



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

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Thursday, December 5, 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, Alice Fong, Joyce Loveday, Mary Dodsworth, Julie White, Alice Fong and Ron Banner

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:

None

Staff: Shannon Bennett provided staff support

Youth Council Liaison:

Alicia Stanford, Ava Qualls, Britany Robles, Elijah Sta Ana, Gabriel Flores, Jada Martin, Kasia King and Sophia Lana Castro

Council Liaison:

Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

Guests:

Christopher Wells, YMCA, Kiana Green, YMCA, Deb Derylak, Pierce County Library and Ivory Young, Boys & Girls Club of Lakewood (B&GC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The November 7, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff from YMCA, Pierce County Library and B&GC were invited to share their work supporting young people and the barriers they face.

Christopher – Funding is always a barrier. Currently looking for funding to expand Late Night. Transportation also a barrier. Understanding kids nowadays as we adults grow older. Must build trust in the relationship.

Kiana – Recently revamped Late-Night program. Try working towards instilling core values and necessary skills. Socioemotional skills to combat interesting challenges specific to Lakewood Youth. Added social worker to staff to help navigate. Added podcasting to help youth with communications skills. Added a boxing instructor and robotics instructor. Always want to maintain their athletics program and expanding health and wellness program (dance instructor, etc.) Asked kids what they wanted to do. Girls want to learn to braid hair and do nails so hired a person to assist. Hired strength and conditioning instructor. Financial literacy teacher. Looking to expand into music programming in the spring. 60-80 middle schoolers and 20 high schoolers are currently attending. Hoping to expand. Added Eat n Greet at schools to find out the challenges faced at school. Looking to implement tutoring for CPSD students.

Challenges/barriers: Staffing to lead the programs and patrol the building and manage kid's activities to keep them engaged.

Ivory – Doing similar programming as the YMCS. Life skills, internet safety, coding, video, lyricism club (dj's and music making, learning about musicians). Entrepreneur club (business license and business plan) For example: Lemonade stands. Diplomas to Degrees getting kids to graduate high school and finding their career path. Financial literacy (savings) Work based learning: staff helps students conduct work items at the club. Currently doing Youth of the Year: resume building, strength-based speech, utilizing youth voice). Every space includes a calm corner to help kids to regulate their emotions. Just went through teen mental health training. How do you help your friends during their hard times while protecting yourself. Homework help

Challenges/barriers: engagement. Competing with the phones. No phone policy so kids are on social media. Funding. Transportation. Bullying. Ron reminded everyone that youth are still reeling from the effects of Covid. Post

Covid impact on teenager's rivals or is greater than that of Hurricane Katrina. Changed the brain function of teenagers. Had to reroute how you cope. As adults and organizations, we must reroute how we support our youth and getting teen voice.

Julie. Appreciates the social and emotional piece and emotional regulation skills. Mary M. shared that Brandon Elliot shared with her that taking a phone away from youth is like handicapping them.

Deb – Library system includes youth librarians support the infants through pre-teens. Teen librarians serve teens to adults. Teen librarian is focused on helping teens navigate the effects of Covid, still. Programming focus is to get kids off their phones and engaged in hands on activities. Is a social emotional learning skill to help kids work on connection building. Teen Councils exist (branch and virtual). Helps library to know what teens want to see and how would they like to contribute to helping the community. Also, the library has a teen volunteer league for the summer. It's an opportunity to work with librarians on projects they want to work on in the community (teen community garden) and is focused on literacy and learning and curiosity. Pre-teens and middle schoolers have a ton of programming focused on learning and curiosity. Librarians go into schools and asks kids the programs they want to do for the summer (slime, working with animals, build it – get to use little to big building. STEM programming coming up in the winter (coding, etc). Literacy learning programs (storytime) Librarians create fun experiences for kids and their parents to participate in. It's all about infusing the lifelong skills of building and curiosity. The library works with the human society to bring animals in for youth to learn respect, empathy and caring for others. Barrier: funding and staffing and transportation and safety. There to provide a basic service but want to build a ton of programs on top of that. Have a homework hub on Saturday. Want librarians to be out in the community building relationships so need more staff support. Possible collaboration: making community connections.

Members shared best practices for connecting young people to their programs.

All guests agreed, receiving and giving information to share at their perspective locations and during their regular programming would be a great place to start.

Keri suggested until a system for sharing information is put in place and in the short term to send your programmatic/organizational information to either her or Shannon for distribution to the partners.

Mary D. reminded everyone that collaboration is so important and telling our story is extremely important because our community members are ever

changing.

Julie emphasized the importance of transportation and how she'd be interested in finding a group to tackle the ongoing challenge. Possible future conversation for the advisory board.

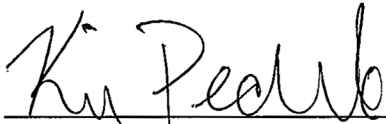
BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Mary moss reminded everyone holiday parade of lights is Saturday, December 7th.

MEETING ADJOURN: Kerri Pedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:37 am.

NEXT MEETING:

January 2nd, 2025.



Kerri Pedrick, Chair



Shannon Bennett, Staff Person