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The City of Houston Health Department, through the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston Movement, developed the idea of a LEAD® program with youth as participants with the support of numerous community and juvenile justice partners. During early stages of bringing this program to life, the Harris County District Attorney's Office agreed to divert youth to treatment instead of prosecution for low level offenses.

The City of Houston and Harris County, who typically coordinate very effectively in recovery efforts resulting from natural disasters, will be working collective across agencies in a similar way to become the "first" in the country to provide the LEAD® program specifically designed for youth. We affectionately refer to this program as the Houston Harris County Youth LEAD® (HHCYL) Program. Much like the adult LEAD® that started in Seattle, HHCYL services are community-based, case management services designed to address the needs of youth who are referred by the HISD-PD in lieu of arrest or by the school principal based on demonstrative at-risk behaviors.



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The HHCYL program is being piloted at Attucks Middle School through a collaboration between Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, MBK Houston, Houston Independent School District (HISD), HISD-Police Department, Houston reVision, and Harris County Protective Services (HCPS). Our interagency program staff will work as a team focusing on the root cause of the student's behavior with the goals to:

- increase school attendance
- improve grades and literacy scores
- reduce disciplinary referrals
- decreased involvement in the justice system

All services are voluntary, at no cost, and easily accessible.



For more information regard HHCYL and other MBK Houston collective impact efforts.

Visit: www.mbkhouston.org
Email: mbkhouston@houstontx.gov

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