

M E M O R A N D U M

October 20, 2016

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Briefing: My Brother's Keeper (MBK)**

Expected for this session:

Elijah Wheeler, Social Justice Director and Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction
Coordinator, Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families
Julian Norment, County Executive's African American Community Liaison
Diane Vu, County Executive's Asian-American Community Liaison
Officer Richard Reynolds, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)
Jaya Hinton, Alix Swann, and Marley Majette, students, Blair High School and MBK Student
Engagement Co-Chairs

Last March, the Education Committee received an update on the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative. President Barack Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative in February 2014. The President, "encouraged candid dialogues around the country and a greater sense of responsibility among community leaders and young people themselves to put all youth in a position to thrive, regardless of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status." Part of the effort is a challenge to communities to sign on to this effort. There is also a challenge to business, philanthropy, and non-profit organizations and a commitment to a Federal response.

For communities that accept the challenge to join MBK, the White House suggests following these four steps:

1. Accept the President's challenge.
2. Convene a "Local Action Summit" to build a MBK Community.
3. Conduct a policy review and form recommendations for action.
4. Launch a plan of action, next steps, and a timetable for review.

The Education Committee was told about the first MBK Youth Summit that was held in May of 2015 and plans for a second summit to be held last April. From the first summit, the MBK Task Force heard concerns from African American youth that they are all lumped together

instead of people responding to their individual needs and aspirations. Many youth felt there were low expectations from the school system and adults and that a GED was the first option for completing high school. Youth talked about housing and food insecurity for their families.

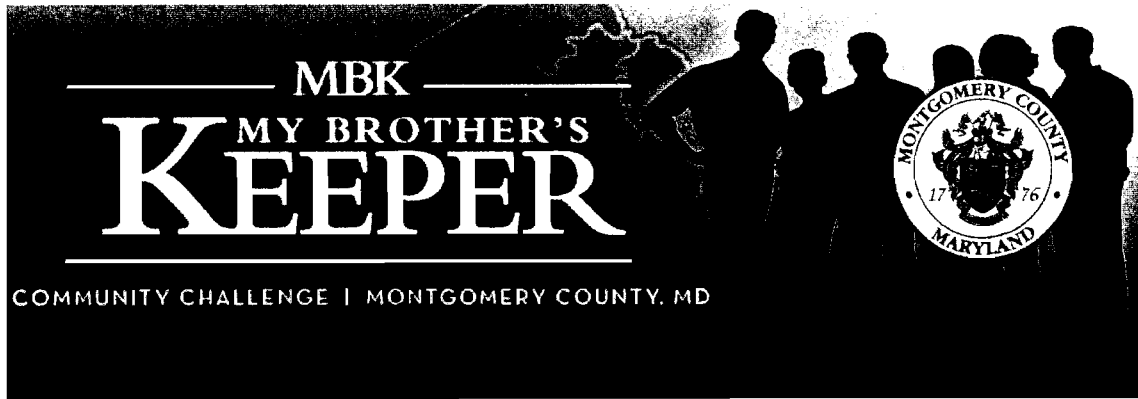
The County has identified six goals (©1) for MBK:

- Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally ready.
- Ensure all children read at grade level by 3rd grade.
- Ensure all youth graduate from high school.
- Ensure all youth complete post-secondary education or training.
- Ensure all youth out of school are employed.
- Ensure all youth remain safe from violent crime.

The County is looking to address the disproportionality of outcomes and challenges faced by youth of color as well as LGBTQ youth. They have also decided to build on the findings of the two “Connecting Youth to Opportunity” reports commissioned by the Community Foundation.

The ED Committee asked for an update this fall and, given the relationship to other human services needs, agreed it should be joint with the HHS Committee. The ED Committee members were pleased to hear about the long-term goals for improved outcomes for youth but also want to make sure that these efforts are aligned with other initiatives, such as the development of a children’s opportunity fund.

Attached at ©1 is summary sheet of the MBK community challenge and at ©2-3 the agenda from the April 30th Community Day of Action!



In 2014, President Barack Obama launched the **My Brother's Keeper** (MBK) initiative. This initiative is a powerful call and challenge to local governments and communities to address the issues and needs of young people, particularly boys and young men of color. In January 2015, County Executive Isiah Leggett accepted the President's "**MBK Community Challenge**" to work with community partners as well as youth and young adults in Montgomery County to design and implement an action plan that will help youth of color stay on track and provide the support they need to succeed.

Going for the Goals!

The Community Challenge consists of six goals that the County must achieve:

1. Ensure all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready
2. Ensure all children read at grade level by 3rd grade
3. Ensure all youth graduate from high school
4. Ensure all youth complete post-secondary education or training
5. Ensure all youth out of school are employed
6. Ensure all youth remain safe from violent crime

So What Does This Mean To You?

As a resident of Montgomery County – your voice, opinions, and experiences matter! We need your input into this important community effort.

How Can You Join?

The following Affinity Groups have been formed to work on the focus areas identified by the MBK Steering Committee.

Student Engagement – Jaya Hinton, Marley Majette, Alix Swann, Co-chairs

Parent Engagement – Valarie Davis/Rona Wright, Co-chairs

Youth and Law Enforcement – MCPD Ofc. Richard Reynolds, Chair

LGBTQ Engagement - Diane Vu, Chair

For More Information

Contact Elijah Wheeler, Social Justice Director/MBK Coordinator at the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc. at 301.354.4917.

Community Day of Action!

April 30, 2016

Clifton Park Baptist Church, Takoma Park, MD



AGENDA

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:30 a.m. **Exhibit/Resource Area Open**

10:00 a.m. **Welcome** – Elijah Wheeler, Social Justice Director/D.M.C. Reduction Coordinator, Montgomery County

Welcome to Clifton Park Baptist – Pastor Essentino A. Lewis, Jr.

Remarks

Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

Mike Smith, Senior Cabinet Advisor, White House, MBK Initiative

Nancy Navarro, Councilwoman, Montgomery County Council

Youth Testimonies

10:50 a.m. **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Break Out Session 1: All Youth Graduate From High School**

- **LGBTQ Youth Disparities** – Dr. Jason Rivera, Director of Learning Centers, Montgomery College
- **Student Engagement** – Brandon Johns, Executive Director, MANUP
- **Parent Engagement** – Valerie Davis and Rona Wright, Parent Advocates

12:00 – 12:10 **Break**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. **Breakout Session 2: All Youth Safe from Crime**

- **Youth Violence/Alternatives to Violence** – Nestor Alvarenga, Latino Community Liaison, Montgomery County
- **Law enforcement and Youth Interactions** – Rich Reynolds, Montgomery County Police Department and Brandon Johns, MANUP

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Affinity Groups Discussions**

WITH APPRECIATION

This day and the important dialogues planned would not be possible without the voluntary efforts and commitment of the following individuals:

Nestor Alvarenga, Latino Community Liaison, Montgomery County

Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, City of Rockville

ValArie Davis, Parent Advocate

Julian Norment, African-American Community Liaison, Montgomery County

Jennifer Gauthier, Executive Director, Lead4Life

Ohene Gyapong, Deputy Director, Public Information Office, Montgomery County

Carson Henry, Executive Director, YMCA Youth and Family Services

Ludley Howard, Executive Director, PRIDE Youth Services, Inc.

Will Jawando

Brandon Johns, Executive Director, MANUP

April Kaplan, Executive Director, Montgomery County Collaboration Council

Daniel Koroma, African-Caribbean Community Liaison, Montgomery County

Darryl McSwain, Assistant Chief of Police, Montgomery County Police Department

Luisa Montero, Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center

Lupi Quinteros, Grady-Director, Maryland Multi-Cultural Youth Centers

Rich Reynolds, Montgomery County Police Department

Dr. Jason Rivera, Director of Learning Centers, Montgomery College

Dr. Kim Statham, Deputy Superintendent, Office of School Support and Improvement
Montgomery County Public Schools

Michael Subin, Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

Michelle Taylor, President & CEO, BETAH Associates, Inc.

Rona Wright, Parent Advocate

The complimentary photography services of **Christopher Barclay**, Member,
Montgomery County Board of Education and owner of Christopher Barclay
Photography