



# Mobile Youth Support Team

## Who are We?

Pilot project initiated in 2022 within HRM's Parks and Recreation Youth Service Section;

Addressing service gaps for youth who are "harder to reach" within traditional rec centre program model;

Overall aim of diverting youth from gun and gang violence by increasing opportunity for connection and participation in community for youth who struggle to maintain involvement in traditional recreational programs and environments.

**Youth Counsellor**

Brief intervention services to support youth in identifying and addressing key challenges and barriers to meaningful community participation, as defined by the youth

**Youth Outreach Worker**

Continuous collaboration with youth to identify and connect with appropriate resources and supports in their community



# Mobile Youth Support Team

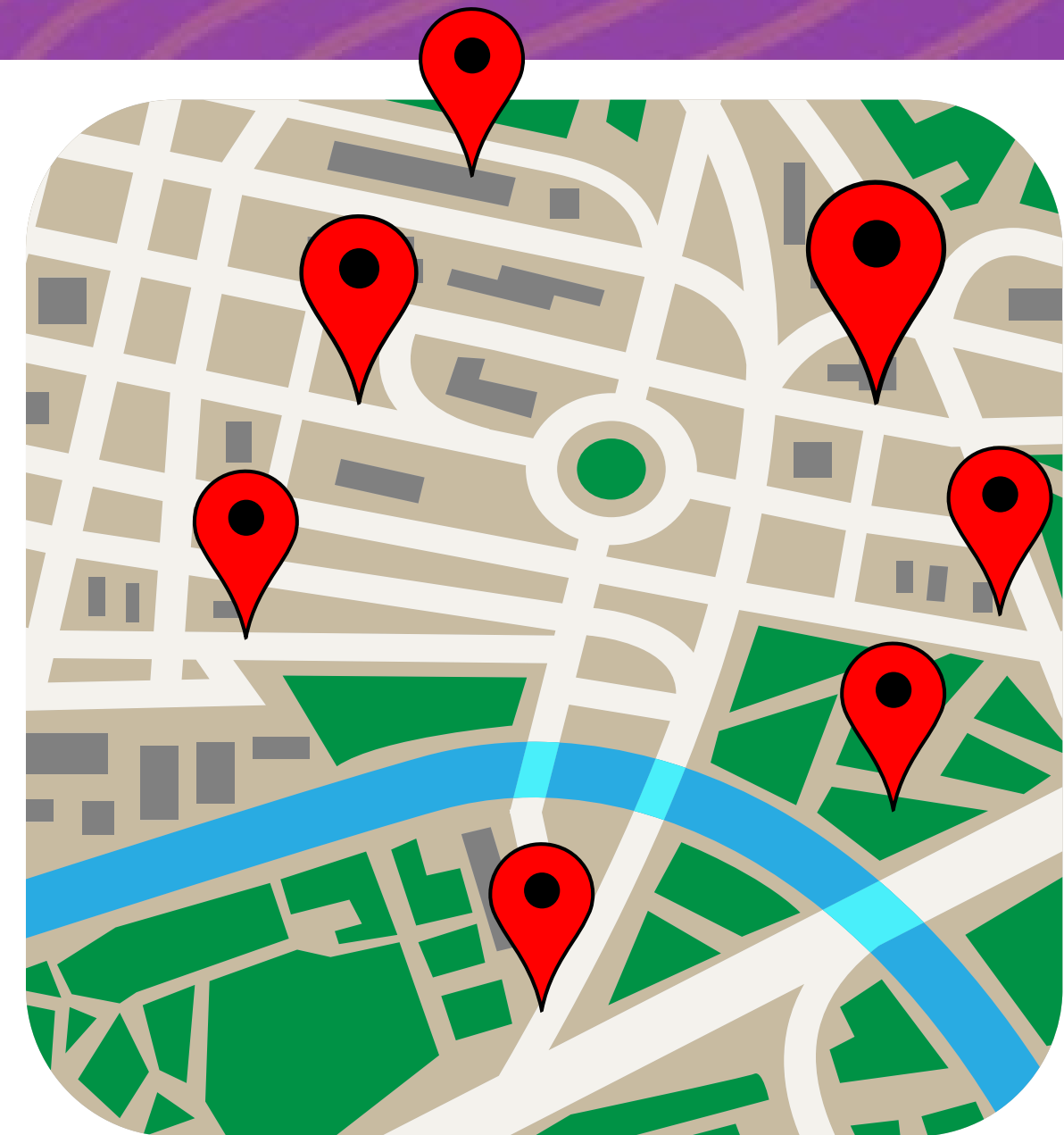
## What makes us “mobile”?

Presence at weekly youth drop-ins and rec facilities across HRM (The Power House, The Den, Captain Spry, Dartmouth North, etc.);

Weekly presence at youth court and collaboration with NS Legal Aid lawyers to identify youth clients who appear to be disconnected from community supports;

Creating opportunities for engagements that are responsive to youth’s identified needs (example: Partnership with Nourish NS for Dartmouth North Meal Program);

Ability to adapt to youth’s access needs when they are experiencing barriers to participation and retention (behavioural or otherwise).





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## What makes our services unique?

We do not require registration or participation in other programs, recreation -based or otherwise ;

We do not require that youth are able to adhere to traditional service structures (ex. appointments, fixed locations, rigid community guidelines) ;

We strive to take an assertive approach : every engagement, no matter how small, is an opportunity to facilitate understanding, address conflict (internal and external), and provide a safe container to explore areas for growth and change .





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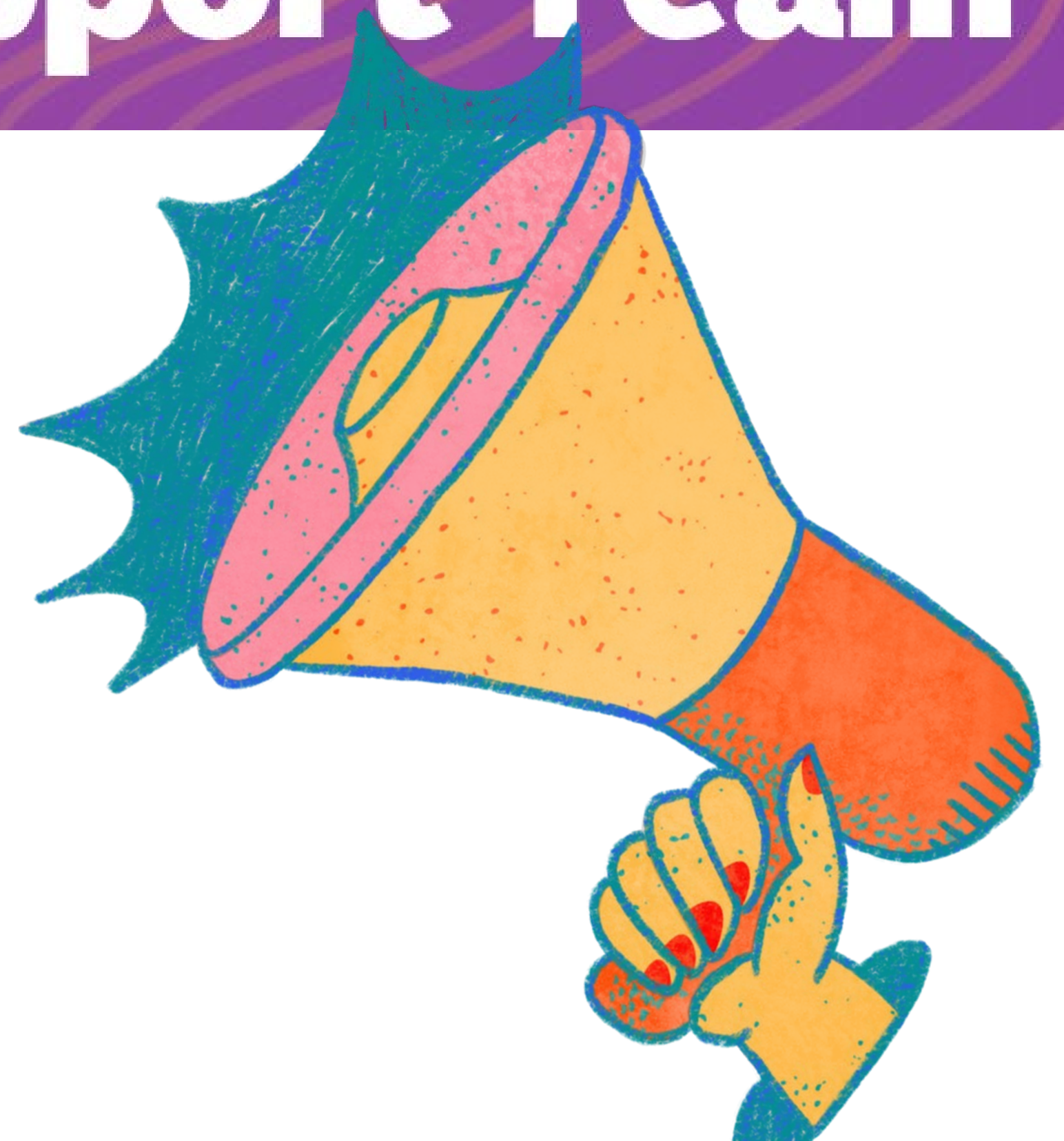
## What does our work look like in action?

Providing emotional and navigational support for youth and their families during court, restorative circles, and pre-sentencing assessments;

Connecting and coordinating with existing professional supports to minimize service gaps/redundancy and ensure consistency of care;

Identifying and implementing simple engagement tools within natural “third spaces” that youth already occupy (ex. trivia at Sackville Sports Stadium, a nutritious meal club before an after-school basketball program);

Provide ongoing support for youth who are banned or at risk of being banned from recreational spaces.





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## Opportunities & Next Steps

Continuing to narrow in on the right demographics

Increasing Name Recognition

Critical Incident Response Process

Coordination among recreation centres when supporting youth who are timed away/ PPA'd from rec centre spaces

