The Houston Health Department is one of the few local health departments in the country that has an office dedicated to adolescent health. Adolescence is marked by significant and rapid growth, and health – mental, physical, social, and emotional – is an important part of this development. Home to the My Brother’s Keeper – Houston Movement. Work centered on adolescent healthcare utilization, positive youth development, youth violence prevention, juvenile justice, and youth and family services.
My Brother’s Keeper

• MBK was developed by former President Barack Obama to eliminate significant gaps that young men of color experience on a regular basis
• Focus on six core milestones
• Houston accepted the MBK Community Challenge in 2014

Opportunities

• Reduce violence in high-risk communities by integrating public health approaches
• Encourage law enforcement and neighborhoods to work hand-in-hand
• Reform the juvenile and criminal justice systems to keep youth and young adults on track
• Eliminate unnecessary barriers to reentry

Challenges

• While crime has generally decreased across the US, violence continues to plague many communities, and disproportionately affect communities of color
• Persons of color disproportionately have contact with law enforcement
• Interaction with the juvenile and criminal justice systems that permanently alters their trajectory to the worse

My Brother’s Keeper – Milestone 6

Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance

Youth Violence Prevention & Juvenile Justice

Healthy behaviors, choices and well-being in childhood and adolescence often extend into adulthood with lifelong implications

Violence and its corresponding results, is a critical issue in adolescence that can interrupt normal development

The CDC defines youth violence as occurring “when young people between the ages of 10 and 24 intentionally use physical force or power to threaten or harm others”

Through the use of PIER Model, violence can be addressed at various entry points
Framework – Spectrum of Prevention

The Spectrum of Prevention

- Developed by the Prevention Institute
- Multifaceted approach to injury prevention
- Framework helps people move beyond the notion that prevention is strictly educational
- Focus on moving "upstream"

Program Highlights & the PIER Model

Program Highlights
- Influencing Policy & Changing Organizational Practices
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
- Educating Providers
- Promoting Community Education
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills

Intervention
- Peacekeepers Movement
- Youth Violence Council
- Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan
- Preventing Community Violence
- Youth butt exit

Support
- TAPS
- Houston/Harris County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
- Project Reger

Youth Justice Stakeholder’s Meeting
Youth Justice Council
Created in March 2016

Purpose
Examine system and policy changes needed to improve the outcomes for young men (ages 10-24) of color who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Projects:
• Youth LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
• Study of denials of enrollment in school after juvenile justice incarceration (including policy work with HISD)
• Youth Violence Prevention Coalition
• Study of 17-24 year old’s in MBK designated zip codes
• Support for dual status youth program with Urban Enrichment Institute, H and HISD Social and Emotional Learning Development Collaboration of city, county, school districts, universities, non-profit agencies, amongst others interested in youth and justice.

Youth Justice Council Membership
City of Houston Health Department
Juvenile Justice District Attorney
Law Enforcement Protective Services Houston Independent School District
Public Defender’s Office Houston reVision Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
Harris County Precinct One Houston Police Department

Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan

• Houston Peace is a comprehensive plan for preventing youth violence with a vision that youth in Houston are safe, healthy, and have hope for the future
• Focus on ensuring city-wide collaboration, a unified vision, and coordinated approach

Three goals:
1. Prevent youth violence
2. Promote youth health
3. Provide youth opportunities
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Purpose: To use the environment to reduce crime and fear in communities, and improve quality of life.

Four Concepts:
1. Natural Access Control
2. Natural Surveillance
3. Territorial Behavior
4. Maintenance


Addresses targeted population of low level offenders with multiple offenses.

Goals of program include offering a pre-charge diversion program with services tailored to address the root causes of criminal behavior using a new approach to preventing crime.
Houston Harris County is the first Youth LEAD

Target population: HISD Middle School with a high incidence of criminal behavior.

Program offers a pre-charge diversion for at-risk youth.

Types of referrals include:

a) in lieu of arrest
b) social referrals

Services include mentoring, restorative justice circles, and wraparound system of care.

LEAD Partners

Community Partners:
- Crime Stoppers
- Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
- Harris County Precinct One
- Harris County Protective Services
- HISD Police Department

Service Providers:
- Intensive Case Management
- Primary Care
- Behavioral Health
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Literacy Services

Policy Coordinating Group
- LEAD National Support Bureau
  - Technical Support
  - Training

Legal System
- District Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Juvenile Probation

LEAD Client

Youth LEAD currently serves a total of 43 students.

Performance Indicators

- All 43 students participate in Restorative Justice circles weekly.
- 3 of the 15 are considered Tier 3 and receive intensive wraparound case management.
- 3 of the 15 are also on Juvenile Probation.
- 15 of the above have completed the Intake process with parental consent for services including mentoring.
- 18 of the above have completed the Intake process with parental consent for services including mentoring.
Houston Crime Stoppers, local law enforcement agencies and the Houston Health Department unveiled a safety initiative to help build relationships between law enforcement and the community.
Senate Bill (SB) 30, Community Safety Education Act

Purpose
Train over 50,000 citizens between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 on a curriculum to improve citizen and police contact. Houston police officers, high school students, government officials, and citizens from every walk of life will receive this training to create better understanding, increase legitimacy and increase safety for all citizens and police officers.

SB30 requires training for:
• High school students
• Peace officers
• Persons taking drivers education courses

REDUCING THE SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN CITIZENS & LAW ENFORCEMENT.

What Happens During a Traffic Stop?

“7 Step Violator Contact Method”
1. Greeting and identification of the police agency
2. Statement of violation committed
3. Identification of driver/financial responsibility and check of conditions of citizen and vehicle
4. Statement of action to be taken
5. Take Action
6. Explain what the citizen must do
7. Leave scene professionally

Accomplishments to date:

- 1,567 Trained Law Enforcement Officers
- 312 Trained Civilians & Community Members
- 1,879 Total Trained Peacekeepers
- 34 Trainings Conducted
Objectives:
• Create a standard of expectation for encounters with law enforcement
• Teach students that they have the power to determine and direct a successful encounter from beginning to end, including de-escalation, redirect and refocus
• Provide education on the basic rules for a successful encounter
• Ensure students are aware of their rights as a citizen

Purpose
Increase students’ knowledge and skills to have a successful WIN-WIN encounter with law enforcement. Provide a learning opportunity for officer’s to further understand the inner-city youth learning and cognitive style.

Eliminating hostile and deadly encounters between youth and police.
School Year 2018-2019

Strategy:
Enroll 600 youth at Clifton Middle School, Wheatley, Scarborough High School in the Win-Win training

- November 2018: 150 Students enrolled at Wheatley HS.
- February 15, 2019: Projected 150 Students Enrolled
- February 20, 2019: Projected 150 Students Enrolled
- April 2019: Projected 150 Students Enrolled

School Year 2017-2018

Strategy:
Enroll 500 youth at Kashmere, Wheatley, and Scarborough High School in the TAPS Academy and Win-Win training

Accomplishments:
609 Youth were enrolled

Redirect

Diversion program providing high-risk youth with close supervision and rehabilitation. Youth are diverted from out-of-home placement or commitment to the Texas Youth Commission

Purpose
Divert youth out of Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

Initiatives:
- TAPS Academy
- Sealing and/or expunction of criminal records
- Job and career readiness
Accomplishments to date:

- 25 Caseload
- 15 Mentors Trained
- 78 Youth Screened
- 45 Capacity

Total Number of Program Referrals: 86

Purpose

Reduce the social distance between at-risk youth and law enforcement

11-week program curriculum focuses on three components:
1) learning, 2) interaction, and 3) discussion

Topics addressed includes:
- Truancy
- Team Building
- Service Learning
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Active Shooter
- Safe Driving & Police Stops
- Victimization & Bullying
Learn More!

My Brother’s Keeper Houston: http://www.mbkhoustontx.org/MBK2017/homenew.html
TAPS Academy: http://www.tapsacademy.org/index
Peacekeepers Movement: https://www.peacekeepersmovement.org/
Win Win: https://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/peace_king.htm
Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan: Coming Soon!

Contact Information
Bureau Chief & MBK Houston Lead
• Noel Pinnock – Noel.Pinnock@houstontx.gov
Youth Justice Council
• Janis Bane – Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov
Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan
• Melissa Bing – Melissa.Bing@houstontx.gov
Win Win
• Omowale Allen – Omowale.Allen@houstontx.gov
Peacekeeper Movement
• Willis Robinson – Willis.Robinson@houstontx.gov
TAPS
• Dr. Everette Penn – Everette.Penn@houstontx.gov
ReDirect
• Karlton Harris – Karlton.Harris@houstontx.gov
LEAD
• Janis Bane – Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov