

# MILESTONE 6

## REDUCING VIOLENCE AND PROVIDING A SECOND CHANCE

### Lead Stakeholders:

Morris Copeland – Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department  
Pastor Carl Johnson – 93rd Street Community Baptist Church  
Mayra Peña Lindsay – Public Defender's Office  
David Maer and Janeen Jones – State Attorney's Office  
Stephanie Daniels – Miami-Dade Police Department  
Additional local, state and federal law enforcement

### Indicators:

Data should be separated by gender, race and ethnicity.

- Arrests under the age of 15
- Arrests ages 16-24
- Recidivism rate

**Blacks represented 57% of all juvenile arrests in the United States from 2013 to 2015.**

### Background:

Historically, systemic factors have contributed to the overrepresentation of boys and men of color in the United States criminal justice system. From 2013-2015, 81% of juvenile arrests were of males. Blacks represented 57% of all juvenile arrests during the same period<sup>16</sup>.

Reducing the overrepresentation of boys and young men of color in the criminal justice system, coupled with

reducing violent and criminal activity, is a top priority. A focused effort between government institutions and the community at large is necessary to implement preventive strategies that start at home and require support from cradle to career.

### MBK Challenges:

- Criminal record seal or expungement
- Driver's license reinstatement
- Appropriate and timely interventions to address overrepresentation of boys and young men of color in the criminal justice system
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention programs
- Mental health screening, diagnosis and treatment
- Job-readiness training and placement
- Social recreational activities at local parks for teens ages 14 to 18

### Overarching Principles:

- Parent engagement from cradle to career
- Positive youth engagement to ensure youth involvement
- Justice reform expansion

### **MBK Actions for Transformation:**

- 1) Promote seal-and-expungement opportunities for young men of color.
  - a. The Miami-Dade Police Department and State Attorney's Office will continue to actively promote Sealing and Expungement events throughout the community with special consideration in high crime areas. In 2017, the Miami-Dade Police Department, sponsored three seal and expungement events under the My Brother's Keeper Milestone 6, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Office of the Public Defender. The MDPD was able to award a total of \$8,475 in money orders and \$56.50 in First Class Mail stamps to 113 qualifying candidates. Seal and Expungement events MDPD participated in:
    1. Thursday, June 29, 2017, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Joseph Caleb Auditorium, located at 5400 Northwest 22 Avenue, Miami, Florida. Ten (10) Money Orders (\$750) / First Class Mail stamps (\$5).
    2. Thursday, July 27, 2017, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Community Health of South Florida Inc.: Doris Ison Health Center, located at 10300 Southwest 216 Street, Miami, Florida. Ninety-three (93) Money Orders (\$6,975) / First Class Mail stamps (\$46.50).
    3. Thursday, December 7, 2017, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - 93rd Street Community Baptist Church, located at 2330 NW 93rd Street, Miami, Florida. Ten (10) Money Orders (\$750) / First Class Mail stamps (\$5).
  - b. "Driver's License Reinstatement Day" on October 21, 2016 was heavily marketed in Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson's district. Marketing information included instructions and a telephone number for mandatory prescreening of individuals to determine if they qualified for the limited services to be provided. Screening by Congresswoman Wilson's staff took place during the month of September. All court calendar spots were filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All information on screened individuals was submitted to the Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts office by September 30, 2016.
  - c. All stakeholders essential to the "Driver's License Reinstatement Day" program met in Administrative Judge Samuel J. Slom's office on July 20, 2016 to discuss and set the parameters for the event. On July 27, 2016, staff training was conducted on screening individuals for the "Driver's License Reinstatement Day" at Congresswoman Wilson's office
  - d. There is a significant identified need for ongoing, one-stop driver's license reinstatement programming in the courts. However, there is currently no funding to make this sustainable. Funding for ongoing programming needs to be addressed and source needs to be secured.
- 2) Implement child support programs for non-custodial parents to ensure the continuation of payments and avoid administrative enforcement, such as driver's license suspension.
  - a. Of the more than 400,000 individuals with suspended driver's licenses due to child support matters and individuals with combined child support and court fines and fees are not currently being served.
  - b. An innovative "Driver's License Reinstatement Day" for child support enforcement cases should be organized locally. A plan of action should be established in cooperation with all stakeholders to ensure procedural due process. A one-stop shop approach with all stakeholders present, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, would streamline the process and provide relief to individuals.
  - c. A small, nimble task force of stakeholders should be established to address issues within an identified timeframe.

- 3) Enhance and increase criminal diversion opportunities through innovative programming such as the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department's Civil Citation program for both youth and adults.
  - a. Ongoing collaborations between juvenile justice, adult corrections and law enforcement to facilitate trainings on the benefits of the Civil Citation program and other diversionary programs for boys and young men of color was established in 2017.
- 4) Implement anti-violence initiatives designed to address disproportionate minority contact by providing strategic service delivery based on crime statistics and designated zip codes.
  - a. Expand one-stop education centers for youth reentering the community after release from confinement or juvenile justice programs to prevent dropping out by the end of the 2017 school year.
  - b. Institutionalize protocols to connect resources for young offenders ages 12 and under by utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach to adequately address their service needs by the end of 2017.
  - c. Promote and expand after school programming, such as the Fit2Lead collaborative jobs program, for at-risk and system-involved youth throughout Miami-Dade County by 2018.
  - d. Promote and expand the Miami-Dade Police Department's Youth Outreach Unit by 50% by serving at-risk and system-involved youth with the purpose of establishing rapport, fostering a nurturing environment and serving as role models and mentors in 2017. The MDPD started out with 25 officers (mentors) and 25 youth (mentees) apart of the Youth Outreach Unit. Currently we have approximately 50 (mentees) in the YOU program. The City of Miami Police Department Juvenile and Mentoring (JAM) Detail and expansion of YOU- Intracoastal.
  - e. The MDPD and the SAO is a part of Together for Children, Together for Children is an organization that is working hand-in-hand with community members, leaders, and organizations to ensure that youth and their families receive the comprehensive, wrap-around service and support they need to prevent future tragedies.
  - f. Continue to promote and enhance interventions and training associated with trauma- informed care.
  - g. Continue to promote and enhance viable substance abuse and mental health services for men and boys of color.
- 5) Local pastors, in collaboration with government and civic organizations, will coordinate and facilitate a MBK Interfaith Symposium designed to develop strategies to bridge the gap between at-risk young men and boys of color.