How to “Move the Needle” on Juvenile Crime, Teen Pregnancies and Academic Achievement in Struggling Neighborhoods

NFBPA Forum, April 5, 2019
Track/Session: 3.18
Moderator: Lisa Early
Panelists: Brenda March, Tyrone Walker, Raysean Brown
Orlando Children’s Initiative

MISSION and VISION

The City’s Families, Parks and Recreation Department offers comprehensive, innovative, data-driven programs, from cradle to college and career, to improve academic achievement, workforce readiness, and health and wellness of Orlando’s youth, especially disadvantaged youth, to “move the needle” on academic performance, juvenile crime, teen pregnancies and child health in Orlando.
Strategy

**Step One:** Develop an effective model in Orlando’s most disadvantaged neighborhood.

**Step Two:** Scale up the model’s effective practices citywide, throughout the Families, Parks and Recreation Department’s network of neighborhood centers and school partnerships.
Strategy (con’t)

Scale up promising practices to 17 neighborhood centers, 9 middle schools and 5 high schools citywide

Scale up promising practices to impact Boys and Young Men of Color citywide via My Brother’s Keeper Orlando

Expand Parramore Kidz Zone to additional neighborhoods

Invest in children’s programs in Orlando’s most disadvantaged neighborhood via replication of Harlem Children’s Zone: Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ)

Total Served:
12,289
85% Low Income
Invest in children’s programs in Orlando’s most disadvantaged neighborhood via replication of Harlem Children’s Zone: Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ)
The Model

- Delineate a neighborhood-sized geographic area
- Invest in evidence-based programs in “the zone,” covering key aspects of children’s lives – academic, health/wellness, economic security
- Connect *all* neighborhood youth to the programs, from cradle-to-career
- “Move the Needle” on child outcomes – education, crime, teen pregnancies, economic and social success.
The Place: Parramore, 2000-06

Demographics
• 2,066 children, 73% below poverty
• 84% in single parent households
• 47% of adults -no high school diploma or GED.
• Median household income $13,613

Child Well-Being Indicators
• Zip code with highest reports of child abuse/neglect
• Juvenile arrest rate: two-and-a-half times that of the City
• Teen birth rate: six times the County rate

Neighborhood Survey Findings
 86% of families run out of money
 32% of children lost a loved one in the past year
 78% of parents need more help with their children
 87% say tutoring assistance is the most needed
 61% of children under 5 aren’t in childcare/pre-k
 41% of Parramore children have chronic health problems
Strategic Investments since 2006

• Approximately $2 million is invested per year in 20 partner programs/locations throughout the neighborhood, aimed at:
  – Increasing the number of young children attending high quality preschool programs
  – Building positive parenting skills
  – Mitigating family economic instability
  – Enhancing children’s physical health and wellness
  – Supporting academic success among elementary, middle and high school children
  – Increasing the number of youth entering – and completing – post-secondary education
  – Giving kids experiences and exposure to the world outside their neighborhood
  – Building workforce skills and income generating activities among older youth and young adults
  – Keeping older youth and young adults out of trouble and on a positive track toward social and economic success.
Results

**Are your children getting into trouble at school?**

- 2007: 33%
- 2012: 26%
- 2017: 8%

**Does your child attend preschool?**

- 2007: 35%
- 2012: 42%
- 2017: 76%
Results: 2017-18 Student Advocate Services

- Middle and High School Students with 2.0 GPA or above: 77%
- Middle School Students Promoted to the Next Grade Level: 100%
- High School Students Promoted to the Next Grade Level: 91%
- 12th Graders Graduated and Accepted into Post-Secondary: 100%
Impact: Crime and Teen Pregnancies

**Trends in Juvenile Arrests:** Parramore, 2006-2017

- Number of Arrests:
  - 613 in 2006
  - 518 in 2007
  - 480 in 2008
  - 316 in 2009
  - 298 in 2010
  - 226 in 2011
  - 159 in 2012
  - 239 in 2013
  - 230 in 2014
  - 209 in 2015
  - 209 in 2016
  - 209 in 2017

Down 66%

**Trends in Teen Births:** Parramore, 2006-2017

- Number of Teen Births:
  - 41 in 2006
  - 32 in 2007
  - 31 in 2008
  - 27 in 2009
  - 28 in 2010
  - 29 in 2011
  - 28 in 2012
  - 21 in 2013
  - 18 in 2014
  - 11 in 2015
  - 9 in 2016
  - 9 in 2017

Down 78%
Perspective of a young man who grew up in Parramore: Raysean Brown
Expand Parramore Kidz Zone to additional neighborhoods:

Holden Heights
Scale-up promising practices to impact Boys and Young Men of Color citywide
History of My Brother’s Keeper Orlando

• 2013: City of Orlando joins the National League of Cities Technical Assistance project to Promote Black Male Achievement, and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, and begins developing My Brother’s Keeper Orlando.

• 2013-14: MBKO collaborative partnership is formed and community goals are developed:
  – Improve academic performance
  – Increase employment opportunities
  – Reduce incarceration
  ....among Orlando’s boys and young men of color.

• 2014: President Obama issues MBK Community Challenge to cities across the nation, and Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer signs on, making Orlando one of the first cities to do so.
Focusing on Boys and Young Men of Color

• When we commit to focus on a particular population, we add an extra layer of intentionality to our work to adequately address the needs and interests of that population.

• With regard to boys and young men of color, we ask ourselves these questions:
  – Are our programs designed to attract boys and young men of color?
  – Are we making intentional investments that support their academic and workforce success?
  – Are we effectively addressing public policy issues that affect BYMOC?
  – Are we positively showcasing the successes, talents and resilience of BYMOC?
  – Are we engaging youth voice in everything we do?
  – Are we collaborating with partners who are deeply committed to this work?
  – Are we leveraging public dollars, philanthropy and grants to support the work?
  – Does our leadership and staff reflect the population we’re serving?
  – Are we tracking the results of our work to ensure accountability and share promising practices?
Impact

Last year, we employed 279 boys and young men of color (68% of all male youth employees).
Tyrone Walker: Recreation. Outreach. And. Mentoring. ROAM

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=3eDlimSy6w
Impact

On-time Grade Promotion (2017-18 Middle and High School)

- 2016: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 82%, MBKO Participants 89%
- 2017: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 81%, MBKO Participants 93%
- 2018: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 83%, MBKO Participants 98%

High School Graduation Rate (2017-18)

- 2016: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 78%, MBKO Participants 91%
- 2017: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 77%, MBKO Participants 96%
- 2018: District (Black and Hispanic Males) 81%, MBKO Participants 100%
Impact

% of Middle and High School Students Involved in Arrest or Adjudication (2017-18)

% of Middle and High School Students Receiving Suspensions and/or Expulsions (2017-18)

District (Black and Hispanic Males)
MBKO Participants
Scale-up promising practices to 17 neighborhood centers, 9 middle schools and 5 high schools citywide

My Brother’s Keeper Trip to Kennedy Space Center
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=Hzyn5l3jbx8
Examples of Scale Up: Leveraging Federal, State and Local Funding

• 21st Century Community Learning Center grants: 130+ teachers are deployed to 9 middle schools and 3 neighborhood centers providing year round academic support to 2,500 youth.

• AmeriCorps grants: 70 AmeriCorps members are deployed to 5 middle schools and 5 high schools, providing tutoring and mentoring to 2,000 youth.

• Federal Nutrition grants: 900,000 meals are served to low income children each year, 5 days a week, at 27 sites.

• Federal and state grants and corporate philanthropy: 400 youth are employed via our summer youth jobs program.
Examples of Impact

• **Elementary School.** 88% of children maintained a satisfactory grade or improved their grades. Percentages who maintained A/B, or improved a letter grade from C/D/F: 70% in English, 76% in Math, and 81% in Science.

• **Middle School.** 100% of 8th graders were promoted to 9th grade.

• **High School.** 100% of the high school seniors graduated and went on to pursue either college, trade school, workforce, military or national service.
## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City General Revenues</td>
<td>$7.855 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and Fundraising*</td>
<td>$3.725 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>$1.18 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12.76 million</strong></td>
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Partnership....
Commitment....
Impact....
.....Whatever It Takes