



LAKWOOD'S PROMISE ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, March 2, 2023
In-Person and Zoom Virtual Meeting
Lakewood, WA 98499
7:30 am – 8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER

Kerri Pedrick called the meeting to order at 7:42 am

ATTENDANCE

Promise Advisory Members Present: Kerri Pedrick, Megan Dempsey, Ron Banner, Mary Dodsworth, Julie White and Dr. Wanda Elder

Promise Advisory Members Absent: Dr. Joyce Loveday, Ellie Wilson and Kyle Manglona

City Council Liaison: Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor (absent)

Youth Council Liaison: Cynthia Rodriguez, Hank Jones, Fatima Hernandez, Alli Laska

Staff Present: Shannon Bennett

Guest Presenter: Joshua Chambers, Youth Mental Health Coordinator, CPSD and Kiara Holden, Wellness Coordinator, CIS of Lakewood

Guest: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING MINUTES

Mary Dodsworth moved to approve the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes. Julie White seconded the motions. MPU.

NEW BUSINESS

Kerri gave the history of how LPAB got to its current point. In 2019 LPAB did a listening project including talking to youth, parents and the community and from it an emphasis on youth mental health and workforce development was derived and contracts with Workforce Central (Career Team) and CPSD were formed. Both initiatives are still very relevant. Shannon also mentioned how human service funds also contracted to providers fulfilling these initiatives.

Kiara advised the Board that CIS just completed the Great Kindness challenge at all of their sites. In addition, they've done wellness supported small groups through student referrals based on SEED assessment skills. The small group focuses on teaching students coping skills, mental well-being, wellness and social emotional learning (SEL). Conduct monthly wellness check-ins at the high schools. Barriers include creating excitement and pulling students during school schedules. Health First Aid classes coming into the schools will definitely help prioritize youth mental health. Kerri mentioned how the wellness project is funded though Pierce County Mental Behavioral health tax and has helped fund CIS positions that are embedded in schools.

Joshua talked about being the link between students, staff and the district office. Receives much feed-back through his one-on-one support program with students and school counselors. He trains teachers on student mental health which has resulted in every teacher in the district being trained on student mental health needs. In addition, he's helped Hudtloff Middle School and Lakes High School have student leadership programs helping student leaders to take on more peer support roles through youth mental health first aid certification. In response to the amount of suicides occurring recently in Lakewood, predominantly our athletes especially among athletes, CPHS, Josh and a therapist facilitated a conversation with 75 student athletes and coaches facilitated a conversation about mental health and will be using the information to pilot an ongoing program. Barriers include lack of awareness among adults regarding what's going on with students. Pulling students from class is also a barrier. How do we all get on the same page and get in front of the issue rather than taking a reactive position.

In response, Mary, Kerri and Ron agreed there's a need for the adults in the room, to include LPAB, coaches and the community need to figure out how to be proactive and infiltrate barriers to integrate in and be part of the youth mental health conversation and potential solutions and lessen the stigma of admitting mental health issues occur; to make it OK to have a conversation around mental health issues.

Julie shared that Pierce College partnered with Steilacoom HS to get 100 or so folks youth mental health raining and provide support to the running start program.

Kiara reminded members to remember we've all gone through Covid, and the negative impact has taken an exceptional toll on our youth. It's a hard topic to talk about, but we need to remember its part of their identity and be open to continuing to discuss the pandemic's negative effects on our students; especially certain marginalized communities.

Kerri reminded the members that the group is still trying to create the LPAB communication plan and that maybe focusing on youth mental health is the initiative that our plan focuses on. Megan suggested focusing on taking away the stigma of mental health and the Youth Council liaisons agreed there is a need to provide our youth with a safe space to admit their struggles and seek out solutions.

Mary D suggested we can't do it all and supports the LPAB becoming more focused on a specific purpose and work with the ad-hoc committee create a plan on how we get the message out and meet our goal(s).

Shannon provided an update on the Youth Summit. A recent decision to open the event up to 7th & 8th graders was made.

Members suggested a board update template on a shared doc and a week's notice be provided to members in support of submitting updates prior to each meeting.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Kerri Pedrick, Communities in Schools of Lakewood (CISL)

- **CISL has increased supports this year for schools & students** - adding a "Mobile" Site Coordinator for McKinney Vento students, and a Wellness Coordinator. In addition to staff (7 FTE) we also have 7 Social Work Interns supporting students in school buildings and will case manage ~250 students this school year, in addition to our "whole school" supports. We are also excited for a potential expansion in our Lakewood Youth Wellness Project for the remainder of 2023 - funded through Pierce County/Behavioral Health Tax.
- **CISL 30th Anniversary Breakfast, Weds May 31st:** CISL is celebrating our 30th year serving the Lakewood community and our young people! Our annual fundraising breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 31st 7:30 AM at McGavick Center at Clover Park Technical College. We would love LPAB members and our community to join us for this celebration - and to invite your networks to join

you! It will be an early and fun event with a panel of students and Site Coordinators sharing; Scholarship Presentations. [Register here to attend.](#)

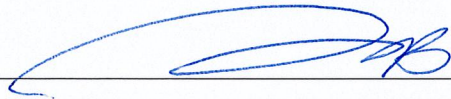
- **Invitation to Volunteer and Mentor with CISL:** We invite our community to sign up to volunteer with Communities In Schools of Lakewood and join our students' "Community of Support": Learn more and sign-up to volunteer at <https://lakewood.ciswa.org/volunteer/>
 - **Clover Park High School Hispanic Heritage Family Night** scheduled for Wednesday, March 8th. If you would like to help volunteer with childcare for the event, sign up as a volunteer with us at <https://lakewood.ciswa.org/volunteer/>
- **Other Update:** I'm (Kerri) also excited to join 15 other CIS Executive Directors this year in the CIS National's Executive Leadership Development Program learning cohort.

Julie White, Pierce College

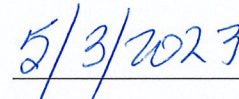
- Our interim Vice President for Equity, Innovation, and Engagement, Marie Johnson-Kola, was honored as the 2023 Puyallup Summer Chamber of Commerce Equity Advocate.
- Representatives from Pierce College met with Representative Derek Kilmer and Senator Maria Cantwell during the Community College Trustees' National Legislative Summit, to express our support for a number of policy items related to community colleges, including workforce training, improved and increased Pell grants, student basic needs, and support for Dreamers.
- A team of 20 attended the DREAM conference, where we presented our revision of faculty hiring, onboarding, and tenure to support and focus on Black and Brown student excellence and racial equity.
- Pierce College celebrated Black History Month with several events, including a Black Excellence Heritage Celebration and Black Ball formal dance.
- From mid-March to early April, Pierce College will be holding on-campus interviews for the presidencies at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom and Pierce College Puyallup.

ADJOURN

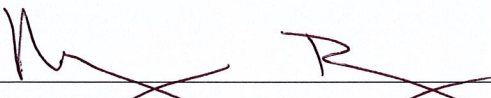
Kerri Pedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:35 am.



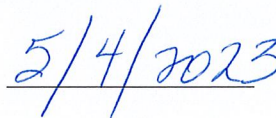
Prepared by: Shannon Bennett, Human Services Coordinator



Date:



Kerri Pedrick, Chair



Date

