



**Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Thursday, February 1, 2024

In-Person and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Lake Steilacoom Room, City Hall Lobby

6000 Main St SW Lakewood, WA 98499

7:30 am – 8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER:

Kerri Pedrick called the meeting to order at 7:39 am

ATTENDANCE:

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Present:

Kerri Pedrick, Megan Dempsey, Ellie Wilson, Dr. Joyce Loveday, Ron Banner and Mary Dodsworth

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:

Julie White and Kyle Manglona.

Staff: Shannon Bennett provided staff support

Youth Council Liaison:

Katie Keiser, Launa Nieto Johnson and Alexis Lynn

Council Liaison:

Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 7th, 2023 and January 4th, 2024 meeting minutes unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnering for Progress Workshop Debrief: Kerri asked members to sign a thank you

card for participants in the Partnering for Progress (P4P) workshop and invited them to share their experience(s) while attending the event.

Mary D. expressed her appreciation for the diversity and energy experienced and recommended more youth be present at the next event.

Ellie commented on the level of passion that all participants exhibited and looks forward to future events involving other sectors of the community.

Ron shared his concern for CBO's wanting to implement their programs in schools, specifically at Lochburn elementary and Clover Park High School. Asking, "when do we teach?". Students are active and engaged in their learning during school hours so would like to see agencies provide resources to students outside of school hours. In response, Mary D. suggested this would be a great topic for discussion within the schools.

Joyce felt people were there to really do the work and much momentum was initiated and a good start for collaboration work to find ways to support youth and CPSD, beginning with the community conducting easy gestures that tie into the big picture.

Kerri advised members of subcommittee plans to narrow down input (received at the event) into next steps and invited members to share their big ideas.

Ellie expressed her desire to see mentorship programs like College Night be reimplemented and to have the business community step up with youth job shadowing and internship opportunities.

Mary D. recommended finding ways to focus on youth not bound for college and referenced Project Lemonade <https://www.projectlemonadepdx.org/> and suggested LPAB reach out to the business community with the assistance of the business community, focusing on businesses already expressing interest in helping and suggested people will come to the table, you just need to ask.

Joyce suggested group mentoring is a safe space for youth and would like to see more of these opportunities.

Student liaisons, Katie, Launa and Alexis expressed their desire for more opportunities to learn how to navigate adulthood through increased Late-Night sessions focused on jobs and what to expect after high school; more regularly planned outdoor activities to provide mental breaks from the stress of their school, clubs, jobs, family obligations; positive feedback about participating in City sponsored events; financial literacy classes offered. Katie recommended juniors and seniors are extremely busy with school, etc. and asked that future efforts/conversations be offered at a convenient time and consistent for their learning.

In response to our youth's voiced desire for increased planned events, Mary D. recommended incorporating them into events already planned (example: Adulting 101

at farmer's market) and incorporating "teen centric" activities at Colonial Plaza events. Ron suggested we host a fun event like a water balloon fight involving youth and adults.

In response to increased mental health initiatives, Kerri suggested working with Pierce County Health Department to develop a "I'm supportive of youth mental health" identity. Mary D. suggested we get sponsors to pay for it.

In response to increased job/internship/mentorship opportunities, Megan mentioned Virginia Mason Franciscan Health hospital started new program available only to youth, is non-patient facing and happens through St Claire student placement. Ron suggested coordination with other agencies to give employers stipends for participating in youth workforce development initiatives and that a cross pollination on back-ground checks and trainings occur.

Members then moved on to discussing marketing efforts. Realizing it is hard to collaborate when there isn't a centralized place to access information/resources. Anything developed must be easily accessible (example: Fun things I can do in the next two days or by date.). Develop a hub (like Peach Jar or school announcement) and/or internal collaboration tool for organizations to share their information with the community.

Lastly, members discussed beefing up local Parent Teacher Associations, to include opening them up to people other than parents (businesses, volunteers, neighbors, etc.)

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Members unanimously elected Kerri Pedrick and Julie White as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS: No highlights were given.

MEETING ADJOURN: Kerri Pedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:31 am.

NEXT MEETING:

March 7th, 2024 – 7:30 AM.

Kerri Pedrick, Chair

Shannon Bennett, Staff Person