

THE BLACKNESS OF BULLYING

By Brandon Jones M.A.
BeMore Campaign Coordinator
The Family Partnership

A look at Bullying in the African American Community

My Goal for Today

- My only Goal of the day is to get you to Think and Think Critically
- About yourself, Your Family, Young People You Know, Your Job, Your Communities, and Social as a Whole



What is **Bullying**?

□ Transitive Verb

1: to treat abusively

2: to affect by means of force or coercion

□ Intransitive Verb

1: to use *browbeating* language or behavior

Browbeating?: to intimidate or disconcert by a stern manner or arrogant speech

Again, **What** is Bullying ?

- Bulling is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself.
- Dan Olweus, Ph.D.



Federal **Government** Definition

Bullying Definition

- Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

www.stopbullying.gov

Stats on Bullying

- 30 percent of students in the United States are affected by bullying each month (Bell & Spencer, 2006).
- Youth Violence is widespread in the United States (U.S.). It is the second leading cause of death for young people between the age 10 and 24 (CDC 2010a).
- Boys are more likely than girls to be physically bullied or threatened, but girls were more likely to be victims of internet harassment. (Finkelhor et al., 2009)

What does Bullying Look Like?

- Emotional Bullying (Insults, Dirty Looks, Messaging)
- Physical Bullying (Taunting, Fighting, burning things, stealing, flashing weapons)
- Social Bullying (Gossiping, Playing tricks, Posting humiliating info or photos on social media and public places)



Who are Bullies?

1. **The Confident Bully** – Large Ego and a sense of superiority and/or entitlement
2. **The Social Bully** – Verbal assaults
3. **The Fully Armored Bully** – Good Front
4. **The Hyperactive Bully** – Classic type, struggles with academic and social skills
5. **The Bullied Bully** – Victim of older kids or adults
6. **The Bunches of Bullies** – A social group focused on one target consistently
7. **The Gang of Bullies** – A group drawn together by control, domination, and power.

Identifying the Victims?

- Although children do not tell us outright, they do give us clues in their behavior.

- ***Kids speak in 5 ways:***

1. Body
2. Face
3. Eyes
4. Tone of voice
5. Words

These communicate the warning signs to watch for.

Bully Policy is Weak in MN!

- In May of 2011, Tom Weber of MPR had a 6 month investigation report on how the state is not taking bullying seriously.
- There is no tracking of bullying incidents by MN School Districts.
- MN Does Not Define What Bullying is

From the MPR Report

- What is clear is that bullying persists in every Minnesota school district. A new analysis by the state departments of Health and Education found that 13 percent of Minnesota 6th, 9th and 12th graders are bullied regularly, once a week or more. If that 13 percent held for state's entire student population, it would mean that more than 100,000 students are bullied on a regular basis.

2011 Minnesota Statutes

121A.0695 SCHOOL BOARD POLICY; PROHIBITING INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING.

- **Each school board shall adopt a written policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying of any student. The policy shall address intimidation and bullying in all forms, including, but not limited to, electronic forms and forms involving Internet use.**
- History: 1 Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 28; 2007 c 53 s 1

How MN Policy Functions

- Minnesota—sets minimum requirements for districts to develop policy documents, but do not set legal requirements for their content, placing full discretion over policy development at the local level.
- MN has no Anti-Bullying State Model
- We are 1 in 10 States, who do not have a Required by Law State Model on Bullying.

What We Need to Know About Coming Bullying Policy of MN!

- Currently, it is focusing on the GLBTAQ Youth and Cyber Bullying
- However, the policy will be enforced on all youth.
- Today, Young People have more contact with police in School, than any other time in the history of school.

What is Worst?

- Policies being made specifically for you to directly to impact your life?

Or

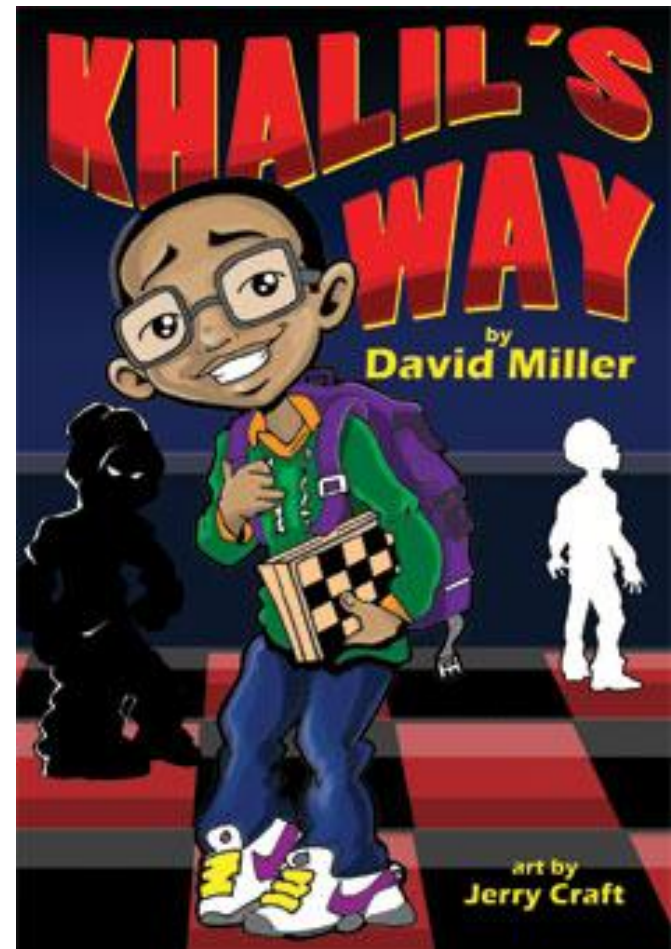
- Policies being made without you being thought of (at all) and still having a significant impact on your life?

What does Bullying look like in the African American Community?

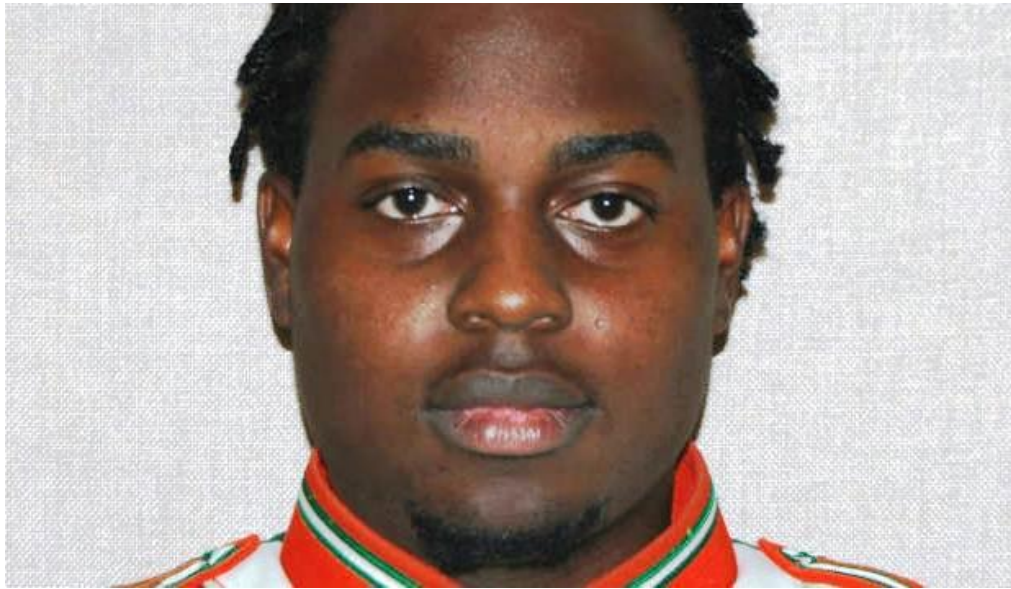
- <http://www.vh1.com/video/misc/728174/basketball-wives-4-teaser.jhtml#series=2216&id=1678804>
- Example: Basketball Wives (VH1's Top show at the moment)

What does **Bullying** Look Like for **Black Students**?

- Teasing “Smarter” students of acting “White”
- Teasing students about being “homosexual”, Involved in activities not considered “Black Activities”, Not have trendy clothing, hairstyles, and other materials as being “Gay”
- Traditional teasing: Body Parts, Smells, community related events, etc.



What About Hazing?



Robert Champion from Florida A&M

- Robert Champion died of Blunt Force Trauma due to a beating of band members on the bus.
- Other groups haze as well. Frats, Sororities, Cliques, Gangs, Sports Teams, and Families...

What about Cyber-Bullying?

- ❑ Black people uses Social Media more than any other racial group in the US!
- ❑ Popular black sites support violence and Bullying
- ❑ Though estimates do vary, one study found that about 20 percent of students that are 11 to 18 years of age indicate they have been a victim of cyber bullying at some point in their life.



Is this not what we call “Black Culture” ?

- Jonesin', Playing the Dozens, Roastin', Flamin', Crackin', Pickin', Teassin' and Playin' Whicha!
- Name Calling is apart of Black Culture.
- Where Does this come from?

The Connection Between Trauma and Bullying

□ Starts in the Home

“Stay out of Grown Folks Business!” or “Toughen up stop crying like a little punk!” or “You act just like your momma/Daddy!”

□ Continues in the Community and/or the School

“Look at him/her were they get them shoes from Wal-Mart!!!” or “Dang! You are so Black!!!” or “Look at her head, that is Ratchet as___!” Our classic Yo’Mama, Yo’ Daddy, Yo’ Granny ect...

The Trauma is Passed Generational

- “Hurt People, Hurt People” ...”If they do not hurt themselves!”
- Bullies are not Born...They are Breed. But Why???
- We live in a Violent, Bully Society.

Who Get it the **Worst** in The Black Community?



- People who decide to be an individual.
- People who do different things, think differently, and develop a sense of Self-Ownership instead of Group Think

What should we (workers, Family, community members, ect.) do about this?

- **First, Awareness.** Stop Name calling each other
- **Second, Be Honest.** We need to change our mindset on some of the hurtful things we do “normally” effect our futures. **Easier said then done...Accept the Brutal Truth**
- **Thirdly, Take Action! Be Proactive instead of Reactive!**

If We Do Not **Do Something Now**, Then What?

- We Assist the Prison pipeline for our youth.
- The Anti-bullying initiative are going to be strict and enforced heavily! Zero-tolerance policies!
- Black youth will be locked up for practice what we call “black culture” or “Just a part of Growing up” (just playing around...)
- This is the **Blackness of Bullying!**

Also, What Happens...

- The victims suffer mentally, physically, and Spiritual. If they do not die!
 - ▣ Depression
 - ▣ Low self-esteem
 - ▣ Health problems
 - ▣ Poor grades
 - ▣ Suicidal thoughts

- Overall, everyone is a victim of the bullying situation. Some of us are just punished differently.

Help For Victims and Bullies



- Counseling! Both professional and traditional (community based).
- We need to have groups, programs, and individual services that provide a vehicle for these young people to be heard.

It's a **Systematic** Problem

- Bullying is systematic issues. Therefore, a systematic solution is necessary.
- In the community, we must be honest and change out **thoughts, speech, and action** in order to not become victims or further be victimized.

Chicago School Arrest

- Chicago Public Schools are on Pace to Arrest 4500 Students this School Year
- Between September 2011 and February 2012 police made 2,546 school-based arrests.
 - ▣ 75 percent (1,915) were African-American
 - ▣ 21 percent (540) were Latino
 - ▣ 3 percent (75) were white
- The most common misdemeanor charge was battery causing bodily harm, which **366 people** were charged with. Another **358** were charged with “physical contact” battery and **313** with “reckless conduct.

Once again...What is Worst?



- Policies being made specifically for you to directly to impact your life?

Or

- Policies being made without you being thought of (at all) and still having a significant impact on your life?

Q and A

Contact Information

Brandon Jones

Email:

OpenEyesOpenMind@ymail.com

Phone: **651-587-7892**