



THE CENTER

at Sierra Health Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2018

CONTACT: KARI IDA

(916) 591-1615, kida@sierrahealth.org

Sacramento Releases My Brother's Keeper Guide to Action

Recommendations Aim to Improve Outcomes of Boys and Men of Color

Sacramento – Today, the My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Collaborative, composed of representatives from community, youth and the public sector, released an implementation guide identifying steps toward improving opportunities for boys and men of color. This Guide to Action highlights policy and systems reform opportunities within four impact areas, including healthy development, education, workforce development and justice systems. [The implementation guide can be found here.](#)

"As our community begins to heal from the tragic loss of Stephon Clark, we have community leadership building an agenda that ensures our boys and young men of color have an opportunity to thrive – expanding their educational experiences, increasing economic pathways, reducing juvenile justice system involvement and promoting their healthy development," said Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. "This guide is a comprehensive agenda to ensure we make good on the promise that all young people have the opportunity to grow into healthy adulthood."

In Sacramento, boys and men of color face disproportionate barriers to success. While third grade reading literacy is an indicator of success, in 2014-15, only 42% of African American, 48% of Hispanic and 50% of Native Americans were achieving that standard. In 2014, 47.6% of African Americans and 27.6% Hispanics faced juvenile felony arrests. When looking at high school graduation rates in 2014, 65.9% of African Americans, 70% Hispanics, 56.6% Native Americans, 88.2% Asian Pacific Islanders and 80.6% Non-Hispanic White reached this milestone.

"As a young man of color growing up in South Sacramento, I have not been aware of opportunities to grow academically, emotionally and professionally," Alejandro Galicia, My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Youth Fellow. "Even when opportunities did appear on the rare occurrence, time and time again I had to turn them down."

The My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Collaborative, established in 2017, builds on local efforts that began in response to President Obama's signing the My Brother's Keeper Memorandum in February 2014, calling for national attention focused on "address(ing) persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color."

The milestones of My Brother's Keeper are to ensure that all children:

- Enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready;
- Read at grade level by third grade;
- Graduate from high school;
- Complete post-secondary education or training;
- If they are out-of-school, they are employed; and
- Remain safe from violent crime and are given a second.

To learn more about My Brother's Keeper Sacramento, visit: <http://www.shfcenter.org/mbk-sac>

###