



C.H.O.I.C.E., Inc.

*Youth Prevention/Intervention
Alcohol/Drug Program*

Children Have Options In Choosing Experiences

Established 1987

Helping Young People Strive for a Better Tomorrow



Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Project B.L.U.E. (Building Leadership, Unity, and Engagement)

Between

C.H.O.I.C.E., Inc. (Children Have Options In Choosing Experiences)

and

Louisville Metro Police Department – Police Activities League (LMPD PAL)

and

Jefferson County Public Schools Police Department (JCPS Police)

I. Purpose of the Agreement

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishes a collaborative partnership between C.H.O.I.C.E., Inc., LMPD PAL, and JCPS Police to implement Project B.L.U.E. (Building Leadership, Unity, and Engagement). Project B.L.U.E. is a trauma-informed, prevention-focused initiative designed to strengthen positive relationships between youth and law enforcement, build leadership and social-emotional skills among young people, and reduce youth violence through mentorship, education, and community engagement.

The partners agree to work collaboratively to support safe, developmentally appropriate programming for youth ages 8–18 participating in C.H.O.I.C.E.'s Dare to Dream Sports Leadership & Mentoring Program and related community-based activities. Activities will be delivered to Dare to Dream participants as a core program component and strategically scaled to community events to extend prevention, leadership development, and relationship-building efforts beyond the school setting.

Project Description

Project B.L.U.E. works to interrupt pathways to violence, strengthen community connections, and support youth in developing the skills and relationships needed to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally by intentionally building trust, leadership capacity, and mutual understanding. Through life-skills development, sports-based engagement, leadership workshops, and facilitated dialogue, youth strengthen skills in communication, emotional regulation, teamwork, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making. Simultaneously, participating officers receive training in trauma-informed youth development and relationship-based practices that support positive school climate and community trust.

II. Guiding Principles of Project B.L.U.E.

- Youth development and prevention-first approaches
- Trauma-informed and healing-centered engagement
- Cultural humility and equity
- Relationship-based policing and mentorship
- Youth voice, leadership, mentorship and empowerment
- Safety, accountability, and professionalism

III. Scope of Collaboration

Project B.L.U.E. activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Trauma-informed leadership workshops led jointly by C.H.O.I.C.E. staff, trained high school mentors, and law enforcement partners.
- Sports-based and team-building activities fostering trust, communication, and positive peer and adult relationships.
- Life-skills development and mentoring activities that promote leadership, communication, emotional regulation, and positive decision-making.
- Community engagement events and mentoring experiences
- Training opportunities for officers focused on youth development, trauma awareness, and developmental relationships
- Youth-led discussions, service projects, and leadership activities.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

C.H.O.I.C.E. agrees to:

1. Serve as the lead coordinating agency for Project B.L.U.E.
2. Design and implement trauma-informed curriculum and activities aligned with the C.H.O.I.C.E. Youth Development Model.
3. Recruit, train, and supervise youth participants and high school mentors.

4. Provide qualified staff to facilitate programming and ensure fidelity to youth development best practices.
5. Coordinate schedules, locations, and logistics in collaboration with partners.
6. Ensure compliance with all applicable school district policies, safety protocols, and confidentiality requirements.

LMPD Police Activities League (PAL) agrees to:

7. Provide trained law enforcement officers or PAL staff to participate in Project B.L.U.E. activities.
8. Engage youth in a non-enforcement, relationship-focused capacity.
9. Support positive interactions between officers and youth through mentorship, sports, and educational engagement.
10. Participate in planning meetings and collaborative evaluation efforts, as feasible.
11. Adhere to trauma-informed, youth-centered engagement practices during all Project B.L.U.E. activities.

Jefferson County Public Schools Police Department agrees to:

12. Designate trained school police officers to participate in Project B.L.U.E. programming.
13. Engage students in a supportive, non-disciplinary role focused on mentorship and relationship building.
14. Collaborate with C.H.O.I.C.E. to ensure alignment with JCPS policies and school-based procedures.
15. Participate in trainings related to youth development, trauma-informed care, and developmental relationships, as available.
16. Support program implementation within approved JCPS school settings, subject to district approval.

All parties agrees to:

17. All parties acknowledge that projects involving program evaluation monitoring activities or data collection or research of any kind, are subject to JCPS IRB review and approval as determined by the IRB to meet state and federal laws.

V. Youth Safety and Conduct

All partners agree that Project B.L.U.E. activities are preventive, educational, and relationship-based in nature and are not connected to law enforcement investigations, disciplinary actions, or enforcement activities.

To ensure a safe, respectful, and developmentally appropriate environment, the following standards apply:

- All interactions with youth shall prioritize physical safety, emotional safety, dignity, and respect.
- Officers, staff, mentors, and volunteers will engage youth using trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate practices.
- Youth participation is voluntary, and youth voice will be respected at all times.
- Officers and adults will not question youth about criminal activity, conduct interrogations, or use authority in a coercive or intimidating manner during program activities.
- Appropriate professional boundaries shall be maintained at all times.
- All partners shall comply with mandatory reporting laws, JCPS policies, and organizational codes of conduct.

Dismissal and Removal for Inappropriate Conduct

C.H.O.I.C.E., as the lead coordinating agency, reserves the right to immediately remove or dismiss any participant, mentor, staff member, volunteer, or partner representative from Project B.L.U.E. activities if behavior is deemed unsafe, inappropriate, unprofessional, or inconsistent with the purpose and principles of the program.

Grounds for dismissal may include, but are not limited to:

- Behavior that threatens the physical or emotional safety of youth or others
- Use of intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate language
- Violation of trauma-informed or youth-centered engagement expectations
- Failure to adhere to non-enforcement participation requirements
- Any conduct that undermines trust, safety, or the integrity of the program

Removal may occur immediately and without prior notice when necessary to protect youth or maintain a safe environment. Appropriate notification to partner leadership will follow as soon as practicable.

Dismissal under this section does not preclude additional actions required under law, district policy, or organizational procedures.

All partners agree that Project B.L.U.E. activities are preventive and educational in nature and not related to law enforcement investigations or disciplinary actions. Officers will not conduct interrogations, investigations, or enforcement actions during program activities.

All interactions with youth will prioritize safety, respect, and developmental appropriateness. Mandatory reporting laws will be followed by all parties.

VI. Data Sharing and Confidentiality

All partners agree to the following data-sharing and confidentiality standards:

- Any data shared among partners shall be approved by JCPS through appropriate data-sharing agreements.
- Individual student records, academic data, or personally identifiable information shall not be shared between partners without proper authorization and in compliance with FERPA, applicable privacy laws, and JCPS data-governance policies.
- Data collected through Project B.L.U.E. will be used solely for program improvement, evaluation, reporting, and accountability purposes.

Youth Confidentiality Expectations

Project B.L.U.E. is designed to foster trust, openness, and psychological safety. Youth participants will be informed that personal information shared during program activities will be treated as confidential, to the extent permitted by law and policy.

Confidentiality will be maintained except in the following circumstances:

- When a youth expresses intent to harm themselves
- When a youth expresses intent to harm others
- When there is a reasonable concern for abuse, neglect, or exploitation, triggering mandatory reporting requirements
- When adult intervention is necessary to ensure immediate safety or wellbeing

In such cases, information will be shared only with appropriate adults or authorities, and only to the extent necessary to protect the youth or others, in accordance with mandatory reporting laws and JCPS procedures.

Youth will be informed of these confidentiality limits in developmentally appropriate language at the start of programming.

Partner Responsibilities

All staff, officers, mentors, and volunteers participating in Project B.L.U.E. agree to:

- Respect youth privacy and confidentiality
- Share information on a need-to-know basis only
- Follow organizational, district, and legal requirements related to confidentiality and

- reporting
- Complete any required training related to data privacy, FERPA, and youth protection

VII. Liability and Insurance

Each party shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of its own employees, agents, and volunteers.

Each party agrees to maintain appropriate insurance coverage consistent with its legal status and organizational requirements, including general liability coverage and, when applicable, workers' compensation and vehicle liability coverage for any transportation provided by that party. Upon request, a party may provide proof of insurance (e.g., certificate of insurance) consistent with its policies and legal limitations

Incident and Accident Reporting

All parties agree to prioritize safety and to ensure timely communication regarding any incident that impacts participant wellbeing. In the event of an accident, injury, medical emergency, safety concern, or incident involving a participant, staff member, officer, mentor, volunteer, or member of the public occurring during a Project B.L.U.E. activity (including during transportation, if applicable), the following steps will be taken:

1. **Immediate Response:** Provide first aid and/or emergency services (911) as appropriate and ensure the scene is secure.
2. **Notification:** C.H.O.I.C.E. and the involved partner agency will notify one another as soon as practicable, and no later than **24 hours** after the incident, unless circumstances require a shorter timeline.
3. **Required Reporting:** Incidents will be reported to appropriate officials consistent with agency policy and setting, including, as applicable:
 - JCPS school administration and/or designated JCPS officials (for school-based activities)
 - LMPD PAL leadership and/or designated LMPD officials
 - C.H.O.I.C.E. executive leadership/designee
4. **Documentation:** A written incident report will be completed by the party with primary supervision at the time of the incident and shared with the other parties as appropriate, maintaining confidentiality and privacy requirements.

This section does not limit any party's responsibility to comply with mandatory reporting laws or district reporting requirements. This MOA is not intended to waive sovereign or governmental immunity or to create a joint venture or employer-employee relationship.

VIII. Term and Termination

This MOA shall be effective upon execution by all parties and shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year, unless extended by mutual written agreement.

Any party may terminate this agreement with sixty (60) days written notice to the other parties.

IX. Amendments

This MOA may be amended at any time by written agreement signed by all parties.

X. Authorized Signatures

By signing below, the undersigned certify that they are duly authorized representatives of their respective organizations and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this Memorandum of Agreement. The undersigned further acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all provisions of this Agreement, and that this MOA represents the entire agreement between the parties regarding Project B.L.U.E.

This Memorandum of Agreement shall become effective upon execution by all parties.

C.H.O.I.C.E., Inc.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Louisville Metro Police Department – Police Activities League (PAL)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Jefferson County Public Schools Police Department

Print Name: Dr. Brian Yearwood

Signature: _____

Title: Superintendent

Date: _____