

SPOTLIGHT:

My Brother's Keeper – Houston Movement

The Center for School Behavioral Health is proud to spotlight member agency My Brother's Keeper – Houston Movement (MBK Houston) this month.

The MBK initiative was announced by President Obama in the 2014 State of the Union Address to challenge cities and communities to address persistent opportunity gaps for young men of color. MBK Houston is built around six milestones spanning a cradle to college and career continuum. These milestones are:

- enter school ready to learn
- read at grade level by the third grade
- graduate high school ready for college and career
- complete post-secondary education or training
- successfully enter the workforce
- prevent crime and violence while providing a second chance for offenders.

MBK Houston is housed in the Houston Health Department as a cross-sector collaborative of partners working to improve the multiple systems affecting the well-being of youth. MBK Houston utilizes the Center's 37 Recommendations as a foundation for their youth mental health services and continues to be a strong Center partner.

Senior Health Planner Sharifa Charles has been a member of MBK Houston staff since 2015 and a CSBH Collaborative member since 2016. Sharifa also participates in Center-related trainings and serves as a member of the Conference Planning Committee. In April of this year, MBK Houston partnered with the Center to screen the documentary "Paper Tigers" for community members and educators.

According to Sharifa, "[The] CSBH Collaborative has assisted MBK Houston in countless ways that have directly impacted our success in carrying out our mission. MBK Houston's partner network has expanded due to [the] CSBH Collaborative providing many opportunities to interface with SEL and trauma-related service providers, to ensure our targeted school communities have increased access to such resources."

When asked about the benefits of joining the collaborative and remaining involved, Sharifa said, "I absolutely believe in the purpose and benefits of the CSBH Collaborative. Meetings give dedicated service providers an opportunity to heighten their awareness of pertinent and pressing issues while building new relationships across communities and sectors. MBK Houston is a proud member of the CSBH Collaborative and we look forward to supporting its efforts for years to come!"

MBK Houston has a multitude of upcoming events. Please visit <http://www.mbkhouston.org> to learn more about this initiative and see their calendar.