



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

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Thursday, March 7, 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 7:34 am

ATTENDANCE:

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Present:

Kerri Pedrick, Megan Dempsey, Ellie Wilson, Mary Dodsworth

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:

Julie White, Dr Joyce Loveday, Ron Banner 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

Guests:

Chris Davis, Neighborhood Connections Program Coordinator, City of Lakewood
Dean Kelley was assigned as proxy by Joyce Loveday and attended the meeting in her absence.

Alice Fong, with the Center for Ethical Leadership came to observe the meeting to see if she'd like to become a board member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The February 1st minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnering for Progress Workshop update and discussion: Kerri gave a two-part update of the Partnering for Progress (P4P) steering committee: Facilitation of collaboration and additional programming. update. The committee is choosing to narrow its focus to something realistic and that can be accomplished, to include supporting initiatives already happening at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club and to also create a calendar of events and foundation for requests. The calendar's purpose will be to create a list of events / important initiatives happening and to share out partner requests.

Alice Wong recommended a way for the Board to hold this space is to with continuity in bringing people together, provide tools and build on this from year to year. The City can think more broadly to connect residents.

Ellie suggested youth can get involved in their community by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity or join in the churches efforts to prepare and provide lunches to volunteers.

Mary D. suggested starting from scratch is hard and tapping into something already happening.

Launa suggested transportation will be an issue for youth who don't live close to the YMCA or Boys and Girls Club so hopes other locations to hold events will be considered. Also, providing snacks, video games and fun activities will bring youth. Mentioned that public transport is somewhat inconvenient. Routes aren't easily accessible and are difficult to determine.

Shannon and Mary suggested approaching the community service groups to provide food for youth events. Ellie suggested that churches might be able to provide transportation with their vans.

Alice suggested minimizing the transportation barrier by hosting events closer to where youth live.

Discussion on 25/26 Human Services Funding Priorities and Opioid Settlement Funds: Shannon informed the Board on what the Opioid Settlement Funds are, the City's antedated allocation over the coming years and the Community Services Advisory Board's (CSAB) role in helping Council decide the best way to spend the funds locally. CSAB's current recommendation is to hold on to the 2022-2025 funds, hire a consultant to conduct a data driven analysis of local needs, and seek one to three larger projects through release of a Request for Proposal seeking one to three larger projects in 2025 or 2026.

Data collection would be to focus on the specific needs in Lakewood and how we're

going to spend the funds to help our community based on the specific needs. Shannon asked the people in the room who have data to share it with her for inclusion in the research. The Youth Council has been tasked with gathering the youth voice and has drafted a survey that may be distributed in the different schools and other methods.

Shannon gave an update on the May 25th Youth Empowerment Summit and asked the Board to pay attention to the break-out session topics (political engagement, college prep, job preparation, confidence building, life balance) and decide if they know persons who can fill the roles. Also, if their organizations, or ones they know of, have an interest in participating in the vendor summit. There is a big push for workforce development, to include knowing the opportunities available to youth now and in the future. Emotional mental health resources are also necessary. Finally, an ask for volunteers that day. Alice volunteered to take on the cultural enrichment piece.

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS: No highlights were given.

MEETING ADJOURN: Kerri Pedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:38 am.

NEXT MEETING:
April 11th 7:30 AM.



Kerri Pedrick, Chair



Shannon Bennett, Staff Person