

**My Brother's Keeper
September 25, 2015 Youth/Adult Convening
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA**

Table Talk Summary



My Brother's Keeper Table Talk Summary

My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Overview	3
My Brother's Keeper September 25, 2015 Convening-	4
Youth/Adult Table Talk Discussions	
<i>Background on process</i>	4
<i>Instant Polling data</i>	5
<i>Table Discussion on Education</i>	7
<i>Table Discussion on Employment</i>	8
<i>Table Discussion on Public Safety</i>	9
List of Participating Schools	10
Table-Talk Facilitators	11

My Brother's Keeper – Sacramento

September 2015

The My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Convening- Be the Voice of Change

On September 25, over 450 youth, community leaders, policy-makers, thought leaders and education partners participated in a one day conference focused on identifying solutions to issues impacting the lives of young boys and men of color. This landmark conversation is part of a larger citywide effort, in alignment with President Barack Obama's National My Brother's Keeper initiative. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, in partnership with Sierra Health Foundation, local school districts, law enforcement agencies and community leaders, have joined in partnership to improve outcomes for Sacramento area youth, particularly our young men of color.

“...In other words, broadening the horizons for our young men and giving them the tools they need to succeed will require a sustained effort from all of us”

-President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama signing the My Brother's Keeper Initiative

Objective for the event

Participants in the My Brother's Keeper convening were welcomed by Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, heard from inspiring speaker and former NBA star Lawrence Funderberke, engaged in courageous and challenging discussions, shared stories about their personal experiences, dialoged with a panel of adult system leaders, and began crafting what will ultimately inform local strategies to address the crisis facing our young men.

The My Brother's Keeper convening was also specifically designed to create opportunities for youth and adult decision makers to engage in thought provoking discussions, critically examining three priority areas, aligned to President Obama's national initiative focus areas and those identified by the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Sacramento Collaborative.

3 Key Focus Areas

The following are three priority areas (and associated goal milestones) identified by the MBK Sacramento collaborative as central to the localized efforts for young men.

Education

Goal Milestones:

- Ensure 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 training.

Employment

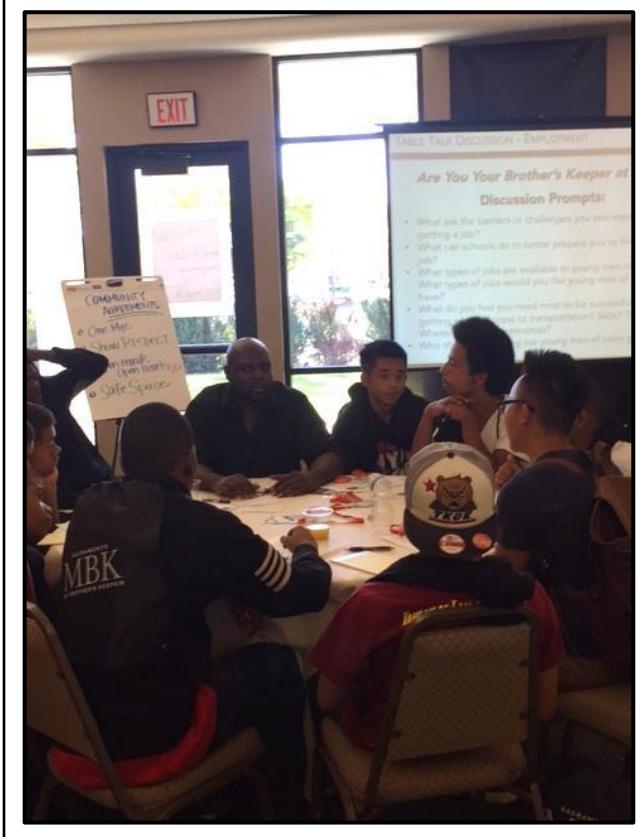
Goal Milestone:

- Ensure all youth out of school are employed

Public Safety

Goal Milestone:

- Ensure all youth remain safe from violent crime and have a second chance



The Table-Talk Discussions

Table-talk discussions were designed to in order to create safe and productive space for authentic youth input on the three MBK Sacramento Focus Areas. There were a total of three (3) table talk sessions, crafted to gain youth insight on the following guiding questions:

- Am I my brother's keeper at school?**
- Am I my brother's keeper at work?**
- Are my "protectors" also my brother's keeper?**

Each session was introduced with a short youth video providing context (including data points). Participants then had the opportunity to share their initial reactions to each video via live polling. Following this, discussions among table groups of approximately 10-12 participants were facilitated by one adult male and one youth volunteer per table.

Table-Talk Summary

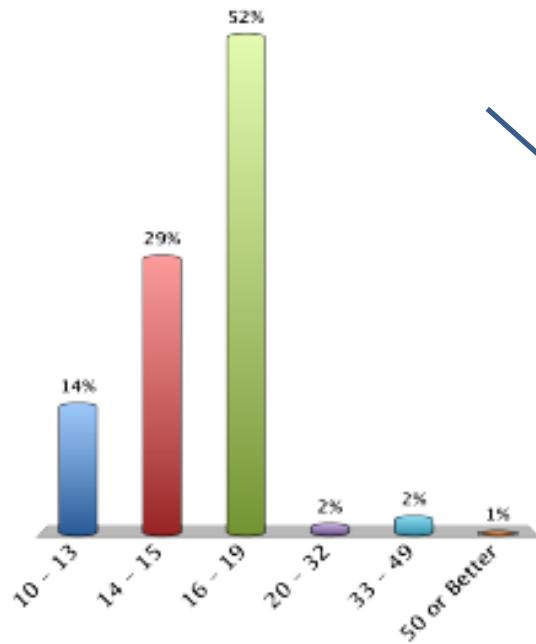
The following section of this report includes responses from the live polling sessions, as well as a detailed summary of participant feedback captured during the table-talk discussions for each of the three focus areas.

Live Polling Responses

Who are My Brothers Keepers in the Room?

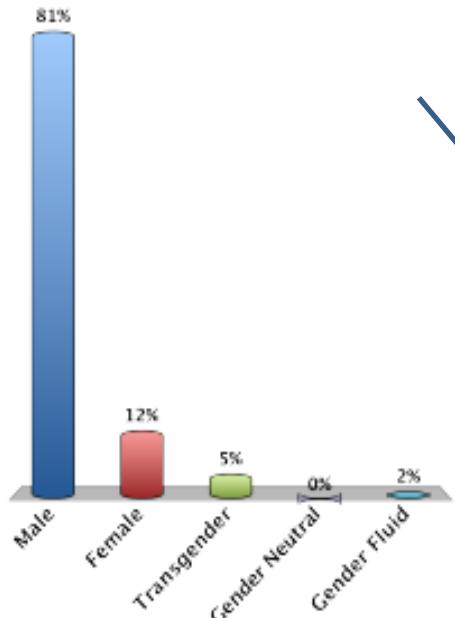
The following demographic information on MBK participants is based on self-reporting responses to the live polling questions. The average number of polling responses fluctuated between 225 and 250 response per question.

How old are you?



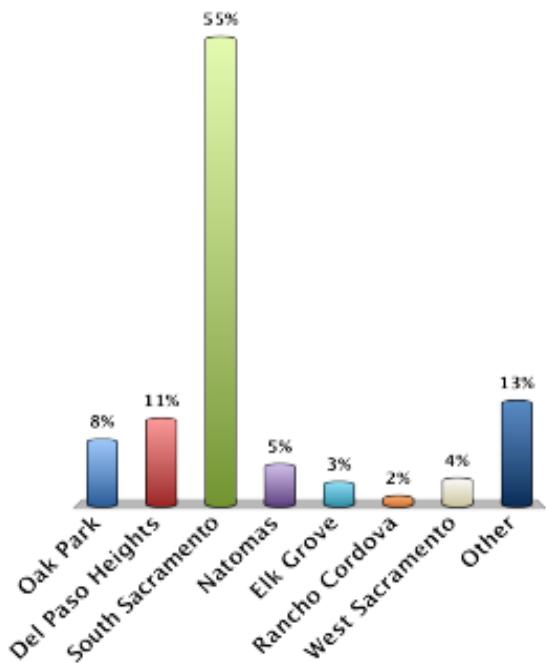
Polling responses:
52% 16-19 years old
29% 14-15 years old
14% 10-13 years old
5% 20 years and older

What's your gender?



Polling responses:
81% male
12% female
5% transgender
2% gender fluid

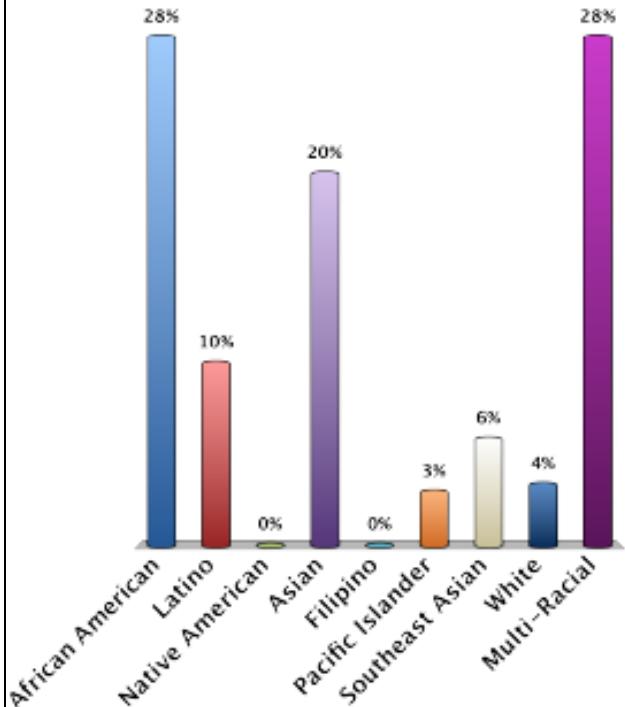
Where do you live?



Polling responses:

55% South Sacramento
13% Other
11% Del Paso Heights
8% Oak Park
5% Natomas
4% West Sacramento
3% Elk Grove
2% Rancho Cordova

What is your ethnic background?



Polling responses:

28% African American
28% Multi-racial
20% Asian
10% Latino
6% Southeast Asian
4% White
3% Pacific Islander

Education

Am I My Brother's Keeper at School?

Discussion Prompts:

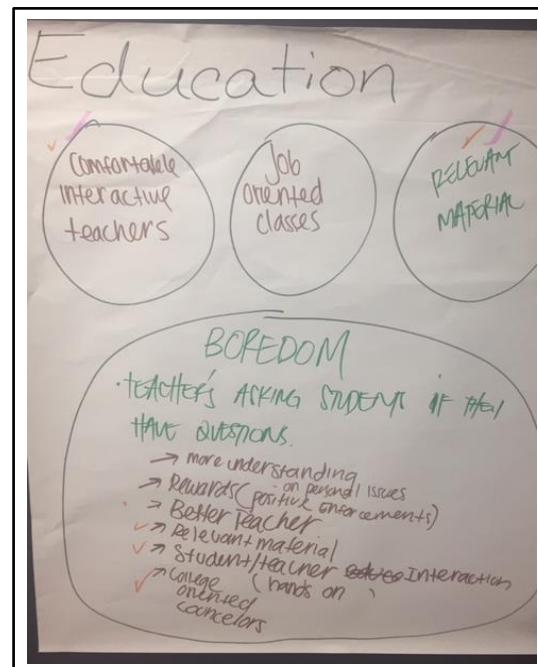
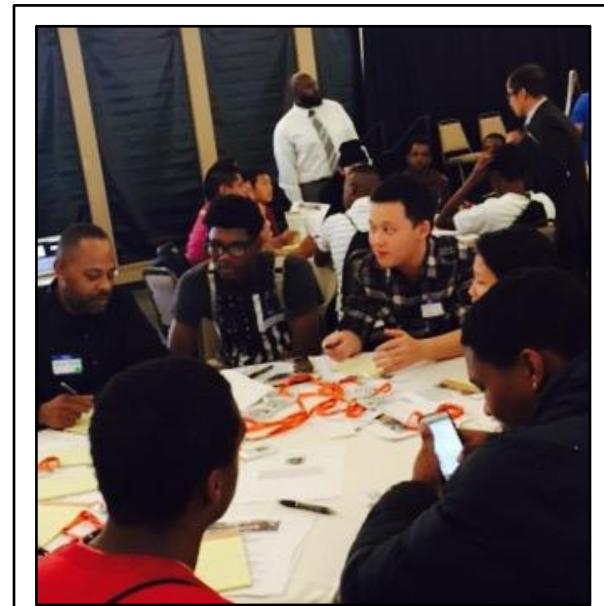
- *What are the barriers or challenges you see/experience in school(s)?*
- *If you were asked to develop an elementary school where there was a focus on the success of young men of color,*
- *What would it look like? How about a middle school? How about a high school?*
- *What can elementary, middle and high schools do better to help young men of color both prepare for graduation, and successfully graduate high school?*
- *What do you believe would help young men of color in high school prepare for college?*

Youth responses (major themes)

- Elimination of teacher “profiling” of students
- Need to “be seen” by teachers
- Higher expectations of students
- Fair treatment of all students
- Teachers to show patience
- Need to address various barriers to learning, including lack of basic human needs (food, safety, issues within home environment, etc.)
- Relevant and interesting curriculum
- Diversity/teachers who look like the students
- More male teachers
- Better college preparation

“More understanding on personal issues”
—youth participant

- Increased tutoring
- Support for issues happening within the household
- Counseling services on campus/ therapy rooms
- Clubs, fun activities related to student interest available at school
- Tutoring- more than just homework help
- Minimizing distractions/opportunities to increase focus
- Support dealing with gangs
- Technology resources available at school
- Better libraries/making the libraries more fun
- Leadership



Employment

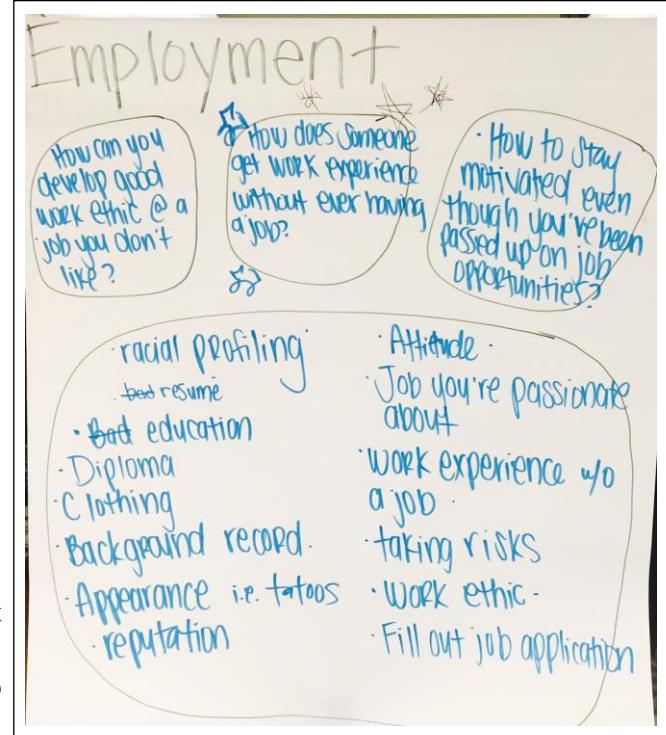
Am I My Brother's Keeper at Work?

Discussion prompts:

- What are the barriers or challenges you see/experience in getting a job?
- What can schools do to better prepare you to find/get a job?
- What types of jobs are available to young men of color?
- What types of jobs would you like young men of color to have?
- What do you feel you need most to be successful in getting a job? (Access to transportation? Skills? Training?)
- Where/who are our resources?
- Who should be helping our young men of color get jobs?

Youth Responses (major themes)

- Preparedness barriers (clothes, transportation)
- Younger age minimum for worker's permits
- Forgiveness of juvenile records on applications
- Social/Emotional/mental preparedness when not hired
- Learning opportunities on fundamentals on job readiness



- Access points for youth who have never worked before
- Lists of who is hiring youth? Non-profits?
- Access to work permits
- Navigation from a job to a career
- Electives (9th grade) that provide exposure to career opportunities
- Job placement assistance services located at schools
- Connections to employers
- Internship opportunities
- Assistance with resumes
- Career pathways at school

"More forgiveness for records"

"Affordable process for kids to get their social security numbers"

-youth participant feedback

Public Safety

Are My “Protectors” also *My Brother’s Keeper?*

Discussion Prompts:

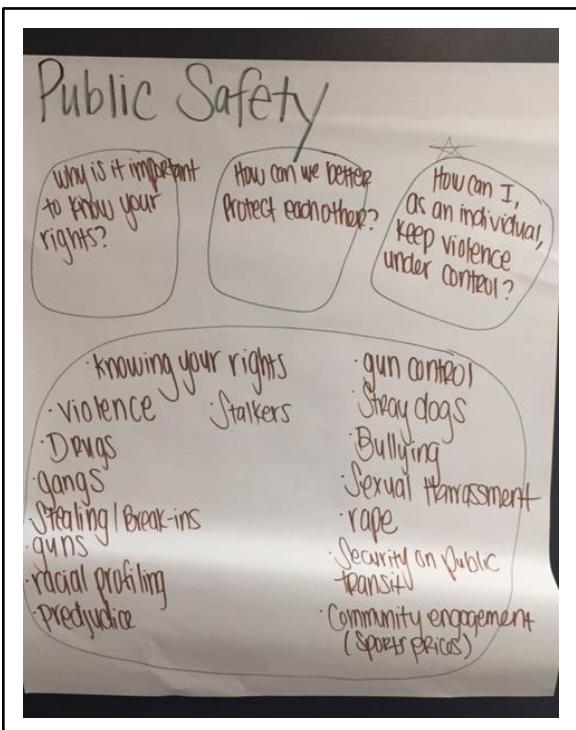
1. *What safety challenges or issues do you or your friends experience in your neighborhood/community?*
2. *Describe what would help make you feel safer in your school, neighborhood and/or community?*
3. *What is our role (youth, adults, parents, law enforcement, etc.) in keeping each other safe? Our schools, neighborhoods/community safe?*



“Community and law enforcement working together to create better police practices”
-Youth participant

Youth responses (major themes):

- Youth not having a voice when public safety decisions are made
- Role of law enforcement
- Better communication between community and law enforcement
- Improving practices and interactions between youth/community/neighborhood and law enforcement
- Chance to shift misperceptions between law enforcement and youth (both ways)
- Youth opportunity to inform police training



- “No father figures”
- “Cops should have experience or Captains in every car”
- More things to do in the neighborhood
- Clean park spaces, recreation spaces
- Prevention/intervention- gangs and substance abuse
- Street Safety- speeding, drunk driving
- Street knowledge
- Environmental Safety-street lights, usable community space
- Law enforcement to increase empathy-youth are not “ just a record”
- Law enforcement to have better knowledge and understanding of communities/people they serve
- Civic engagement
- Educating youth on their rights
- Bullying- peer awareness and accountability
- Parent guidance around public safety

Youth Participants

No decisions about me, without me

Over 300 students and youth from throughout the city of Sacramento region participated in this remarkable event. Engagement of multiple K-12 school districts, youth groups from community based organizations, as well as junior college and university school systems was critical in ensuring representation of young men from various communities, ages, ethnicities, backgrounds and socio-economic status.

Participating School Districts

Sacramento City Unified School District

American Legion School
C.K. McClatchy High School
John F. Kennedy High School
Hiram Johnson High School
Luther Burbank High School



Twin Rivers Unified School District

Foothill Farms Middle School
Grant High School
Martin Luther King Tech Academy

San Juan Unified School District

Encina High School
San Juan High School

Natomas Unified School District

Leroy Green K-8 School
Inderkum High School
Natomas High School

Sacramento County Office of Education

Gerber Jr. and Sr. High School

Los Rios Community School District

Sacramento City College
American River College
Consumnes River College

California State University, Sacramento

University of California, Davis

Youth groups from various Community Based Organizations, including:

Always Knocking, Inc.
Asian Resources, Inc.
Center for Fathers and Families
La Familia Counseling Center
Roberts Family Development Center

“The opportunity to have the My Brother’s Keeper summit is a wonderful opportunity for the leaders of Sacramento to hear the voice of the kids. This summit gives us an opportunity to listen, and then to help develop a strategic plan”

-Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings

Table Talk Facilitators

Brothers Helping Brothers

Table-talk discussions were facilitated by a mighty team of volunteers. Facilitators attended training to learn tools for engaging youth in critical discussions and practice group facilitation strategies. Their hard work and generosity of time and spirit was instrumental in the successful implementation of the table talk discussions.



FACILITATORS:

Antwaun Billoups SETA	Julius Austin CFF	Vincent Ho ARI	Christian Oqunbarwo EBAC
Caliph Assagai Public Interest Advocacy	Justin Phan ARI	Oscar Cervantes IYT	Ray Green RFDC
Chris Mateo SETA	Joseph Thao ARI	Amiyr Kaashif Mutual Assistance	Spencer Ly CSUS
Coon Coon the Poet	Josiah Young Stand UP	Izreal Graham Sacramento Police Department	Trao Thao ARI
Crandal Rankins Power Forward	Kevin Ridge CFF	Chou Vang CSUS	Christian Oqunbarwo EBAC
Daniel Cisneros Health Education Council	Laureate Gholar SCUSD	Henri Lasane College Track	Bilal Zaloch IYT
Darryl Lucien	Michael Benjamin SCUSD	Phillip Mitchell Valley High/IYT	Fernando Sanchez SCC EOPS
Dylan Fisher SCUSD	Michael Craft Sacramento County Probation	Kyson Barnes Sacramento High School	Giezi B. Bermudez ARI
Deangelo Mack Wellspace Health	Michael Lynch IYT	Steven Webb NAACP	Greg Palmer CSUS
Dwight Taylor, Jr. The Professional/Communicator	Monroe Howard SCUSD	Gaylon Johnson SJUSD	Tyronne Williams SHRA
Eduardo Aguilar Children Now!	Rashad Johnson	Joseph Thao NCCT	Jesus Guzman-Limon CSUS

For more information:

bel Reyes
Executive Director, Innovation Bridge, Inc.
breyes@innovationbridgeinc.com
916.914.5250

Brit Irby
Associate Director
brit@innovationbridgeinc.com
916.470.9584

Randal Seriguchi
Consultant
randal.seriguchi@gmail.com
732.500.3504