# UNDERSTANDING SECONDARY TRAUMA; TOOLS FOR SELF AWARENESS, SELF CARE AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

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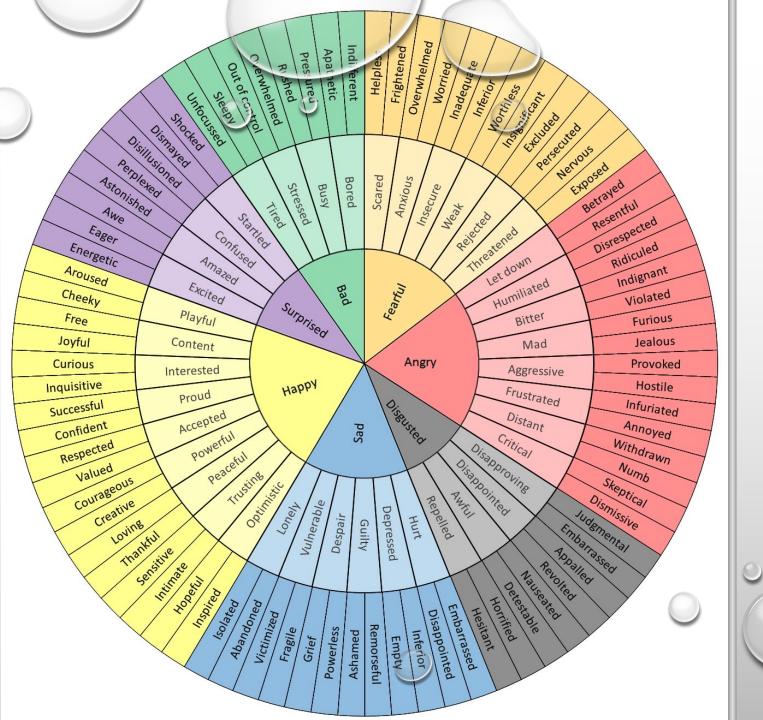
### FILL IN THE BLANKS

THE WORLD IS A	PLACE.
LIFE IS	
I AM AS A HUMAN BEING.	
I WANT TO CHANGE	ABOUT MY JOB.
I WANT TO CHANGE	ABOUT MYSELF.
MOST OFTEN I FEEL	

### MHO WESS



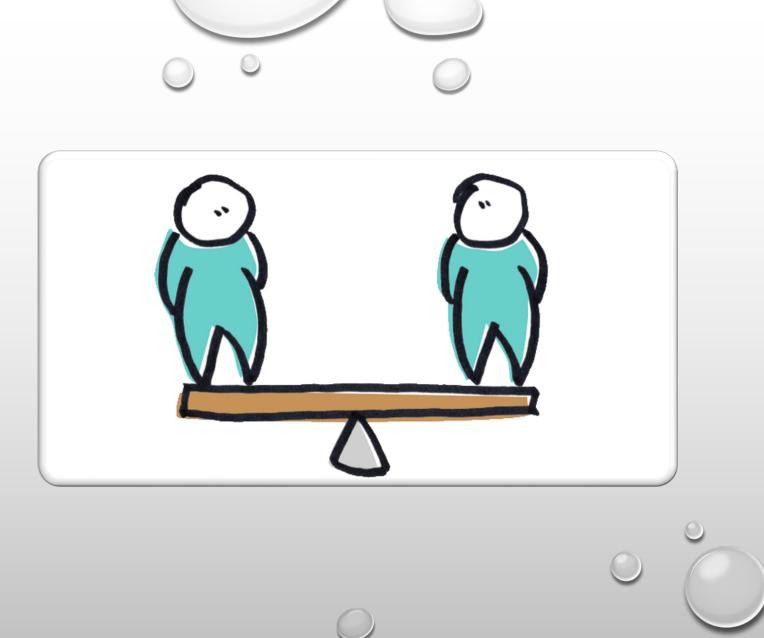
"Is this the coroner's office? I'd like to order an autopsy to find out what killed my ambition, enthusiasm and hope for a brighter tomorrow." "The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water without getting wet."



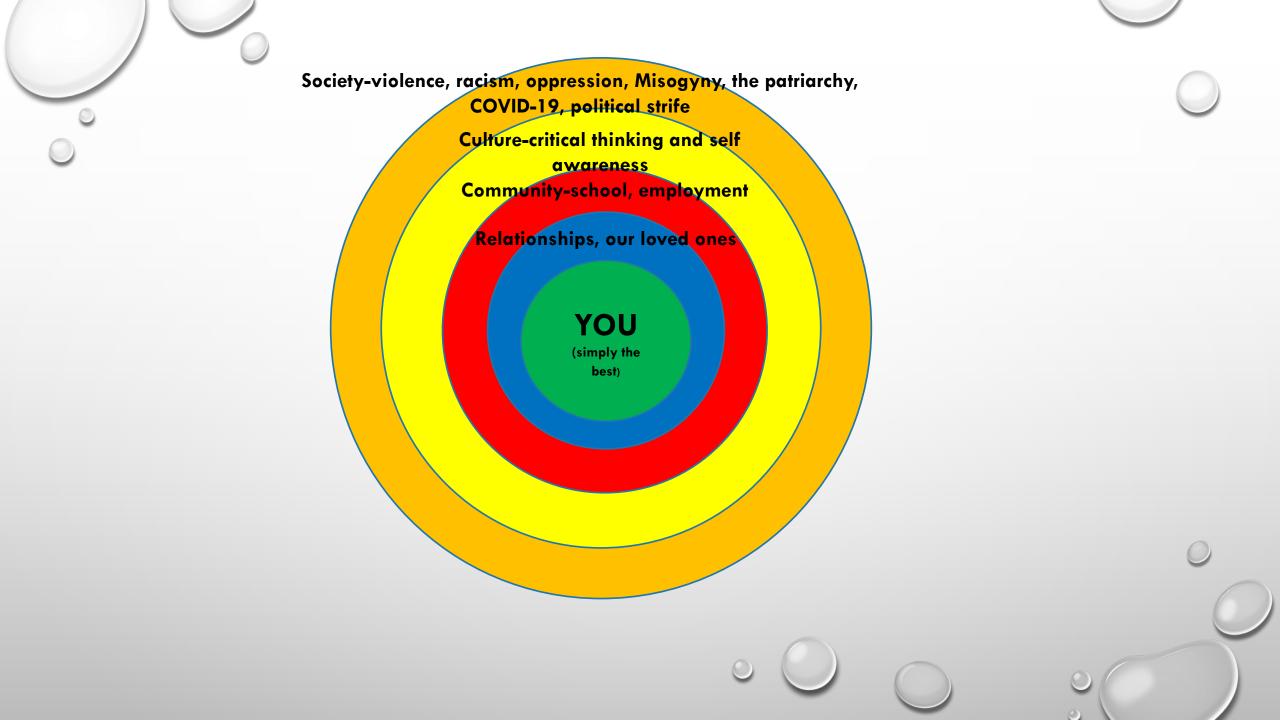
# HOW DO YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW?



### Mindfulness Activity



### BALANCING ROLES





CAN COME FROM A VARIETY OF THINGS, AND ISN'T NECESSARILY LINKED TO TRAUMA. BURNOUT CAN BE EXHAUSTION FROM THE WORKLOAD ITSELF, WORK CULTURE AND TOXICITY, POOR JOB SATISFACTION, FEELINGS OF POWERLESSNESS AT WORK, OR EVEN POOR HEALTHCARE BENEFITS AND SALARY.

### SECONDARY TRAUMA

INDIRECT EXPOSURE TO **TRAUMA** THROUGH A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OR NARRATIVE (*DETAILS*)OF A **TRAUMATIC** EVENT. IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED COMPASSION FATIGUE.

### SECONDARY TRAUMA

THE NATURAL CONSEQUENT BEHAVIORS AND EMOTIONS OF KNOWING ABOUT A TRAUMATIC EVENT-THE STRESS OF WANTING TO HELP THE SUFFERING PERSON

SECONDARY TRAUMA IS NOT AN "IF", RATHER A "WHEN"

### REASONS SECONDARY TRAUMA GOES UNRECOGNIZED...



it can mirror the emotional burnout many teachers experience.



Teachers who find themselves drained from their days in class may chalk it up to the rigors of lesson-planning, standardized tests, behavioral challenges, and other quotidian demands of the classroom.

## COMMON SYMPTOMS OF SECONDARY TRAUMA

- INCREASED ANXIETY AND CONCERN ABOUT SAFETY
- INTRUSIVE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS AND IMAGES RELATED TO STUDENTS' TRAUMATIC STORIES
- FATIGUE AND PHYSICAL COMPLAINTS
- FEELINGS OF NUMBNESS OR DETACHMENT FROM STUDENTS AND PEERS
- DIMINISHED CONCENTRATION AND DIFFICULTY WITH DECISION MAKING
- DESIRE TO PHYSICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY WITHDRAW FROM OTHERS
- FEELINGS OF PROFESSIONAL INADEQUACY



### COMPASSION FATIGUE-THE RESULT OF SECONDARY TRAUMA

Compassion Stress - a natural outcome of knowing about trauma experienced by a student, friend, or family member-OR THE larger society

Compassion Fatigue - "a state of exhaustion and dysfunction biologically, psychologically, and emotionally, as a result of prolonged exposure to compassion stress" (Charles Figley, 1995)

# IT CAN LOOK LIKE BURNOUT

Fatigue, no matter how much someone rests or sleeps. This is an exhaustion that runs deeper than sleep deprivation, and it cannot be cured by a few days off

A sense of inefficacy, leaving people feeling like they are exerting significant effort, but are not making any progress or gaining any recognition

Cynicism about life, numbness, or a feeling that nothing a person does really matters

### VICARIOUS TRAUMA

CUMULATIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL EFFECT UPON A DIRECT CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS WORKING WITH SURVIVORS OF TRAUMATIC LIFE EVENTS

# WHO IS EFFECTED?

### ACCORDING TO THE <u>NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS</u> NETWORK (NCTSN), RISK APPEARS TO BE GREATER AMONG

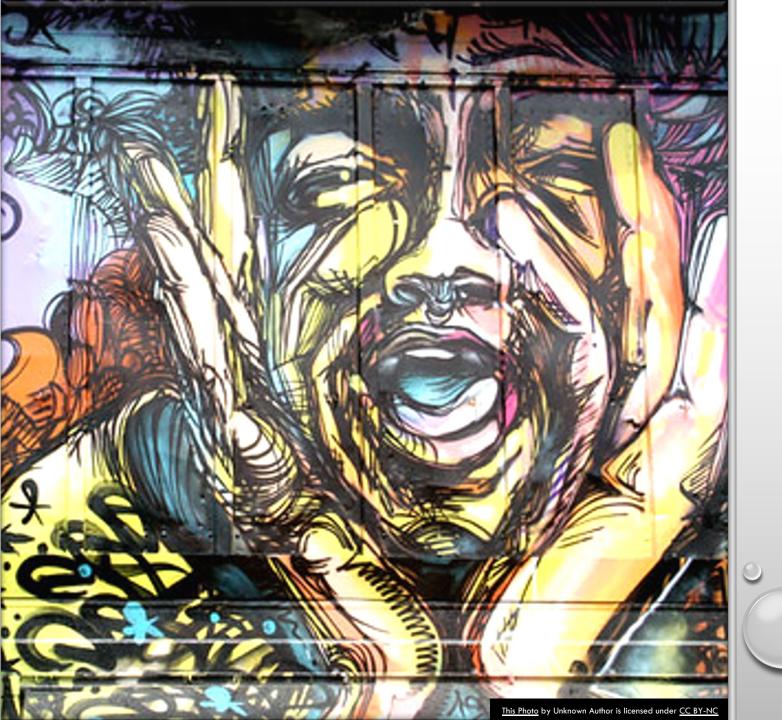
- EDUCATORS WITH PREVIOUS OR UNRESOLVED TRAUMA EXPOSURE
- FEMALE EDUCATORS
- HIGHLY EMPATHETIC EDUCATORS
- NEW OR INEXPERIENCED EDUCATORS, WITH A LACK OF TRAINING
- EDUCATORS WORKING WITH UNSUPPORTIVE ADMINISTRATIONS
- EDUCATORS WORKING IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED COMMUNAL TRAUMA, INCLUDING HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY, HIGH LEVELS OF CRIME, GENERATIONAL/HISTORICAL TRAUMA, TRAGIC EVENTS, AND NATURAL DISASTERS

### TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP

- 8:33
- HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=UOZDGRCVMUS

# ITS NOT "IF", ITS "WHEN" AND ITS NORMAL





### TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP

## — LAURA VAN DERNOOT LIPSKY/CONNIE BURK, TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP



### HOW CAN WE NAVIGATE THE IMPACT OF SECONDARY TRAUMA AND BECOME STEWARDS



Self inquiry- create the space



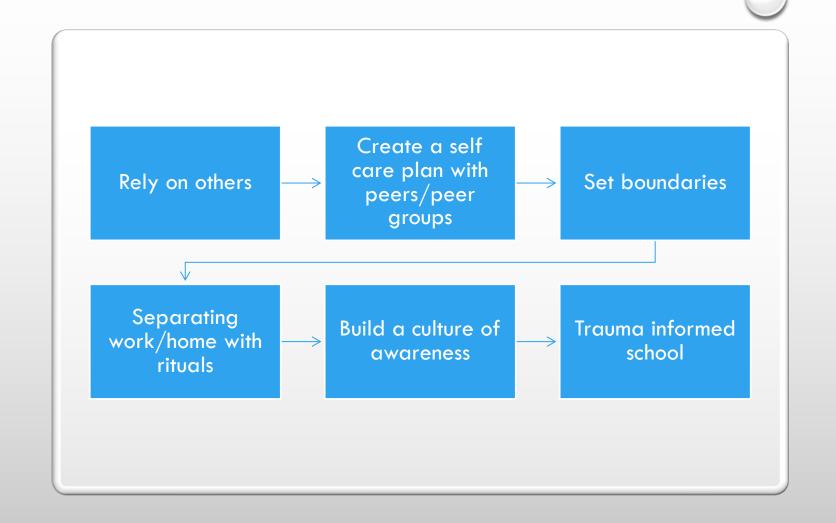
Practice self-care



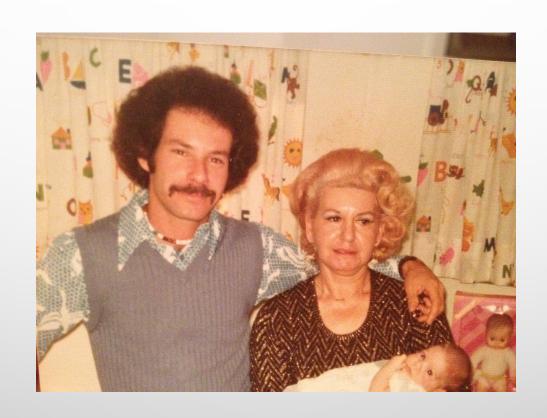
Be patient and kind to yourself and others



HOW CAN TEACHERS STAY HEALTHY?



### BUILD COMPASSION, EMPATHY AND COMMUNITY





### SEEK COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

- JUST BECAUSE WE ARE HELPERS, DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T NEED HELP FROM OTHER HELPERS FOR OURSELVES OR OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES.
- THE ACT OF SEEKING COUNSELING AND PROFESSIONAL HELP NEEDS TO BE DE-STIGMATIZED FOR HELPERS, SO APPROPRIATE HELP CAN BE ACCESSED AS NEEDED.





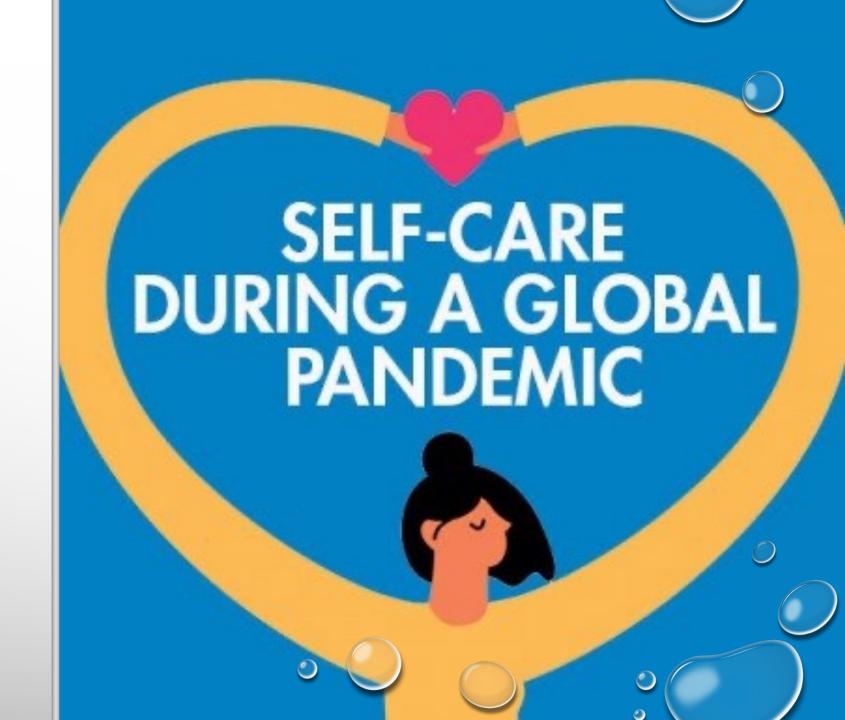
### **BRAINSTORM**

#### P.171 (TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP)

- 1. BRAINSTORM FIVE WAYS IN WHICH YOU THINK WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO MANAGE AND COPE WITH SECONDARY TRAUMA, IS WORKING FOR YOU?
- 2. REVIEW YOUR LIST, AND ASSESS WHICH OF THESE ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF YOU OR THOSE THAT YOU WORK WITH?
- 3. CREATE A LIST OF FIVE WAYS IN WHICH YOU WOULD IDEALLY SEE YOUR WORK BENEFITING YOU AND THOSE YOU SERVE.

# DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE SELF- CARE SELF-CARE SHOULD BE TAILORED TO YOUR OWN AREAS OF VULNERABILITY

- •PHYSICAL
- PSYCHOLOGICAL
- •EMOTIONAL
- •SPIRITUAL
- PROFESSIONAL
- •SOCIAL



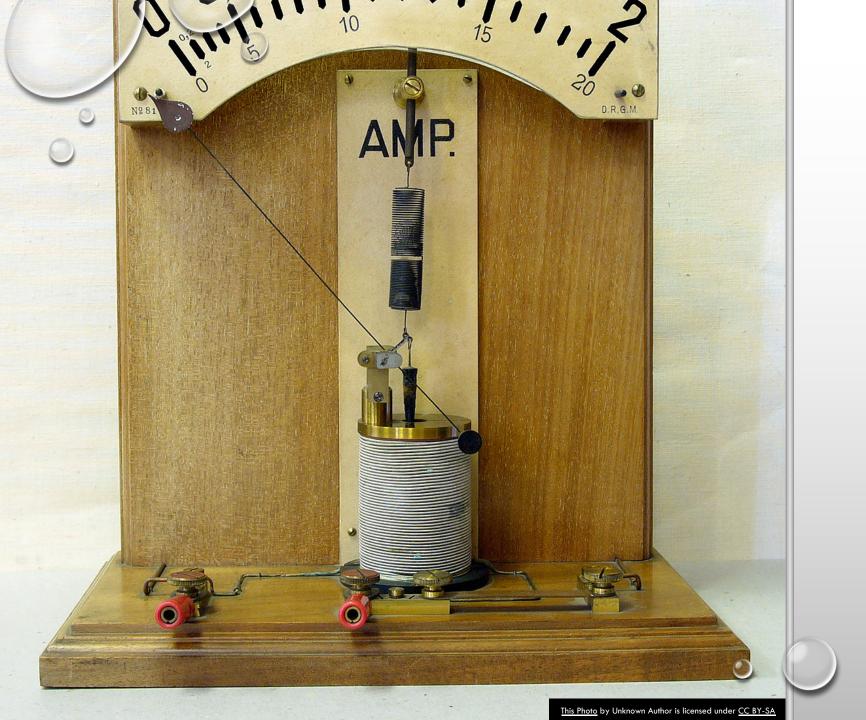
## DEVELOPING A COMPASSION FATIGUE SELF-CARE PROTECTION PLAN

- WHAT COMPONENTS WILL GO INTO MY PLAN?
- WHAT ARE MY WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?
- WHO WILL I CHECK IN WITH TO HOLD ME ACCOUNTABLE OR TO CUE ME?
- WHAT THINGS DO I HAVE CONTROL OVER IN MY LIFE?
- HOW WILL I RELIEVE STRESS IN A WAY THAT WORKS FOR ME? (INTERVENTION)



### **INQUIRY**

WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE END OF A
WORKDAY TO TRANSITION YOURSELF
PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND
SPIRITUALLY?



### **INQUIRY**

- KNOW YOUR SPECIFIC
   WARNING SIGNS
- DEVELOP AN EARLY
   WARNING SYSTEM
- CHECK-IN WITH SELF DAILY

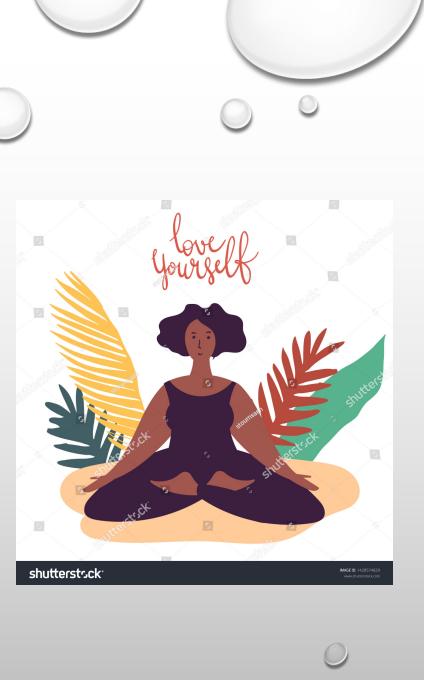






## TAKE THIS MOMENT...

TAKE A FEW BREATHS AND CLOSE YOUR EYES AND THINK OF SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE WHO SHOWED YOU A GREAT DEAL OF COMPASSION. TAKE A MOMENT TO HOLD THEM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND ALLOW YOURSELF TO REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE IN THEIR COMPASSIONATE AND LOVING PRESENCE.



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