchen, school, computers, advocates, clothing, and partner organizations.
- Currently TEP drop-in center is open from Monday to Saturday from 9 AM to 8PM
- □ TEP's drop-in center is located in the downtown area.

# TEP CLIENTS



TEP Intellectual Property (c)

#### 2017 TEP CLIENTS 269 (detention + TEP drop-in center)

#### Data based on clients served at TEP's Drop-in Center

- Gender
  - 150 Females
  - 5 Males
  - 2 Transgender
- Race/Ethnicity:
  - Black/AA: 31%
  - Hispanic: 21%
  - White 8%
  - Multiracial 34%
  - Native American 1%
  - Pacific Islander 3%
  - □ Other 2%

Ages: ■ 12-21 (we had a few 22-25 older clients that we continue to support) Bilingual **23**% Sexual Orientation ■ Heterosexual 49% ■ Homosexual 16% □ Bisexual 31% □ Unsure 4% Removed from Home **37**% DFS **54%** 

- □ Group Home/Foster
  - **49%**
- Runaway
  - **88%**
- Sexual for Shelter
  - 17% (age range 13-18)
- Sex if asked by another person (boyfriend, etc.)
  - **24%** (Age range 12-18)
- □ Sex for Money
  - 44% (Age range 12-19)

- Pregnancy
  - **31%**
  - 8% had at least one child
- □ Physical Abuse
  - **48**%
- Domestic Violence
  - **45**%
- □ Emotional Abuse
  - **51%**
- Sexual Abuse
  - **25**%
- □ Sexual Assault
  - **45**%

- □ Alcohol Use
  - □ 90% (average age 1st time 13/ Age range 10 to 17)
- □ Marijuana Use
  - □ 96% (average age 1<sup>st</sup> time 12/ Age range 8 to 17)
  - 38 clients disclosed cocaine use, 32 meth, 8 heroine, 54 prescription drugs.
- □ Mental Health
  - □ Single diagnosis 47%
  - **1** 2+ 29%

### TEP SERVED SURVIVORS FROM...



Source: TEP

TEP Intellectual Property (c)

## CHALLENGES

#### CHALLENGES SERVICING CSEC

- Understanding that secrecy is a trademark of the youth involved in CSE/SEY
- Understanding certain behaviors in response to trauma / survival (e.g., manipulation, triggers)
- Don't take lies, untruths, etc., personally---use caution when labeling resistance or manipulation
- Hybrid population: they are being victimized and many times they develop delinquent behaviors to survive
- Need high supervision but with opportunities and choices

#### CHALLENGES SERVICING CSEC continue...

- The ability to meet them where they are
- Understanding and expecting that the client may return to the pimp/trafficker
  - Due to high levels of loyalty, brain-washing, and/or fear, victims may return to their pimp during the course of receiving services
  - Relapse is part of recovery

#### CHALLENGES SERVICING CSEC

- □ Understand CSEC world view/Mistrust of Authority
  - The victim may have a very difficult time understanding that she has been a victim of a crime and that the pimp may be arrested for what he/she has done to her/him. This difficulty occurs because:
    - Pimps brainwash the victims by repeatedly
    - Typically victims are being arrested rather than the perpetrators or men who buy them confirming the message of distrust.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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