

HHS/ED/PS COMM #1
June 16, 2016
Discussion

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2016

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education Committee
Public Safety Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *VY*
Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst *McGuire*
Susan Farag, Legislative Analyst *SF*

SUBJECT: Discussion - Gang Prevention and Community Based Support Services for Children Fleeing Violence

The Health and Human Services, Education, and Public Safety Committees will discuss gang preventions and community-based support services for young people – particularly children fleeing violence. Those expected to participate in the discussion include:

- Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Maria Navarro, Chief Academic Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Chief Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)
- Assistant Chief Darryl McSwain, MCPD
- Captain Paul Liquorie, Director, Special Investigation Division, MCPD
- Luis Cardona, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, DHHS
- Diego Uriburu, Executive Director, Identity, Inc.
- Darryl Williams, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools, MCPS
- Debra Berner, Director, Department of Student Services, MCPS
- Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Montgomery County Recreation Department (MCRD)

Background

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee, Education (ED) Committee, and Public Safety (PS) Committee have held previous joint sessions to discuss the trends and service needs regarding children fleeing violence from Central America (these children may also be referred to as unaccompanied minors depending on their status). Previous discussions have touched on the circumstances giving rise to children fleeing Central America and coming to the

County and the increased need for health, mental health, educational, youth development and other support services in schools and in the community for children who do not speak English or do not speak English as a first language.

At the last Joint HHS/ED/PS Committee meeting on the topic of children fleeing violence, the Committee identified for discussion at its next meeting gang prevention supports for young people, especially those most vulnerable, and efforts to minimize gang recruitment in schools. During consideration of the DHHS FY17 budget, HHS Committee members expressed concern about increasing gang activity/recruitment and crime trends. They wanted to discuss how departments/agencies are working with private organizations to address the needs of young people and prevent these negative behaviors, particularly in the upcoming summer months.

Presentations

The Joint Committee will receive an update on children fleeing violence from DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia and MCPS Chief Academic Officer Maria Navarro.

Chief Manger, Assistant Chief McSwain, and Captain Liquorie will present to the Committee on gang activity, youth crime and violence, and suppression efforts. MCPD's briefing materials (©5-15) report unprecedented levels of gang-related violence over the last eight months, and suppression challenges arising from geopolitical factors in Central America, transiency resulting from international and interstate networks, and increasing decentralization of gangs. The materials also include youth crime data that shows the most youth activity in the 3rd and 4th Districts with increasing activity in the 6th District and peak frequency from 8pm to 12am (a shift from the 12 pm to 6 pm period prior to 2013).

DHHS Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator Luis Cardona will provide observations about gang activity and recruitment of vulnerable young County residents as well as support services needed to prevent gang involvement.

Diego Uriburu, Executive Director of Identity, Inc., will provide the Joint Committee with information on the numbers of unaccompanied minors served in their programs from July 2015 through April 2016 and results from surveys with the youth they serve reflecting on the conditions they faced in their countries of origin, and their thoughts about gang activity and safety in their Montgomery County neighborhoods. He will also share recommendations on what community-based organizations, school staff, and police can do to protect youth from gang involvement.

MCPS representatives are expected to address gang activity and recruitment of young people in schools, educational services targeted for children fleeing violence, and efforts to collaborate with County agencies community stakeholders and youth serving organizations. Information provided by MCPS for this discussion is attached at ©16-19.

MCRD Director Gabriel Alborno will report on efforts from the represented organizations to collaborate on gang involvement and youth crime prevention strategies, with specific reference to plans for prevention strategies for the upcoming summer months.

Attached as background information for this session are:

Briefing on Positive Youth Development Initiative and Strategies to Address Gang Activity	1-4
MCPD Report on Youth Crime and Violence	5-15
MCPS Gang Awareness: Prevention and Intervention Presentation	16-19
MCPS Regulation JHG-RA: Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior Prevention	20-26
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Follow Up Briefing

**Submitted to
County Executive Ike Leggett
Montgomery County, Maryland**

**Montgomery County Council
Health and Human Services; Education
& Public Safety Committees**

June 16, 2016

Co-Chairs of Positive Youth Development Initiative

**Tom Manger
Montgomery County Police Chief**

**Uma Ahluwalia
Director, Health and Human Services**

**Gabriel Albornoz
Director, Department of Recreation**

Introduction

In 2004, Montgomery County assigned a task force to develop a series of recommendations to address the significant spike in gang violence in Montgomery County. Those recommendations led to the development of a strategy of prevention, intervention, and suppression to address the issue.

Among the highlights of the recommendations that have since been implemented were the creation of a Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator in HHS, a specialized Gang Unit within Montgomery County Police, the establishment of an up county and down county youth opportunity center, the enhanced support of non-profit organizations addressing youth most vulnerable, the establishment of a special prosecutors with the State's Attorney's Office, the development of a street outreach network to work with at-risk youth, and the expansion of out-of-school time programming for youth in targeted areas.

The implementation of those and other strategies led to a significant and sustained decrease in gang activity in Montgomery County through the end of 2015. However, due to a number of factors including 1) political unrest and a crackdown of international gangs in Central America; 2) a recent wave of unaccompanied minors into Montgomery County, that are vulnerable to gang recruitment due to targeting by gangs via social media; 3) the transnational nature of the most recent wave of organized criminal activity, making tracking more challenging; 4) reluctance by members of the community to share information due to fear for the lives of their extended family in their country of origin; 5) conflict between new arrived immigrants and students already here and acclimated to American culture; 6) We continue to see increased criminal activity with use of high caliber weapons by predominantly African American gangs throughout the hot spots in the County as well as increases in criminal and violent behavior by African American girls especially in the Germantown and Gaithersburg communities

Strategy to Address Most Recent Wave of Gang Activity

A group of key stakeholders representing Police, HHS, MCPS, State's Attorney, Recreation, Corrections, Park Police, Libraries, non-profit and community based organizations have been meeting three times a year since 2008 to collaborate, share information, and make policy recommendations to address the gang issue.

After the most recent wave of gang activity, a smaller workgroup has been meeting every two weeks since April to develop strategies, discuss and share information regarding specific cases, and make policy recommendations. The collaboration has led the strategies listed below that will carry through the Summer to the beginning of the school year.

Objectives

- **Close cases/make arrests for perpetrators of gang related homicides**
- **Reduce gang related crime and youth violence**
- **Enhance community and key stakeholder trust**
- **Engage youth in diversion and positive youth development programming**
- **Establish/reinforce uniform communication protocols and strategies among stakeholders**
- **Create great capacity among front line organizations to reach more youth and provide enhanced services**
- **Help educate and get additional support from Maryland state and federal delegation in light of some of the complexities we are experiencing.**

Strategies

- **Establish Community Summer Kick-off Events** – Organized by the Street Outreach Network, working with key partners including MCPD, Park Police, Recreation, MCPS and others will coordinate 8 Summer of Peace community events in targeted areas. These events will provide an opportunity maintain a presence in hot spots in the County as well as connect youth and families with needed supports to help prevent violence as well as gang activity, by sharing information regarding programs and

services. More importantly, it will provide a positive setting and opportunity for community members to engage key stakeholders and especially law enforcement and help strengthen trust and relationships. These positive interactions are aimed at creating more community trust and will help make communities aware of programs/services available to them.

- **Community Dialogues** – St. Martin’s Church hosted a successful forum on gang issues in December 2015, to discuss emerging gang issues. This format will serve as a model for more community dialogue meetings to dispel myths about gangs, provide correct information, enhance community trust and establish another opportunity for communities to have positive interactions with key stakeholders, especially law enforcement.
- **Stakeholder Retreat** – Although there is great collaboration and information sharing among all front-line organizations tackling the gang problem, there is still an opportunity to deepen that connection and focus on establishing policies in light of the recent surge in gang activity. The facilitated retreat will include front-line staff members from the public and civic/non-profit sectors working the most directly with gang involved youth.
- **Enhanced Diversion/Positive Youth Development Programming** – The Department of Recreation, non-profit partners, and the Street Outreach Network are offering targeted summer programming in the communities of Montgomery Village, Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Silver Spring/Wheaton. Programming includes summer camps, summer trips, and strategically enhanced drop-in programming/sports opportunities at Recreation Centers. In addition, funding was added in the FY’17 operating budget to develop a targeted soccer league for highly at-risk youth. The league will commence this summer and continue through the Fall.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

REPORT ON YOUTH CRIME & VIOLENCE



June 2016

Background

The county has seen an unprecedented level of gang related violence over the last eight months. Most notably are the nine gang related homicides that have occurred during this timeframe. These include five murders involving the transnational criminal organization, Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13. The other four homicides are attributed to smaller, but just as a violent, local “crews”. In addition to these disturbing incidents, there have been a number of aggravated assaults, firearms offenses, and extortions that have occurred during the same time period.

This is being fueled, in part, by geo-political factors in Central America, most notably, the hardline stance against the gangs by the El Salvadoran government in the wake of the collapse of the long standing truce between the two sides. This has led to a substantial increase in violence in El Salvador that is contributing to the mass migration from the country and other parts of the region to include the influx of unaccompanied minors to the United States and the greater Washington Metropolitan Area.

The unaccompanied minors who embark on their flight from their native countries face significant risks including, extortion, robbery, physical and, sexual assaults that further contribute to the trauma they suffer from. After making their precarious journeys, they often find their expectations do not match the realities of the economic opportunities, cultural barriers and family situations they find here in the United States. The resulting isolation that many of them feel or experience makes them more susceptible to victimization, gang recruitment, and participation in criminal activity.

The Montgomery County Police Department continues to lawfully, identify gang members and, diligently pursue charges against those who commit criminal offenses, especially violent acts. However, this is hampered by the pervasive and palpable fear that permeates through pockets of the Hispanic community living within the county due to the tactics that the gangs now employ. Utilizing social media and the internet to conduct research, MS-13 and the 18th Street gang target vulnerable, newly-arrived youth by threatening to harm their families and loved ones back home. The very real potential for the gangs to carry out these threats back in Central America, out of the reach of American law enforcement, forces these targeted young adults to comply with demands to join the gangs, act on their behalf, or make recurring extortion payments. Other factors are also hindering law enforcement’s gang suppression efforts.

The established international and interstate networks established by the gangs make them more transient than ever. Gang members who commit acts of violence frequently rely on “cliques” in other states to harbor them. Based on a tip from the FBI’s Boston Field Office, members of the department’s Central Street Gang Unit recently not only arrested a gang member wanted for murder in Boston, but also located a suspect wanted for attempted murder in Dallas, and another wanted in connection with several homicides in Houston, all of whom were staying in a house in the Wheaton area.

Recent investigations have revealed that the gangs are increasingly decentralized. While this is assessed to be unintentional on the gangs' part, it compartmentalizes the information about individual cliques' members and activities preventing the department from fully gaining a strategic understanding of the gangs' scope of operations in the county. Off-the-shelf technology is also playing a role concealing the illicit activities that the gangs are perpetrating.

Despite these challenges, the department continues to collaborate with its regional and federal law enforcement partners to exchange intelligence and work cross-jurisdictional cases. Arrests have been made in all but the latest gang related homicide. The police department continues to work with other county departments such as, Health and Human Services and Recreation and non-government organizations in furtherance of the prevention and intervention components of the county's comprehensive gang strategy. Chief Manger remains fully committed and engaged in the county executive's Positive Youth Development Initiative and is taking all necessary steps to curtail the gangs' negative influence, especially upon our youth.

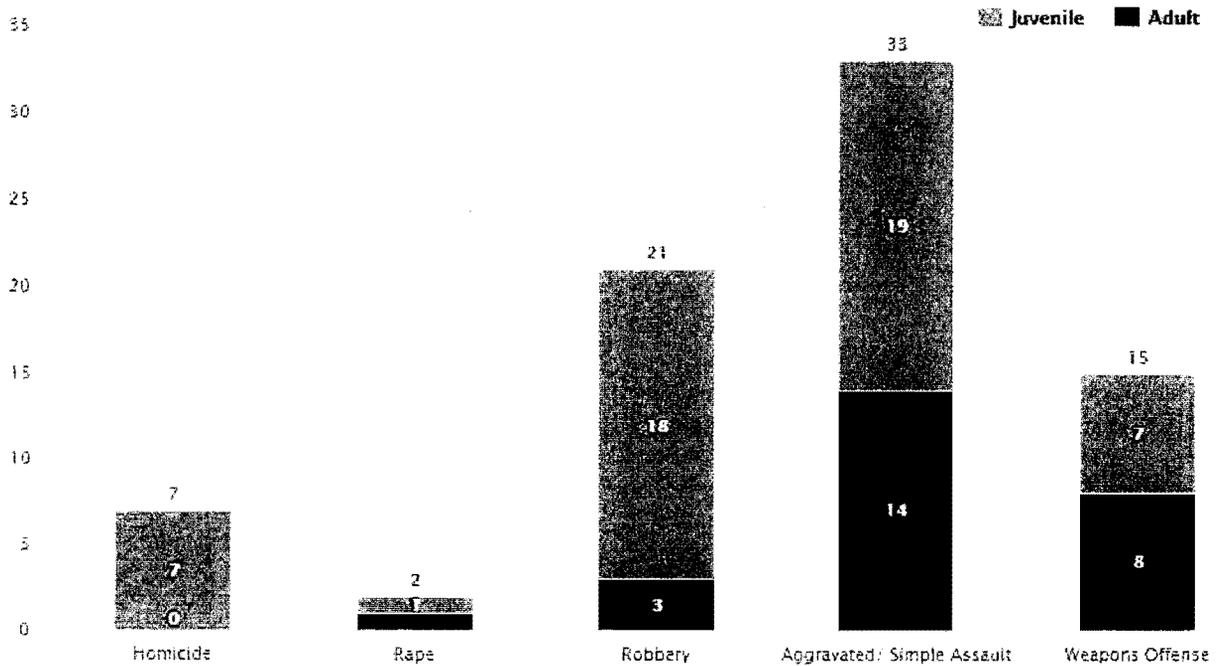
Youth Gang-Related Crime Statistics

Note: The statistics included in this section of the report are for youth 21 and under and includes gang-related incidents only. Only incidents that the Criminal Street Gang Unit were notified of are included in the statistics.

Gang-Related Violent Crime Committed by Youth

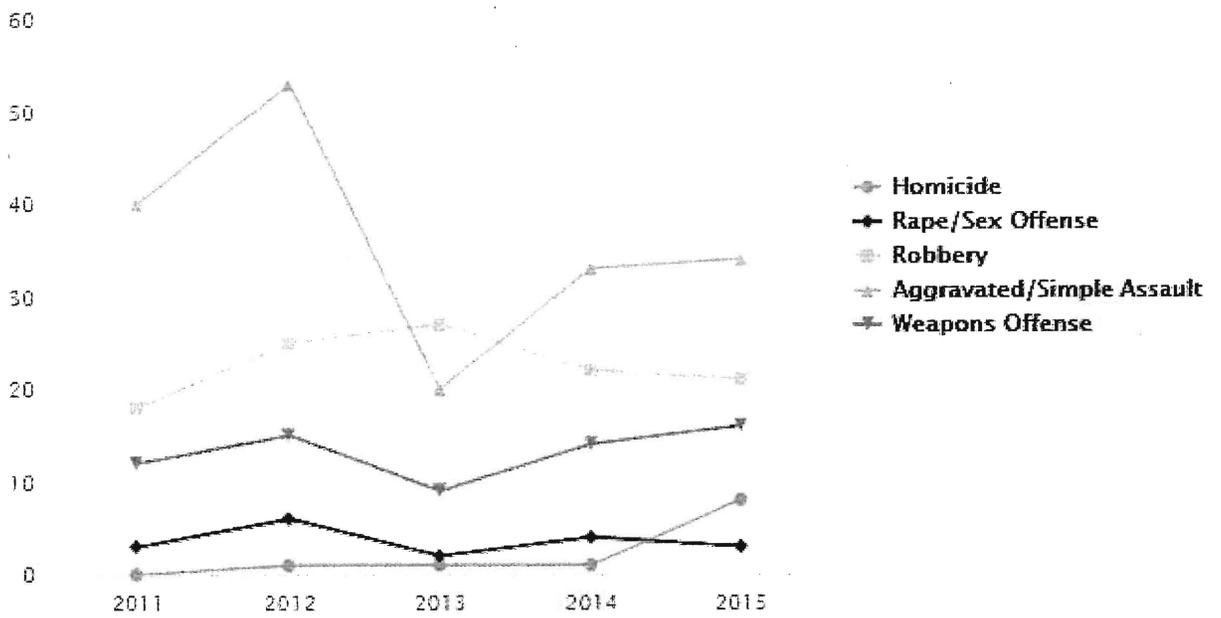
Over 67% percent of known gang-related violent crimes were committed by youth 21 and under in 2015. Youth were responsible for all but one of the closed gang-related homicides and over 85% of street robberies. Youth involved in these crimes mainly belong to transnational, neighborhood and hybrid gangs and groups. The majority of the adults connected to gang-related violent crime were under the age of 26.

Gang-Related Violent Events 2015



2015 showed increases in gang-related homicides, aggravated & simple assaults and weapons offenses from 2013 and 2014.

Gang Related Violent Crimes



Youth Crime Statistics

Note: Statistics are for youth 21 and under, and are UCR-based. Statistics are only available for the second half of 2013 (7/1/13 – 12/31/13). Additionally, not all of the recorded incidents are criminal. This data includes non-criminal incident reports (i.e., runaways, police information, mental transports).

Comparison of Statistics, 2013 – 2016

Over the last several years, the top five juvenile categories have remained the same: drug offenses, larceny, miscellaneous/other (runaways), minor assaults, and burglary.

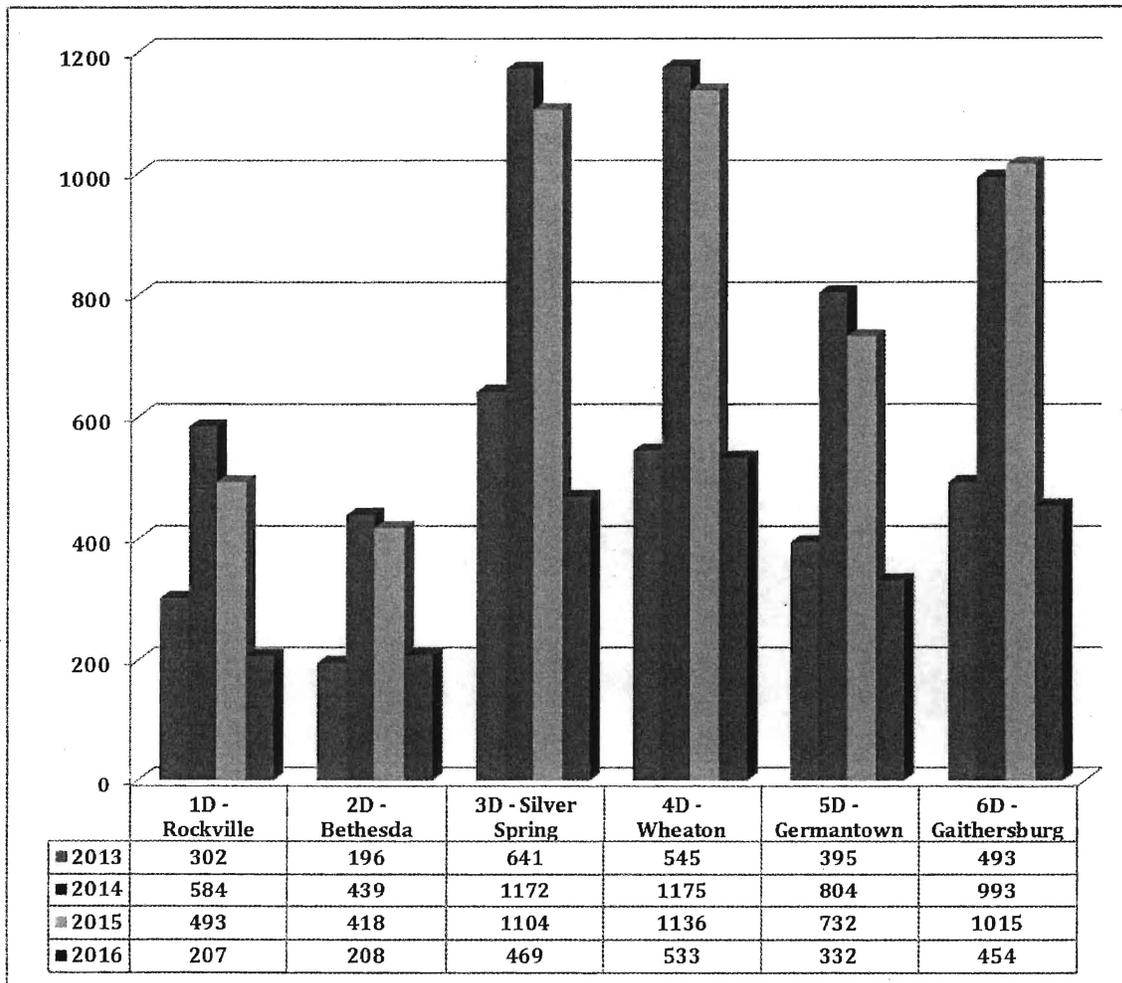
Juvenile Events - 21 And Under				
As of 06/07/16				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Drug Offenses	813	1463	1150	625
Larceny	554	1071	1103	425
Alcohol Violations	88	132	123	60
Minor Assault	227	523	606	333
Misc/Other	318	697	721	328
Burglary	156	341	265	99
Weapons	63	127	127	52
Robbery	78	152	155	60
Vandalism	51	161	160	52
Disorderly Conduct	74	124	118	38
Sex Offenses	31	73	72	47
Auto Theft	37	54	75	22
Agg. Assault	36	137	150	37
Arson	0	3	8	5
Family Offense	19	30	9	4
Forgery/Fraud	24	73	40	12
Rape	3	6	15	4
Homicide	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	2572	5167	4898	2203

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Part I & Part II	52,903	51,601	52,073	21,900
Youth Part I & Part II	2,572	5,167	4,898	2,203
Youth, as a % of the Total	4.9%	10.0%	9.4%	10.1%

As a percentage of overall crime, the youth statistics are generally consistent, making up approximately 10% of total Part I and Part II offenses in the County.

Youth Crime by District

The 3rd and 4th Districts had the highest amount of youth activity in 2014, 2015, and YTD 2016. However, activity has started picking up in the 6th District (the only district to have an increase from 2014 to 2015).



Youth Hot Spots

To determine the number of hot spots, the incidents were sorted by beat and PRA, and ranked according to the frequency of incidents occurring in those PRAs.

In 2015, the following PRAs had at least 50 incidents:

2015	
District/Beat/PRA	# of Incidents
4D-4L2-321	178
6D-6R1-548	146
6D-6P3-419	109
5D-5N1-702	101
4D-4L2-324	74
3D-3I2-380	72
5D-5N1-447	70
5D-5N2-448	64
3D-3I1-146	62
5D-5M1-701	61
2D-2E3-204	58
6D-6R1-505	57
6D-6R1-426	55
4D-4K1-348	54
5D-5N1-465	51
5D-5N2-594	51
4D-4K1-534	50

YTD, the following beats/PRAs have experienced the most activity:

YTD 2016	
District/Beat/PRA	# of Incidents
4D-4L2-321	88
6D-6R1-548	82
5D-5N1-702	64
2D-2E3-204	43
6D-6P3-419	42
6D-6R1-505	39
5D-5N1-447	34
3D-3I1-145	33
5D-5N1-465	32
6D-6R1-426	32
3D-3I2-380	31
4D-4K1-348	27
5D-5M3-598	26
3D-3G1-109	24
3D-3I1-146	24
3D-3I2-384	23
4D-4K1-534	21
5D-5M1-701	20

The point map on the next page illustrates the PRAs in which there was the greatest frequency of incidents in 2015 (blue dots) and plots those PRAs that have had the most activity YTD in 2016 (red dots). This map may help PYDI partners gauge whether their efforts have had an impact in a targeted area and/or identify areas that may need attention. For example, the 2015 hot spot in the 5th District near 117 and 118 has improved this year, while the 3rd District appears to have a hot spot emerging in downtown Silver Spring.



Juvenile Offenses

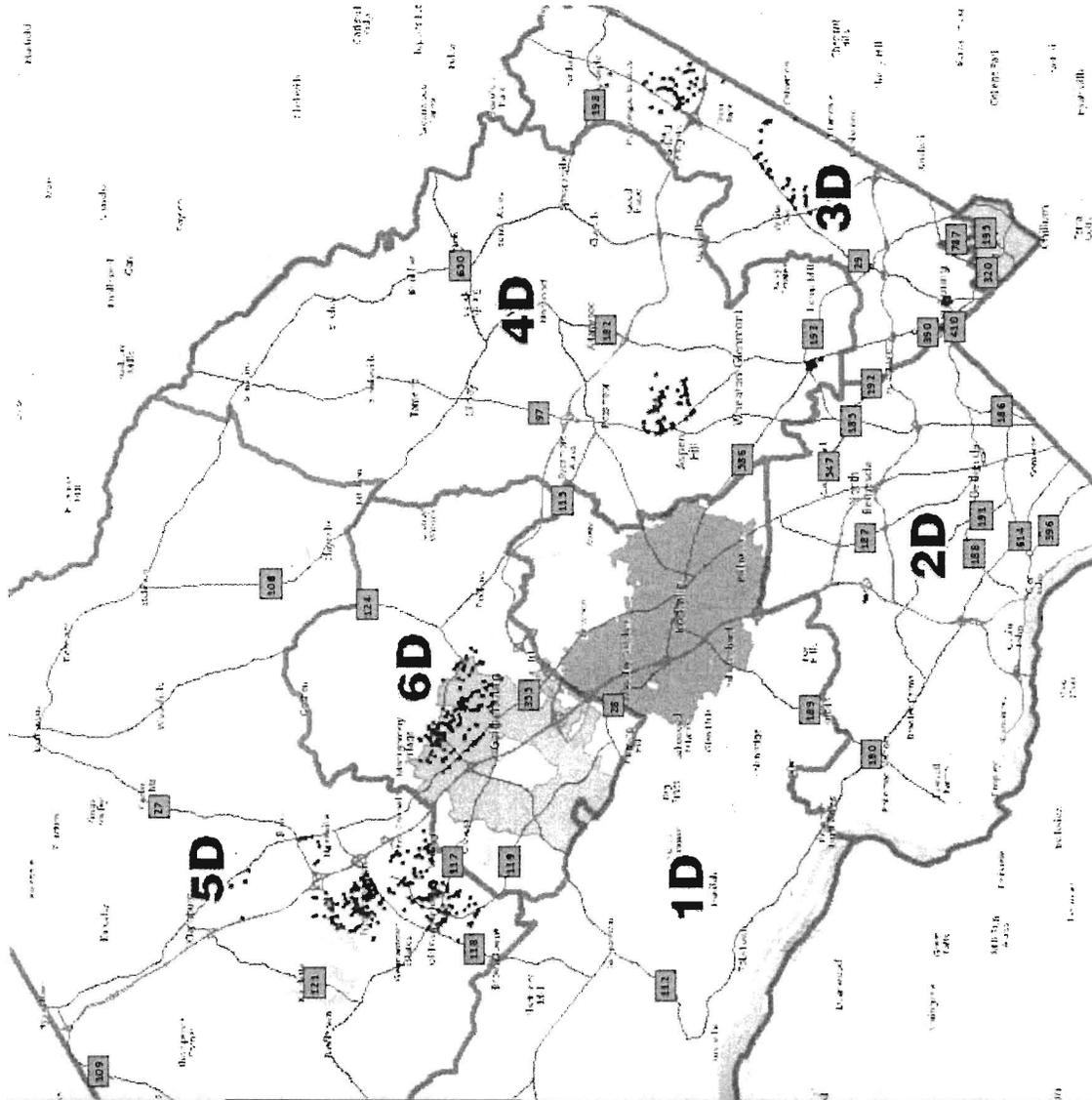
2015 & 2016 YTD

2015

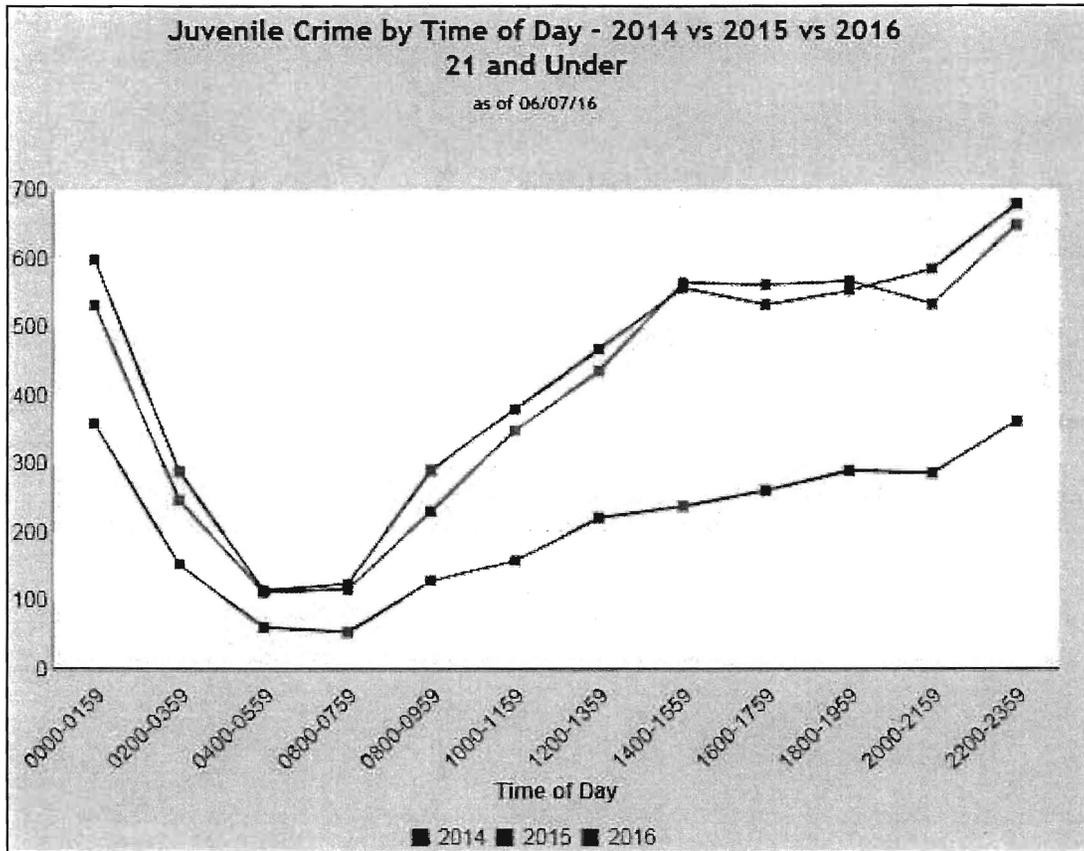
2016

GAITHERSBURG
ROCKVILLE
TAKOMA PARK

Data source: *EJustice*



Youth Crime by Time of Day



There is consistency in the peaktimes of youth criminal activity. Activity gradually begins to increase between 8am and 10am; it peaks around 2pm, and there is one final burst of activity between 9pm and midnight.

Please note: Although there is not a trend line for 2013, previous data analyses indicate a similar trend in 2013. In fact, 2013 marked the shift from a peak frequency time of 12pm to 6pm (2010 – 2012) to 8pm to 12am.



Montgomery County Public Schools

Gang Awareness: Prevention and Intervention

Montgomery County Council
June 16, 2016



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Montgomery County Public Schools

Gang Awareness: Prevention and Intervention

Montgomery County Council
June 16, 2016



Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation JHG-RA: *Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior Prevention*

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regulation Title: Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior Prevention
Regulation Number: JHG-RA
Regulation Description: This regulation is intended to provide a framework for the prevention, identification, and intervention of gang activity in schools.

Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior Prevention

1. PURPOSE

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) believes that students' achievement and well-being are enhanced when they are safe and free from the negative effects of gang activity. This regulation is intended to provide a framework for the prevention, identification, and intervention of gang activity in schools. It also provides for the identification and intervention of gang activity in schools.

Definition: All the behaviors are directly related to the prevention of gang activity. This includes the identification, prevention, intervention, and removal of gang activity in schools. It also includes the identification and intervention of gang activity in schools.

2. DEFINITIONS

- (1) **Gang:** A group of individuals who are involved in criminal activities.
- (2) **Individual:** A person who is involved in criminal activities.
- (3) **Group:** A group of individuals who are involved in criminal activities.

Key components included in the regulation:

- Annual professional development activities on the prevalence, causes, indicators, and consequences of gang-related behaviors and strategies to prevent gang-related behaviors.
- Collaboration with families and community stakeholders on the prevalence, causes, indicators, and consequences of gang-related behaviors.
- List of community resources for staff members, students, and families on social services, health, and behavioral health resources to support students who exhibit gang-related behaviors and the victims and witnesses of such behavior.



Montgomery County Public Schools Department of School Safety and Security

- Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to ensuring the safety of students and staff members
- School security staff members monitor activities and collaborate with administrators to develop strategies to reduce incidents and to keep students and staff members safe
- The Department of School Safety and Security monitors serious incident reports and arrests on school property.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



County Collaborations

- Memorandum of Understanding to delineate partnership with Montgomery County Police Department
 - Incorporates feedback from school resource officers, principals, and other stakeholders
 - Aligns with MCPS Code of Conduct, Board of Education Policy JGA, *Student Discipline*, and guidance from U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education
- Summit in December, 2015 with MCPS principals, central services staff, security team leaders; and county agencies
- Ongoing discussions regarding gang activities in MCPS schools and the community
- Partnerships with Identity, Inc. and Street Outreach Network



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MCPS Collaborations

- Since July 1, 2015:
 - 1,426 students from Central America have enrolled in MCPS
 - an increase of 247 students from 2014–2015 to 2015–2016
 - 210 students have been placed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
 - an increase of 47 students through ORR from 2014–2015 to 2015–2016
- MCPS staff has received specialized training on the needs of and supports for unaccompanied youth
- The Children Fleeing Violence workgroup continues to meet on a regular basis to support school and community efforts
- La Cultura Cura professional development for MCPS and partner agency staff members focused on working with youth who experienced trauma



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summer Programs for Secondary School Students

- MCPS Multidisciplinary Education, Training, and Support (METS) Summer Programs
- MCPS Students Engaged in Pathways to Achievement (SEPA) Summer Programs
- MCPS English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Summer Programs
- MCPS Middle School Extended Year (ESY) Programs
- MCPS Summer Food Service Program
- Montgomery County Recreation Summer Camps, Summer Fun Centers, and Teen Service Learning Opportunities
- Montgomery College Summer Youth Programs
- City of Gaithersburg Summer Camps
- Regional Summer School: Four High School Sites



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: COB-RA, JFA, JFA-RA, JOA-RA
Responsible Office: Special Education and Student Services
 School Safety and Security
Related Sources: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-424.2; Criminal Law Article, §9-801. *Definitions*; and Criminal Law Article, §9-803. *Criminal gang activity – Schools*

Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior Prevention

I. PURPOSE

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) believes that academic achievement and social growth occur when students and staff feel safe. Gangs, gang activity, and other similar destructive or illegal group behaviors (gang-related behaviors) interfere with the safe operation of schools. Students who are gang members, who are involved in gang activity, or who participate in similar destructive or illegal group activities, as well as students who are exposed to these activities, are at risk of experiencing a range of negative health, safety, and educational outcomes.

Therefore, MCPS students are strictly prohibited from participation in gang activity. This regulation provides procedures that address the prohibition of gang-related behaviors in schools by implementing prevention, early intervention, remedial activities, and specific consequences as needed, and guard against reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report suspected gang-related behaviors.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. *Gangs*—“*Criminal gang*” means a group or association of three or more persons whose members:

- (1) individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity;
- (2) have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults; and

- (3) have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure.
- B. *Gang activity*—“Pattern of criminal gang activity” means the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if committed by an adult.
- (a) Activities on or near school vehicles or property. A person may not threaten an individual, or a friend or family member of an individual, with use of physical force or violence to coerce, induce, or solicit the individual to participate in or prevent the individual from leaving a criminal gang: (1) in a school vehicle or (2) in, or within 1,000 feet of real property owned or leased to an elementary school, secondary school, or county board of education and used for elementary or secondary education.
- (b) Applicability—Subsection (a) of this section applies whether or not: (1) school was in session at the time of the crime; or (2) the real property was being used for purposes other than school purposes at the time of the crime.
- C. *Prevention activities* are those schoolwide activities that provide awareness of the prevalence, causes, and consequences for gang-related behaviors, and are part of a system of positive behavioral supports and school improvement efforts at all grade levels.
- D. *Intervention activities* are individual or small group approaches directed at specific occurrences and range in intensity, duration, and frequency based on the severity of the behavior.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Prevention

All schools must implement gang-related behavior prevention and intervention strategies and/or activities that teach and reinforce responsible prosocial behavior. Included are:

1. Implementation and analysis of school climate surveys to guide local decision making related to prevention, intervention, and professional development.
2. Annual professional development activities for all staff members that focus on the prevalence, causes, and indicators of gang-related behaviors, social skill development, positive school climate, tolerance of differences,

age-appropriate behavioral expectations, and strategies to prevent instances of gang-related behaviors.

3. Professional development provided to staff hired during the school year.
4. Schoolwide prevention programs implemented as part of a system of positive behavioral supports, character education, violence prevention, and school improvement at all secondary schools, and, as appropriate, at the elementary school level.

B. Intervention

1. Collaboration with families and community stakeholders about the prevalence, indicators, causes, and the consequences of gang-related behaviors and the means to prevent them.
2. Education, counseling, or other direct interventions for students exhibiting gang-related behaviors. Interventions may include, but will not be limited to, remedial approaches planned through collaboration with families and other community stakeholders that are designed to correct gang-related behavior; skill building that targets self-advocacy and self-esteem, prevents future occurrences, and protects victims from retaliation and/or further episodes of gang-related behavior.
3. A range of interventions proven to be effective in addressing the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of students who are gang members, and involved or engaged in other similar destructive or illegal group behaviors in order to prevent further incidents.
4. Information should be provided for staff, students, and parents on social services, health, and behavioral health resources for those students who persist in engaging in gang-related activities after the implementation of school interventions. Information also should be provided for students who are victims of gang-related activities or bystanders whose mental or physical health, safety, or academic performance has been negatively impacted.
5. Recognition of positive behavioral changes by students who previously exhibited gang-related behaviors, students who were victims of gang-related behaviors who are implementing strategies to offset the trauma of the incident, and for students who were bystanders who have taken an active role in preventing future occurrences of gang-related behaviors.

C. Consequences

Consequences and remedial actions for individuals engaged in gang-related behavior or for individuals who have made false accusations should be consistently and fairly applied after timely and appropriate investigation has determined that such an offense has occurred. The consequences must be consistent with MCPS Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be used for reporting incidents of gang-related behavior:

- A. All school employees must report any incidence of suspected gang-related behavior to the principal or designee. All reports of gang-related behavior must be in writing.
- B. MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, may be completed by a student, parent/guardian, close adult relative, or staff member. Once completed, the form is submitted to the school principal.
- C. When a student reports an incident of gang-related behavior to a staff member, the staff member will respond quickly to intervene; recommend that MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, be completed; and promptly report the incident to a school administrator. If the student cannot complete the reporting form independently, the staff member will assist the student in completing the form.
- D. At the beginning of each school year, principals will inform students, parents, and staff members about reporting incidents of gang-related behavior using MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*. Each school will have available MCPS Form 230-37 in the school office, counselor's office, media center, and health room, as well as a link to the form on the local school website, if possible.

V. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be used when investigating gang-related behavior:

- A. Upon receipt of a Gang-Related Incident Report, the principal or designee, assistant principal, and the school security officer shall initiate an investigation within 24 hours. If the report is of a high level of severity (criminal activity, imminent danger or disruption) the investigation shall be initiated immediately but not later than 24 hours. MCPS Form 230-38: *Gang-Related Incident Investigation Form* shall be used to investigate all gang-related incident reports.

If the report is of a high level of severity (criminal activity, imminent danger or disruption) appropriate school system personnel shall be notified, in accordance with MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident*.

- B. MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form* and the accompanying MCPS Form 230-38: *Gang-Related Incident Investigation Form*, are maintained in a confidential file in the school office in accordance with confidentiality requirements for student records. These documents are not included in a student's cumulative file.
- C. The school principal and/or designee will contact the parents of all students involved in the gang-related behavior within 24 hours of completing the investigation.
- D. School administrators and/or designee will implement interventions and/or apply remedial actions and/or consequences appropriate for the incident and consistent with system and school discipline plans and procedures. A student who participates in gang-related behavior will be informed that reprisal or retaliation against a student who has been involved with or a witness to gang-related activity is prohibited and that further disciplinary action will occur if instances of gang-related behavior continue.
- E. Designated school staff will conduct separate conferences with the student who was victimized by gang-related behavior and the student who is involved with gang-related behavior within two weeks after the investigation to verify the victimization has ceased. These conferences may occur as part of counseling interventions. Another follow-up conference or conversation will be held with the student who was victimized by gang-related behaviors four weeks after the investigation to verify that the gang-related behavior has ceased.
- F. Some gang-related behavior also could be considered as serious incidents as defined by MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident*. In these cases, the procedures outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA must be followed by the school administrator/designee.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTING FORM

- A. MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, is available on the MCPS website and should be available in all schools in the school office, counselor's office, media center, and health room.
- B. School administrators will inform staff about the availability of MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, at the start of each school year, and provide reminders periodically throughout the school year.

- C. School administrators will inform students about the availability of MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, during the first week of school, and with reminders periodically throughout the year.
- D. School administrators will inform parents about the availability of MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, and MCPS' *Community Resources and Internet Sites Regarding Gangs, Gang Activity, or Other Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior* in the beginning-of-the-year information sent to students and their parents, in school newsletters, system e-mail, and at the first Parent Teacher Association and school meeting of the school year.
- E. If the school has a student or parent handbook, information about the availability of MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form*, should be included.
- F. Students will be informed that they may submit MCPS Form 230-37: *Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form* to any staff member (to deliver to the principal). A secure box may be placed in a location or locations selected by school administrators so that a student may submit a completed reporting form if he/she feels uncomfortable submitting the form in person. If a school sets up a secure box, the principal must make sure students, parents, and staff are aware of its location and make sure the box is checked each school day.

VII. SUPPORT SERVICES

The following supports are available for the student who is the victim of gang-related behavior, and students who are involved in gang-related activity, and students who are bystanders. The list is not exhaustive, and schools are not restricted from other approaches or community resources known to be effective and consistent with Board of Education policies and MCPS regulations.

- A. School/System
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Classroom guidance and small group counseling
 - 3. Collaborative Problem Solving/Educational Management Team processes
 - 4. Positive behavioral supports
 - 5. Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)
 - 6. Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)
 - 7. Comprehensive social skills training
 - 8. Character Education
 - 9. Anger management training
 - 10. Cognitive Behavioral Counseling

11. Parent involvement
12. Parent training/workshops
13. Peer support groups
14. Schedule modifications
15. School improvement plan

B. Community/Family

A resource list, *Community Resources and Internet Sites Regarding Gang Prevention and Intervention* will be available in school offices and posted on the MCPS website.

VIII. MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) CONTACT:

Mr. Walter Sallee, Acting Chief
Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: 410-767-0292

Regulation History: New regulation August 29, 2011; revised September 4, 2012; non-substantive changes March 17, 2016.

HHS Services to Children Fleeing Violence

Care for Kids

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16 YTD (through April 2016)</u>
Total Children enrolled	3024	3919	4525
Number of New Enrollees	699	1369	1325

Significant enrollment surges in the Care for Kids Program during FY15 and FY16 were partly due to the large number of children fleeing violence. Through April 2016, the Care for Kids Program has enrolled 1,325 new children, which comes close to the total number of new enrollees for all of FY15, and is almost double the number of new enrollees in FY14. In FY16, 97% of the new enrollees came from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Over 68% of the new enrollees reported they had been detained at the U.S. Mexico border. 48% are between 13 – 19 years of age; 56% are male; 76% said they are enrolled in the school system. In FY16, the Care for Kids nurse case manager reported an increase in referrals for mental health and specialty care.

School Health Services

For FY16 (through May 31, 2016) the high school nurses report there are 29 students fleeing violence who are pregnant or parenting an infant.

5 students who are parenting and being case managed by the school nurse

- 3 of the students arrived with children
- 1 of the students left her infant in her home country
- 1 arrived pregnant last SY14/15, was parenting at start of this school year(SY15/16), and child died in the fall of 2015 due to multiple congenital abnormalities (chromosomal).

25 pregnancies this school year. All are being case managed by school nurse and referred to Community Health Services and for Intensive Case Management

- 15 became pregnant after arriving in US – this includes one student from the parenting group above whose infant died in the fall of 2015 and is recently pregnant again.
- 9 were pregnant when they arrived in US*. Note one of these students is 13 years old.
- 1 pregnancy with conception details unknown- not attending regularly

*5 of the pregnancies and 1 of the children are the result of forcible rape.

*1 pregnancy that was the result of forcible rape ended with the death of the child, the teen is now pregnant again.

Child Welfare Services

CWS Has had only one allegation of abuse/neglect involving an unaccompanied minor in FY16 as of May 2016. This allegation was screened out.

CWS had 16 trafficking cases this fiscal year. We attribute this increase over the last year to increased awareness, reporting and screening procedures, and our stronger collaborative work with community agencies and the police.

Positive Youth Development

Recently Arrived Youth Served, July 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016

Centers	Total Positive Youth Development Services (curriculum based programs)	Total Case Management Services	Total Mental Health Services	Total Services Provided	Total Youth PYD & MH	Total Youth PYD & CM Services	Total Youth PYD & MH & CM Services	Total Youth MH & CM Services	Total unduplicated youth served
Up-County Youth Opportunity Center	34	31	6	71	3	11	3	6	52
Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center	23	14	2	39	0	5	0	0	34
Gaithersburg HS Wellness Center	69	53	31	153	3	26	13	1	97
Northwood* HS Wellness Center	65	60	26	151	3	15	5	12	115
Watkins Mill HS Wellness Center	73	57	4	134	3	26	1	0	85
FOMS	14	12	1	27	1	12	1	1	14
MVMS+NMS	51	29	4	84	4	29	4	4	51
MCAS	47	10	1	58	1	10	0	0	50
Other Programs	35	7	N/A	42	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	35
SON	61	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	61
Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator	26	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	26
Latino Health Initiative (LHI)	0	107	0	107	0	0	0	174	174
Total	498	380	75	953	18	141	27	198	794

Latino Health Initiative
Children Fleeing Violence Project Report
October 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016

In response to the large influx of children entering Montgomery County from various Central American countries, the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) Director tasked the Positive Youth Development Initiative and the Latino Health Initiative (LHI) with assisting these children and their families. These two partners have been working with the families of these children to ease the enrollment process into Montgomery County Public Schools, access health care and behavioral health support services, as well as various County and community resources providing legal assistance.

A. Intensive Services

Due to the severity of traumas and the conditions the children had to endure during their journey from their native countries to United States and the impact caused by several years of family separation, referrals are not enough to address critical needs. Special and detailed attention needs to be given to the children and their families. Unaccompanied minors need: culturally- and linguistically-competent one-on-one interventions to properly assess their needs and prepare an action plan to address issues; one-on-one guidance and support; and escorts to specialized services.

Intensive services, provided by the LHI with the financial support of supplemental funding allocated by DHHS, include Navigation Assistance and Family Reunification Workshops.

1. Navigation Assistance

- From October 2015 to May, 2016, the LHI offered intensive navigation services for school enrollment and access to health care, social, and legal services to **174** children. These children had been apprehended while trying to cross the southern U.S border and were detained at Border facilities for an average of 21.7 days before they were released to their parents or legal custodians. Tables 1 – 5 provide a socio-demographic profile of the children and families served. Table 6 offers information about the type of navigation services requested and provided.

Table 1.

Families/Children Receiving Navigation	Number
Number of families served	134
Number of Children served	174

Table 2.

Gender of Children Receiving Navigation	Percentage
Males	61%
Females	39%

Table 3.

Age	
Youngest	1-year old
Oldest	20 years-old
Average	13.25 years

Table 4.

Legal Custodian	Percentage
Parent	82.0%
Relative	10.5%
Without legal custodian	7.5%

Table 5.

Country of Origen	Percent
El Salvador	52%
Honduras	18%
Guatemala	18%
Others (South America)	12%

Table 6. Services Requested and Provided

Type of Service where Navigation was Requested	Navigation provided by LHI to Access Services	Number of Children who received requested access (*)	Percent of requests GRANTED (*)
Legal Service	88	17	19%
Health Care	121	33	27.3%
School Enrollment	28	14	50%
Family Reunification	45	34	75.5%
Other Social Services	86	9	10.5%

(*) Preliminary Information

2. Family Reunification Workshops

- A cadre of 16 internationally-trained behavioral health professionals from the Suburban Maryland Welcome Back Center conducted workshops on Family Reunification. These consist of a series of four 2-hour long group sessions facilitated in Spanish. During the series of sessions facilitators guide parents through processes aimed at enhancing communication among family members; reconnecting parents and children; understanding and handling special situations created by years of separation; and improving trust with the ultimate goal of providing key tools to solve problems and reconnect families.
- From October 2015 to May 2016, the Latino Health Initiative offered **10** Family Reunification group sessions to a total of **210** individuals (117 parents and 93 children) who completed the workshops. Table 7 outlines the locations of the sessions and the number of parents and children served by location.
 - Information about parents' satisfaction with the reunification workshops is being tabulated and will be available in July 2016.

Table 7.

LOCATIONS	Parents	Children
Gaithersburg HS	9	10
Watkins Mill HS	5	5
Albert Einstein HS	14	20
Forest Oak MS	6	6
TESS Center	7	6
Seneca Valley HS	8	10
Gilchrist Center	4	2
Rockville HS	10	9
Loiederman MS	13	12
TESS Center	6	5
TOTAL	82	85

Linkages to Learning and Regional Youth Services

1. Impact on services

- Cases involving children fleeing violence continue to require intensive case management, though “dosage” of service varies. In some cases, it is not dissimilar to that required for other undocumented clients, where case managers provide assistance with:
 - Enrolling kids in MCPS through the International Admissions Office
 - Finding sufficient housing
 - Accessing basic social services
 - Accessing on-site or off-site behavioral health services (referrals to Tree House, etc.)
 - Enrollment in Care for Kids
 - Accessing legal assistance via the Spanish Catholic Center/other resources

In other cases, Linkages to Learning (LTL) Family Case Managers state that these families are in need of “almost everything,” such as food, clothing, diapers, personal hygiene products, etc.

- Approximately 1/3 of clients of LTL behavioral health caseloads diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder; others struggle with depression related to separation/reunification, grief, acculturation/“homesickness.”
- Continued focus on trauma work. Sixteen LTL Child/Family Therapists will become certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) in the next year, and

up to five other LTL staff may be trained to also facilitate the parent curriculum based on traditional/indigenous practices that MCPS ESOL staff received training in this year.

- Some sites providing “newcomers groups” for students to address adjustment issues.
- Some sites providing presentations to whole school staffs about these children’s immigration experiences and related social/emotional issues. This has resulted in an increase in school staff’s level of sensitivity and care for the academic needs of these students, and in school staff utilizing LTL staff more for consultation regarding these students’ issues.

2. Challenges

- Difficult for providers to stay up to date on legal issues on visas/petitions, knowledge of what is happening in the countries clients are fleeing from, territories where gangs are present in the county, and knowledge of county gang information (hard to stay abreast of shifting landscape in each of these realms, which can vastly affect ongoing trauma/impact and outcomes for these families)
- Lack of eligibility for food stamps and limited health insurance options pose serious barriers when families are struggling with financial issues (especially for those parents unable to work due to their own legal status)
- Different outcomes for multiple youth in same family (i.e. – one child deported, another not, even with same history/reasons for fleeing – impact on family)
- Lack of bilingual reunification-competent/trauma-competent behavioral health resources (families that suffered lengthy separations struggling with issues for quite a while despite counseling services). While resources growing a bit, not enough to keep up with demand.
- Some staff report clients are open/forthcoming at first but that clients become more “closed” with the information they share after learning from experience in the community that it is “best not to talk about their situation”
- Legal services still desperately needed to help with immigration issues
- Need for more English language classes to help with acculturation
- Extensive case management needs have had large impact on RYS program; lots of time dedicated to finding basic resources (food/clothing/appropriate housing/ healthcare). Contract/scope is set up for info/referral and not intensive case management.

3. Statistics

- FY14 Clients (Youth/Parents) Served
 - LTL – 36
 - RYS - 11
- FY15 Clients (Youth/Parents) Served
 - LTL – 200
 - RYS - 36
- FY16 Clients (Youth/Parents) Served to date
 - LTL – 106
 - RYS - 39

DHHS Contractual Services provided by Community Partners in MCPS schools or supporting MCPS mission

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
2	Service Area	Program Name	Vendor Name	Description of Services, Including Location(s) Frequency of Services Service Hours	Target population	# of Students Served (unduplicated count if available)	Contract Amount	# of Students Served (unduplicated count till April 2016)	Contract Amount	Contract Amount
3	CYF	Montgomery County After School Program	Identity Inc	Positive Youth Development After School Programs for at-risk Latino youth at County approved middle and high schools; currently at middle schools (Parkland, Roberto Clemente, Forest Oak and Montgomery Village) and two high schools (Seneca Valley and Wheaton). The after school program consists of 60 after school hours.	At-risk Latino Youth in Middle and High Schools in the following areas: middle schools (Parkland, Roberto Clemente, Forest Oak and Montgomery Village) and two high schools (Seneca Valley and Wheaton).	180	\$ 330,550	180	\$ 337,161	\$ 343,904.00
4	CYF	Crossroads Youth Opportunity Centers	Identity Inc	Provides community-based outreach, prevention and diversion services for gang involved or potentially gang involved youth and their families in the downcounty area.	Gang involved youth and youth at risk for gang membership in the Down County area	283	\$ 520,183	232	\$ 540,704	\$ 551,518.14
5	CFY	Up-County Youth Opportunity Center	Identity Inc	Provides community-based outreach, prevention and diversion services for gang involved or potentially gang involved youth and their families in the upcounty area.	Gang involved youth and youth at risk for gang membership in the Up County area	197	\$ 485,680	181	\$ 495,394	\$ 505,301.49
6	CYF	Watkins Mill High School Wellness Center	Identity Inc	Provides Behavioral health and support services; Case management, screening, social services; Postive Youth Deveopment /Prevention services; and Community Outreach to sudents and/or families of Watkins Mill High School.	Students and Families from Watkins Mill High School	393	\$ 558,878	415	570,056	\$ 581,456.67

DHHS Contractual Services provided by Community Partners in MCPS schools or supporting MCPS mission

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1						FY15		FY16		FY17
2	Service Area	Program Name	Vendor Name	Description of Services, Including Location(s) Frequency of Services Service Hours	Target population	# of Students Served (unduplicated count if available)	Contract Amount	# of Students Served (unduplicated count till April 2016)	Contract Amount	Contract Amount
7	CYF	Gaithersburg High School Wellness Center	Identity Inc	Provides Behavioral health and support services; Case management, screening, social services; Postive Youth Deveopment /Prevention services; and Community Outreach to sudents and/or families of Gaithersburg High School.	Students and Families from Gaithersburg High School	402	\$ 558,878	448	\$ 570,056	\$ 581,457.00
8	CYF	Wheaton High School Wellness Center	Identity Inc	Provides Behavioral health and support services; Case management, screening, social services; Postive Youth Deveopment /Prevention services; and Community Outreach to sudents and/or families of Wheaton High School.	Students and Families from Wheaton High School	None	None	Only May-June services	139,992	\$ 542,600.00
9	CYF	Northwood High School Wellness Center	Identity Inc	Provides Behavioral health and support services; Case management, screening, social services; Postive Youth Deveopment /Prevention services; and Community Outreach to sudents and/or families of Northwood High School.	Students and Families from Northwood High School	428	\$ 571,742	420	583,178	\$ 594,841.98
10	CYF	Street Outreach Network FY16: 8 FTE CSA's FY17: 9 FTE CSA's & 1 FTE PS II		Promote positive youth development programs and leisure time activities as the Intervening vehicle for redirecting antisocial and aggressive behaviors. Also participates in County-wide and regional gang prevention initiatives.	Gang involved youth or youth at risk for gang involvement throughout the entire County; SON outcomes are listed below the table (see *)	384	\$ 1,111,299	290	\$ 820,400	\$ 1,029,277.00

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DHHS Contractual Services provided by Community Partners in MCPS schools or supporting MCPS mission

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
2	Service Area	Program Name	Vendor Name	Description of Services, including Location(s) Frequency of Services Service Hours	Target population	# of Students Served (unduplicated count if available)	Contract Amount	# of Students Served (unduplicated count till April 2016)	Contract Amount	Contract Amount
11		Housing Support for Homeless Unaccompanied Minors		Housing and Supportive services to unaccompanied minors, with \$65,000 set aside for housing expenses for minors aged 16-21. \$60,000 to enhance family strengthening and family resiliency services to enable children to go back home to their families within a 60-90 day period.	Homeless Unaccompanied Minors					\$ 125,000.00
12										
13										
14										
15		*SON Outcomes:								
16		Indicator	FY15	FY16 (up to April 2016)						
17		Arrest after Engagement	43	49						
18		Suspensions after Engagement	136	159						

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Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) is a collaborative effort created to inspire our youth to realize their full potential by offering safe, quality and accessible after-school opportunities; which are designed to increase interest in exploration, build positive relationships, increase school connectedness, and promote positive pro-social behaviors.

- Funding associated with EBB in FY16 is a combined total of \$926,265 and approximately 12.5 FTE's including career & seasonal. Funding associated with EBB in FY17 is a combined total of \$1,211,187 with approximately 12.5 FTEs including career & seasonal. This includes the contractual increase for the Collaboration Council of \$271,000.

Excel Beyond the Bell Annual Enrollment by School, FY12-FY15

	ANNUAL (Unduplicated)				
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16 ¹
Argyle	270	197	231	290	235
Clemente	253	212	297	343	398
Loiederman	221	202	241	233	199
Forest Oak		110	138	197	227
Neelsville		120	154	222	242
Lee			243	216	198
Montgomery Village				251	215
TOTAL	744	841	1304	1752	1714

¹enrollment numbers for FY16 are preliminary

Participant Demographics (With Data Sharing Permissions)

*FY16 Data not yet available from MCPS

	FY12		FY13		FY14		FY15	
total enrolled	744		841		1304		1752	
% of participants with data	72%	536	57%	479	73%	952	85%	1488
Race/Ethnicity								
African American	36%	193	40%	192	41%	390	42%	612
Hispanic	27%	145	30%	144	34%	324	35%	509
White	16%	86	9%	43	7%	67	8%	117

Asian American	15%	80	17%	81	15%	143	11%	165
Multiple/Other	5%	27	4%	19	4%	38	4%	63

Gender

Female	55%	295	55%	264	53%	505	51%	765
Male	45%	241	45%	216	47%	447	49%	723

Youth receiving special services

ESOL	28%	150	6%	29	10%	95	13%	195
Free & Reduced Price Meals	46%	247	58%	278	58%	552	60%	881
Special Education	12%	64	13%	62	12%	114	14%	200

FY15 Dedicated referral registration period added. Significant increase in students receiving special services noted from FY14 to FY15.

Participant Satisfaction (percent agree or strongly agree)

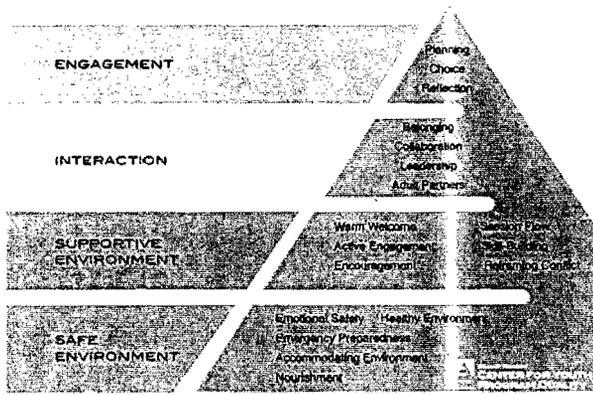
	FY13 n=1605	FY14 3040	FY15 1599	FY16 ³ 677
Program Satisfaction	91%	90%	90%	88%
Satisfaction with Staff	89%	89%	89%	87%
Safe Environment	91%	91%	92%	90%
Supportive Environment	89%	90%	89%	87%
Positive Interaction	90%	89%	90%	87%
Youth Engagement	87%	88%	86%	85%

³FY16 includes only fall session

Ensuring Quality

Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) and Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) processes are used to promote high quality learning environments the Excel Beyond the Bell program.

The Youth Program Quality Assessment (PQA) is an assessment of best practices in afterschool programs, community organizations, schools, summer programs, and other places where you have fun, work, and learn with adults. The Youth PQA creates an understanding and accountability focused on the point of service—where youth and adults come together to coproduce developmental experiences. The ultimate purpose of the Youth PQA are empowering staff to envision optimal programming and building motivation of youth to participate and engage. As an approach to assessment at the systems level, the Youth PQA links accountability to equity by focusing on access to high-quality learning environments for all youth who enroll. As a research tool, the Youth PQA improves measurement of instructional process in places where young people learn. (*High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, youth.highscope.org*)



**YOUTH VOICE IN GOVERNANCE
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

© David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Summer Excel Beyond the Bell	FY16	FY17 Projection
Clemente	44	40 ²
Argyle/ Loiederman ¹	60	55 ³
Forest Oak	39	40

¹Loiederman students were grant funded in FY16

²Clemente over booked in FY16

³Argyle will be located at Strathmore Elem do to renovations. We increased capacity to accommodate an increase in referrals allotted for Strathmore students who are transitioning into middle school.

Programs & Events

Funding associated with total teen programming (including summer) in FY16 is \$1,326,289 and approximately 20.7 FTE's including career & seasonal. Funding associated with total teen programming (including summer) in FY17 is \$1,494,107 with approximately 25.1 FTEs including career & seasonal.

Mobile Recreation (Fun, Food, Fitness) is a drop-in summer program for young people 18 & under which combines access to nutrition with physical activity. This program serves as a critical safety net during summer months to address issues such as food insecurity, social isolation, and physical and psychological well-being.

Summer Mobile Recreation: Fun, Food, Fitness FY16 FY17 projected

Participant Registrations	735	750
Meals Served (Breakfast and Lunch)	26,442	26,500

TeenWorks is a year-round youth workforce development initiative which provides high school students with experiential learning and employability skills, while performing meaningful work and earning a paycheck. TeenWorks is a learned to work program geared towards young people not yet equipped to do it alone.

TEENWORKS	FY15	FY16
Total Employed	99	103
Waitlisted		485
Race/Ethnicity		
African American		63
Hispanic		29
White		6
Asian American		5
Multiple/Other		0
Gender		
Female		63
Male		40

Partnerships established to help reach underserved, disadvantaged, disconnected youth

Adolescent Services Division of the National Center for Children and Families,
Greentree Adolescent Program

TransCen, Inc., Career & Workforce Development/ Maryland's Promise

Hispanic Business Foundation

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service, Conservation Jobs Corps in partnership with Montgomery Parks

Kid Museum

State's Attorneys Office, Montgomery County

Montgomery County Public Schools

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) serves as a platform for youth voice in out-of-school time. YAC recognizes that it is critical to hear the thoughts and concerns of young people and understands that many of our critical issues affecting youth cannot be solved without youth at the table. YAC is where young people establish a connection to community through service and advocacy.

Youth Advisory Council & Youth Leadership

YAC Registrations	123
Youth Opportunities Fair	131
#2ChangeALife Youth Forum FY15	185
#2ChangeALife Youth Forum FY16	198

Teen Events and Cafes serve as platforms to connect youth to supports, opportunities, and services which help young people build and maintain positive relationships; explore beyond their neighborhoods; perceive confidence and believe they can be successful; cultivate creativity, and be safe and welcomed in their environment.

Teen Events & Cafes

Futsal Participant Registration	257
Futsal Average Nightly Attendance	427
CHILL	28
Fashion Boot Camp Participant Registration	123
Fashion Boot Camp Event Attendance	376
Teen Cafe	269
MoCo's Got Talent Youth Artists	118
MoCo's Got Talent Event Final	381

Futsal overall Program Satisfaction 91% from participants and spectators

RecZone is specifically designed for middle adolescence whose drive for independence and vulnerable self-concept make it essential to engage young people during critical after-school hours (2pm-6pm). RecZone helps to bridge a connection

between school and out-of-school supports, opportunities, and services through a variety of structured and self-determined activities.

- Funding associated with RecZones in FY16 is a combined total of \$1,117,738 and approximately 19.3 FTE's including career & seasonal. Funding associated with RecZones in FY17 is a combined total of \$1,127,713 with approximately 19.3 FTEs including career & seasonal.

RecZone FY16	Non-Duplicated Registration	School Enrollment	Percentage of School Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Program Days
Montgomery Blair HS	834	2882	29	115	73
Springbrook HS	788	1790	44	187	61
Wheaton HS	921	1560	59	114	55
Watkins Mill HS	579	1526	38	224	70
Albert Einstein HS ¹	351	1691	21	186	33

RecXtra is redefining itself as the program that can address a particular school need or issue. Montgomery county Recreation has worked cooperatively with 13 middle schools in the county to create exciting out of school time activities expand capacity of after-school offerings—used by schools as an indicator of school engagement. RecXtra creates customized programs to fit each site and gives students the opportunity to learn skills that aren't covered during the school day.

- Funding associated with RecXtra in FY16 is \$336,440 and approximately 7.9 FTE's including career & seasonal. Funding associated with RecXtra in FY17 is \$346,447 with approximately 8.5 FTEs including career & seasonal.

RecXtra FY16	Programs Conducted	Program Days	Total Attendance
Banneker	7	42	5488
Farquhar	10	64	5482
Kingsview	11	67	7862

Martin Luther King, Jr	12	78	4238
Parkland	9	67	7147
John Poole	10	80	6055
Rocky Hill	8	77	7610
Rosa Parks	12	65	3959
Silver Spring Int'l	9	62	4739
Sligo	11	84	8593
Takoma Park	19	89	13613
White Oak	17	60	7777
Eastern	6	74	6440

NEW

The Year-Round Outdoor Soccer League

Building Trust & Community	Understanding Commitment	Exploring Health & well-being	Practice & Skill Development	Competition and play	Enrichment & Experiential Learning	Community Action Projects— Acts of Service	Debrief and celebration
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(Sample program continuum)

The soccer league is designed to connect vulnerable youth who are disengaged and disconnected. Typical students targeted may have complex social, economic, and cultural environments that make it difficult to experience success. The Department will enhance the student's social and emotional well-being through the teaching of sports. A collective approach to service delivery will blend innovative components of Montgomery County Recreations successful Futsal model (prevention) with the successful outreach strategies of Identity, Street Outreach Network, and other partnering non-profits (intervention). The program's aim is reduce the sense of isolation, despondency, and social adjustment resulting in increased vulnerability to gang involvement, truancy, and destructive behavior by creating a pathway between school and out-of-school time supports, opportunities, programs, and services; ensuring constructive use of time; increasing emotional competence such as emotional management, problem solving, and self-efficacy; and by creating a connection to community.

Excel Beyond The Bell/ Child First

Child First is a comprehensive after school initiative at the Elementary School level that focuses on three elements: Expanded Learning, Academic Achievement and Parent and Community Engagement. Under Expanded learning, students will have opportunities for programming in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). These enrichment activities will help develop cognitive, social, emotional, physical and civic competencies through science and the arts.

How we work to endure quality: Montgomery County Recreation uses a collection of tools and methods to ensure high quality and best practice such as: the Youth Program Quality Assessment, Colorado Trust Survey Tools, Youth Outcomes Battery Survey Tools, Health & Physical Activity Assessment Tool/ Standards (HEPA), customer satisfaction questionnaires, focus groups and focus conversation, youth summits and forums, and stakeholder advisory meetings.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

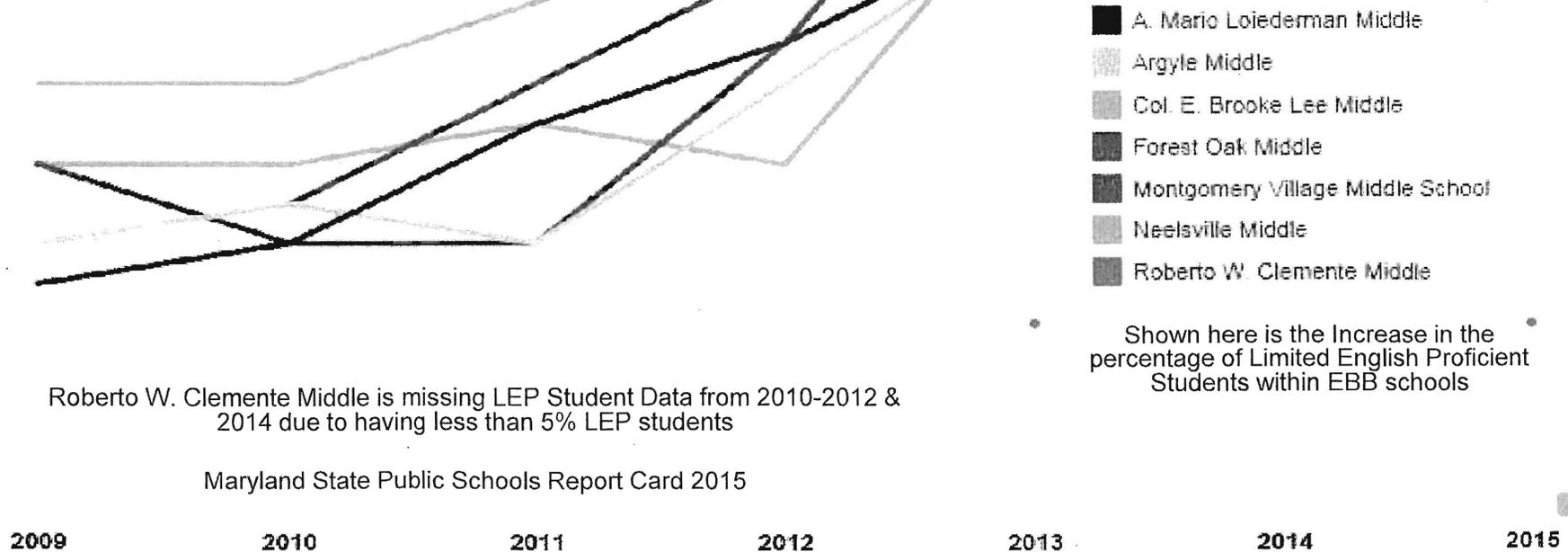
"The strongest programs complement, rather than duplicate, school activities and knit families, schools, and community agencies together around student interests and needs." (ASCD)

What Social Constraints are Trending in EBB?

- Young people facing language barriers
- Young people facing food insecurity
- Young people facing increase risks for drop-out
- Young people facing decreased supervision

Percentage of Students Limited English Proficient

24
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0



Roberto W. Clemente Middle is missing LEP Student Data from 2010-2012 & 2014 due to having less than 5% LEP students

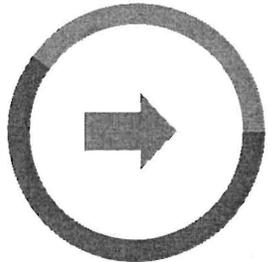
Shown here is the Increase in the percentage of Limited English Proficient Students within EBB schools

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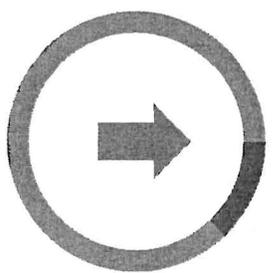


EBB FY15
 A dedicated referral registration period helps to ensure access for the most vulnerable youth and helps to promote social equity in after-school.



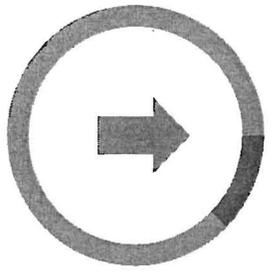
60%

Participants on FARMS



13%

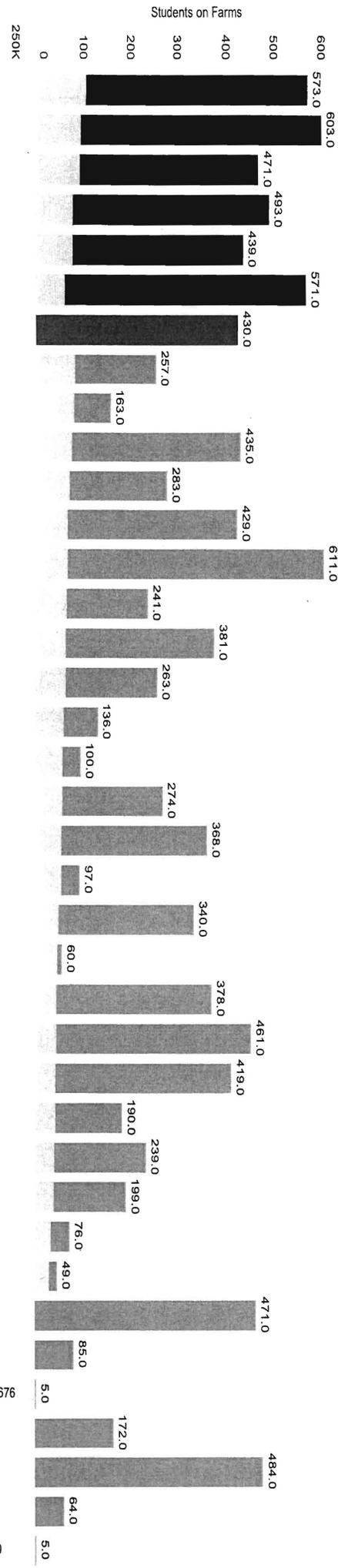
ESOL



14%

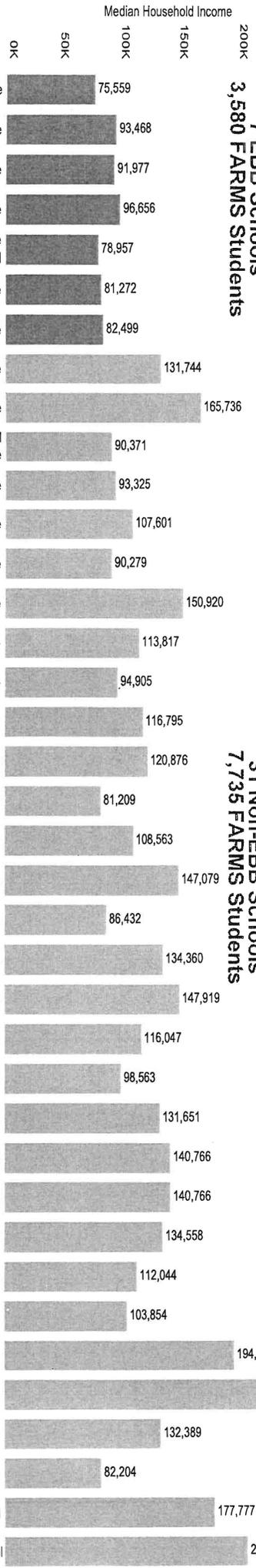
Special Education

A relationship exists between the household median income of middle school service areas and the amount of students on FARMS within the middle school and in most cases besides Clemente MS there is a strong relationship between students on FARMS and the amount of students that miss 20 or more days of school



7 EBB Schools
3,580 FARMS Students

31 Non-EBB Schools
7,735 FARMS Students



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

> 120,000 to 300,000

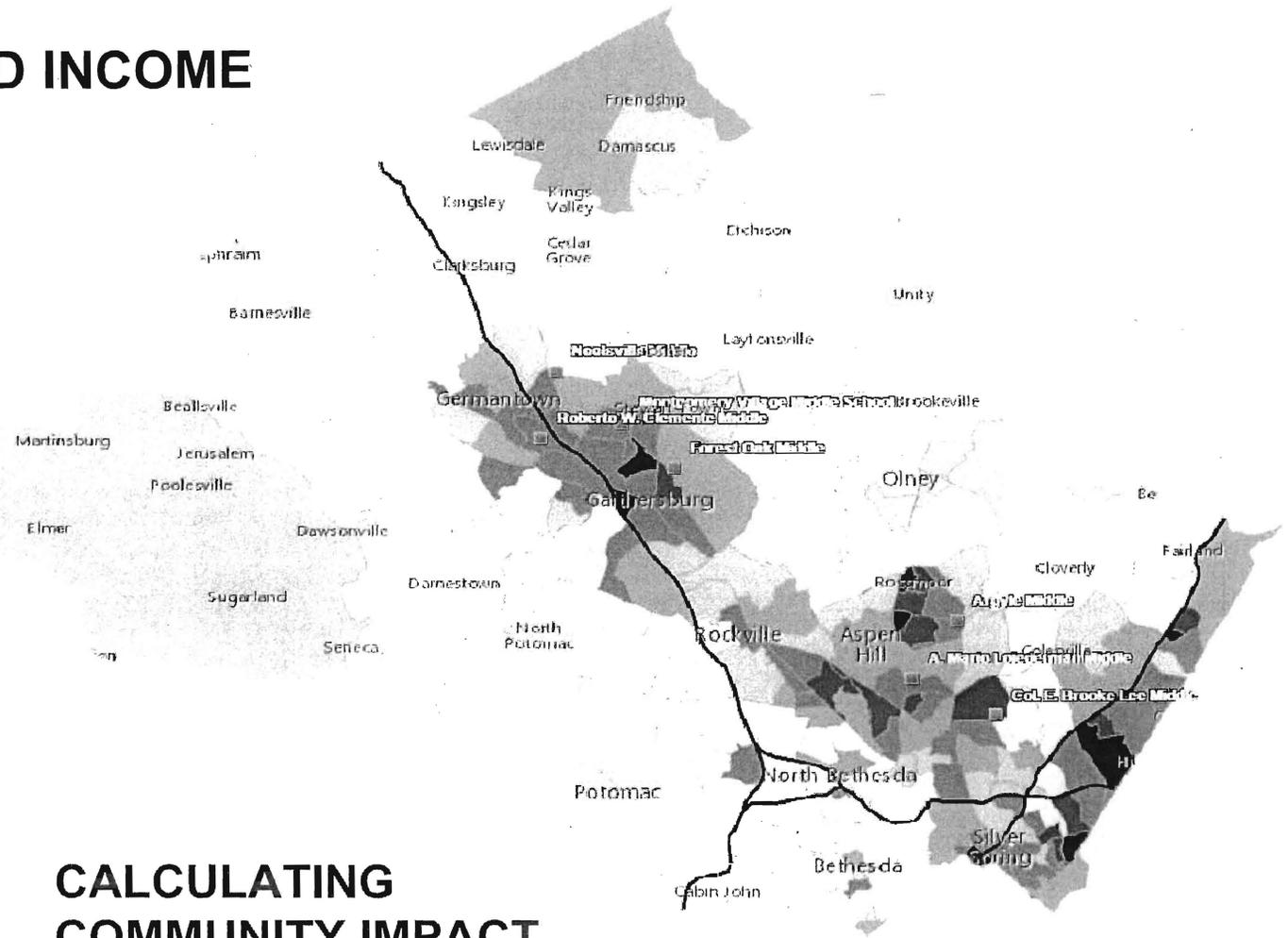
> 100,000 to 120,000

> 80,000 to 100,000

> 60,000 to 80,000

> 50,000 to 60,000

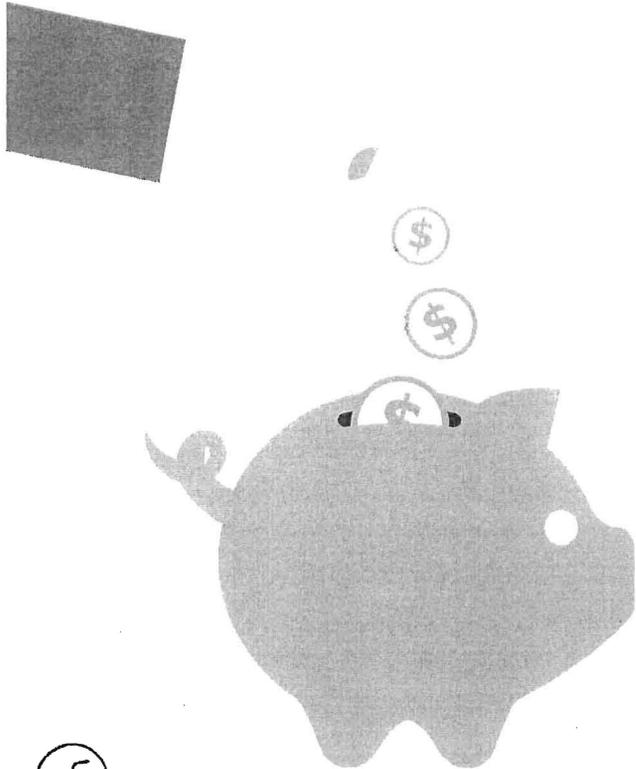
0 to 50,000



CALCULATING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Excel Beyond the Bell has a minimum childcare value of approximately \$4,062 per participant. Calculations are based on the average cost of childcare in Montgomery County for before and after-school at \$135.40^[1] per week. When compared to the costs of a typical provider such as Kids After Hours at \$365.00 per week, the economic value to families would increase to approximately \$10,950 per child, per school year.

Additionally, families taking full advantage of meals served during OST can expect an additional yearly economic benefit of nearly \$600 per child.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Summary of youth data

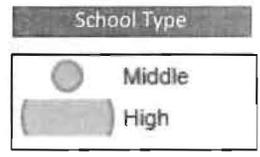
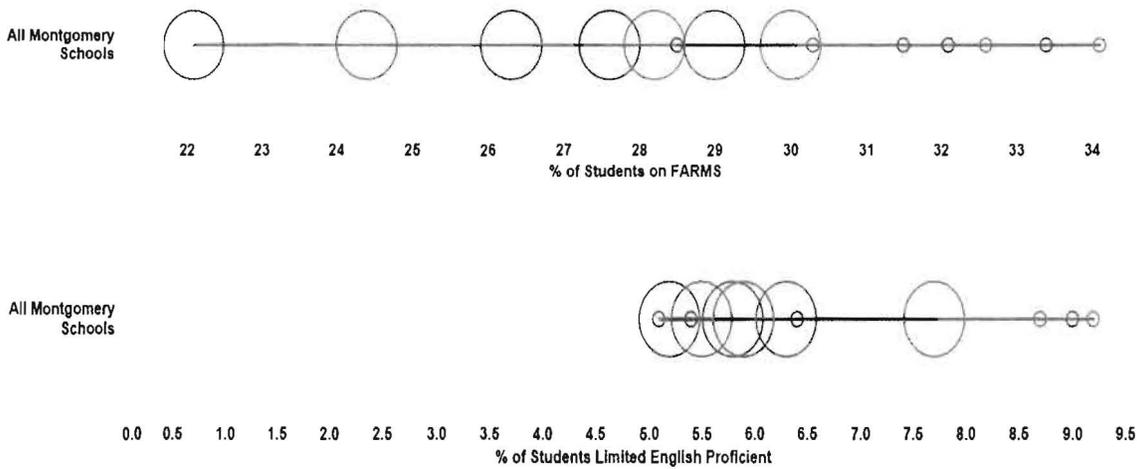


Figure1: Middle and High Schools represented by % of FARMs, Limited English Proficiency

Notes/Source
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schools that have less than 5% of their student population in any statistic will not be reported on by the state of Maryland

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

How are we tackling issues this summer?

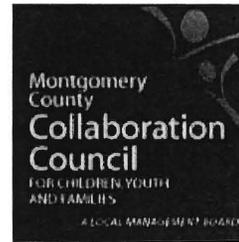
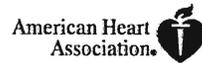
- Providing access to meals and physical activity
- Providing safe spaces for positive engagement to reduce social isolation
- Providing youth employment opportunities
- Providing opportunities for community engagement
- Providing positive activation of community spaces
- Providing positive relationships with caring adults



Our Aim is
to Keep young people healthy,
productive, and connected during
out-of-school time



Impactful Collaborations





Sources

Slides 1-5

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ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES 2010-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Slide 3

[1] Maryland Childcare Resource Network Childcare Demographics 2013. (2013, January 1). Retrieved April 25, 2015, from https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/CYF_Docs/2013MontgomeryCountyDemographics.pdf



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