

1/18/23 LBCAY Meeting

Welcome

- LBCAY works together to provide opportunities to youth in Long Branch.
- We will have 3 presentations: 1. Worksource Montgomery 2. Identity 3. LAYC

Worksource Montgomery

- Jennifer Ramos is the substitute presenter. Sharlene was not able to present. Jennifer brought fliers though.
- There are 2 centers: Germantown American Job Center & Wheaton American Job Center
- There is a youth program for 16-24 yrs olds.
- There are virtual career services available and they are free.
- They offer things like resume building and interview preparation.

Identity Presentation

- Jacob passes around fliers.
- There are 2 Identity centers: Gaithersburg & Takoma Park
- Jacob works from the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center in Takoma Park.
- They offer case management: material assistance, clothes, food, & mentoring.
- Works with 10-25 year olds. At 26, they help them transition out.
- They also offer an in house GED program.
- They also offer ESOL programs.
- Free mental health counseling & substance abuse counseling are offered as well.
- There is a workforce development program. They are partnered with Worksource Montgomery.
- They also pay for non credit courses at Montgomery College.
- Tattoo removal is also offered. This is useful for youth who are trying to exit out of gang activity.
- Identity is in 8 schools. Einstein, Bethesda. Springbrook, etc... They want to have a wellness center at every Montgomery County School. Identity is there as a placeholder to provide youth development specialists. They help design activities, do homework help, after school hangouts, and field trips.
- Takoma Park Opportunity Center is located at Takoma Langley Crossroads. They are just off of University Blvd. They are in person 3 days a week. They are available 9-6 pm Monday-Friday.

LAYC Presentation

- Brianna is the presenter.
- LAYC has been around for 50 years.
- LAYC mainly offers housing, food, internships, mentorships, and training classes for young people.

- Maryland Multicultural Youth center- 16-24 year old case management. They will help people get jobs. They can help them get clothes and prepare for jobs.
- There is a meditation room, showers, and a laundry facility there. They offer GED services as well.
- People are allowed to walk into the center.
- They want to make sure that youth have a safe space.
- They are focusing on youth that need some extra help or training.
- They will pay for your training.
- There are men and women subgroups as well.
- They are located in Wheaton at the intersection of Georgia and University Blvd.
- Youth can come with friends :) They just need to sign in.
- Are there any requirements to get services? There will be an intake for services. They ask for name, address, and date of birth. There is nothing too extensive. If someone is looking for something like mental health or housing services, then there will be a little more questions on the survey. It is still not extensive though.
- 11319 Elkin St is the address of LAYC. The hours are 10 am-6 pm Mon-Friday.
- When youth turn 25, they will help them transition out.
- Lunch is served at 12:30 PM & dinner is served at 4 PM.
- They are partnered with Montgomery County Collaboration Council, Sheppard Pratt, and Shepherd's Table. Shepherd's Table does the lunch and dinner services.
- Every month they have different workshops. Ex. Baking workshops
- What if someone is undocumented? Anyone is welcome. The main qualification is the age bracket 16-24. The other qualification is they have to be Montgomery County residents. PG County residents can be referred to the Riverdale center.
- Are there bilingual workers? There is a Spanish speaking case manager. Their GED manager speaks 3 languages. One is Spanish.

Youth Panel Discussion Opening

- Moderator: Vanesa Pinto (CHEER)
 - All of these youth have been helping out in different ways. They are all from Long Branch.
 - They have worked in CHEER's food distribution 2x a month. They have been able to help serve 350 families. Some have also participated in CHEER and Nature Forward's "Don't Pollute" campaign. This campaign focuses on improving the Long Branch watershed. They have also participated in Montgomery College tours.
 - Vanesa emphasizes that we need to talk more with the youth. Their feedback is very valuable.
1. What is your impression of today's presentations?-Vanesa
 - 1- Really important resources. There could have been a bit more detail in how you presented yourselves at your organization. Remembered the name LAYC when asked if they remembered the names of any of the programs presented. Did not know what it stood for though.

- 2-Edgar. Really nice. A lot of resources. Brings up how youth do not really know about these resources. Would have preferred to see visuals during the presentations.
- 3-Manuel. Would not have known about these programs. He thinks these fliers should be distributed in schools.
- 4-Arturo. Felt a lot of the presentations were similar. He liked how every organization helped in different ways. Would have liked more details.
- 5-Eduardo. Felt that there were certain things that were different between the programs even though he noticed similarities. He thought the tattoo removal portion from Identity was good. He feels we should ask youth what they are interested in and apply that feedback to our programs.
- 6-Richard. He thought that the presentations were good and easy to understand. Youth will normally throw away fliers. We need to find a way to make youth care.
- 7-Jasmine. Thought they were good. More info needed. More details needed too.
- 8-Madeline. Did not know there was a lot of help out there. Good to hear the presentation. Remembered the Identity presentation but not the name of the org. She just pointed to Jacob.

2. What are 3 things preventing youth from looking for help?-Vanessa

- 1-School & the time that it takes. School takes 8 hours a day. We also have things to do at home. Youth who need resources would not know where to look. Also, talks about playing video games.
- 2-Lack of motivation. He likes to go with friends. Does not want to experience things alone. Transportation is also an issue. It is also scary to ask for help. Does not want to get judged by people. Change is also scary.
- 3- No comment
- 4-Some parents don't let their kids go out. Getting the point to parents is hard. They may see it, but think it is a distraction
- 5-Fun childhood stuff was kind of put away when growing up in the community
- 6-Some youth just don't care. They move along with their lives. Distance and transportation is also an issue.
- 7-Lack of motivation.
- 8-Agrees with all the previous responses.

3. What do you like? What are your future plans after high school?-Vanessa

- 1- They are not 100% sure. Medicine. Emphasizes wanting to do something to help people. Also, they are interested in teaching.
- 2-Plumbing. Dad showed him since he was a kid-5 years old. Teaching if plumbing does not work. Loves English class and learning, but hates reading.
- 3-Open up a sneaker shop. Sells shoes now. Would like to make it big by making his own shop. Would like to see more entrepreneurship programs in the community.

- 4-Does not really plan much for after HS. Would like to learn planting and woodworking. Would like to explore learning about plants. Currently, he does not know much about plants though.
- 5-Architecture. Been working with dad since 7. Likes the job.
- 6-HVAC technician. This is more his type than pursuing electricity or plumbing.
- 7- Teacher for younger kids. Likes working with little kids because she has a younger sister at home.
- 8- Was in college studying nursing. Nursing was not for her. She is now looking forward to being a teacher. She likes working with kids. How did you feel when nursing was not for you-Vanesa? Felt angry with herself because she is 20 and she didn't know what she wanted.

Questions from Audience Members

1. If you guys could join a group or club 1 day a week, what would it be?-Audience member
 - 6-snowboarding
 - 2-A club with everything. Art. science. An exploration club. Brings up an example with parents and how parents kind of push kids into things versus giving them the chance to explore. Ex. Parents putting kids into soccer and then making them stay in soccer because they are paying for it.
 - 1-A club where kids can just try things versus a lot of pressure to finish. A club with various sessions.
 - 3-A bilingual club. A club where people speak different languages. We need people in our society that speak many languages. He thinks that this would help a lot of people in our community.
 - 4-A club for small field trips. Some kids don't know about certain things. They can explore and see what they like. Glass making. Teach younger kids life skills because parents go to work. Kids when they are younger are more inspired to learn.
 - 5-He is pretty athletic. He is into sports. He likes soccer. Would like different categories of things too. Was into science and dinosaurs growing up. Would like to see a wider range of electives in school. Would also like fishing. Most of the other boys (1-5) also nod in agreement and were excited (laughing, smiling, and nodded their heads) when he said fishing.
 - 6-Cooking. A lot of parents do not teach their kids to cook.
 - 7-Swimming club.
 - 8-Does not know.

2. If you could envision a program, what top 3 things should that program provide your age?-Audience member
 - 2- Mental health resources. Almost every kid our age has issues with things like anxiety and depression. Distance to get to resources makes things difficult as well. So, something close by.

- 2-Opportunity for jobs. Teaching financial literacy and stability. School doesn't teach us how to do taxes. We have no clue.
3. What would be the best way to communicate with you guys?-Audience member
- All kids go to Blair HS minus the 20 yr old (Participant 8)
 - 2-Social media. Giveaways even if they are small. People just like to win. Spends 13 hours on the phone. So, definitely social media.
 - 1-People don't look at fliers. Best way is to talk to people. Talk to people at school. It also lets youth feel heard.
 - 4-Talking with a bigger group is not that good. Kids would get distracted with friends. Maybe, do a fun activity in the area. Kids can invite their friends to the fun activity.
 - 3-Talking in person will help. Some people do not have social media. Going to classrooms would be helpful. Fliers on business shops. Like the Giant right around the corner. Everyone goes to the grocery store. Parents would even notice this. Put fliers on the local businesses.
 - 2-Getting sponsors would help. They may have more connections. Like getting free t-shirts if they talk about a program. Getting youth ambassadors. Text and emails to parents. If parents know info too, they will be more on board with it.
 - 5-Definitely social media. Fliers need to be flashy. Saw a soccer ball on a flier coming in here and was immediately interested. Music is also a big influence on things. We listen to music while we are doing our work.
 - 6- Sometimes fliers work and sometimes they don't. We get a syllabus at school. We throw it away. We don't care. Would like someone to go to a class in person. This person needs to talk about the interesting stuff about their program.
 - 7- Agrees with social media. Social media in general.
4. Would you guys be interested in an overnight program with the Moco Rec Dept? Would teenagers participate? There would be various demonstrations. You would be locked in the center overnight though for safety purposes. You will be there all night-Moco Rec Dept person
- 5-Growing up in a Hispanic family, parents will not let this happen.
 - PG County had 92 boys. 250 girls did it.-Moco Rec Person
 - 2-If this was done. What days? Friday or Saturday night
 - 4-Transportation? School buses? Yes, this would happen.
 - 3-This would help kids socialize. A lot of kids stay home. This would help kids socialize more. He thinks this is a good idea.

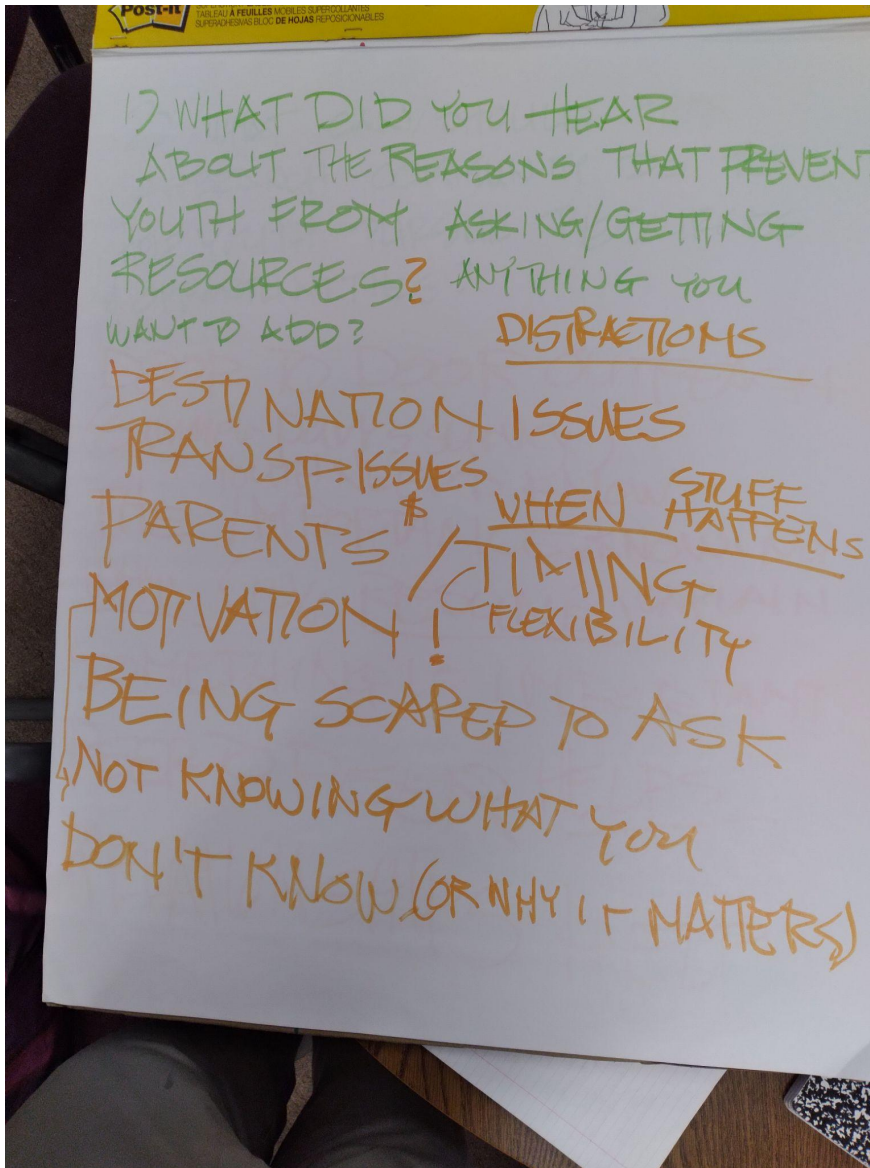
Breakout Groups 2 questions

Cynthia

Q1: What did you hear about the reasons that prevent youth from asking/getting resources? Anything you want to add?

Responses:

- Distractions
- Destination issues
- Transportation Issues
- Parents
- Timing/Flexibility when stuff happens
- Motivation (Not knowing what you don't know or why it matters)

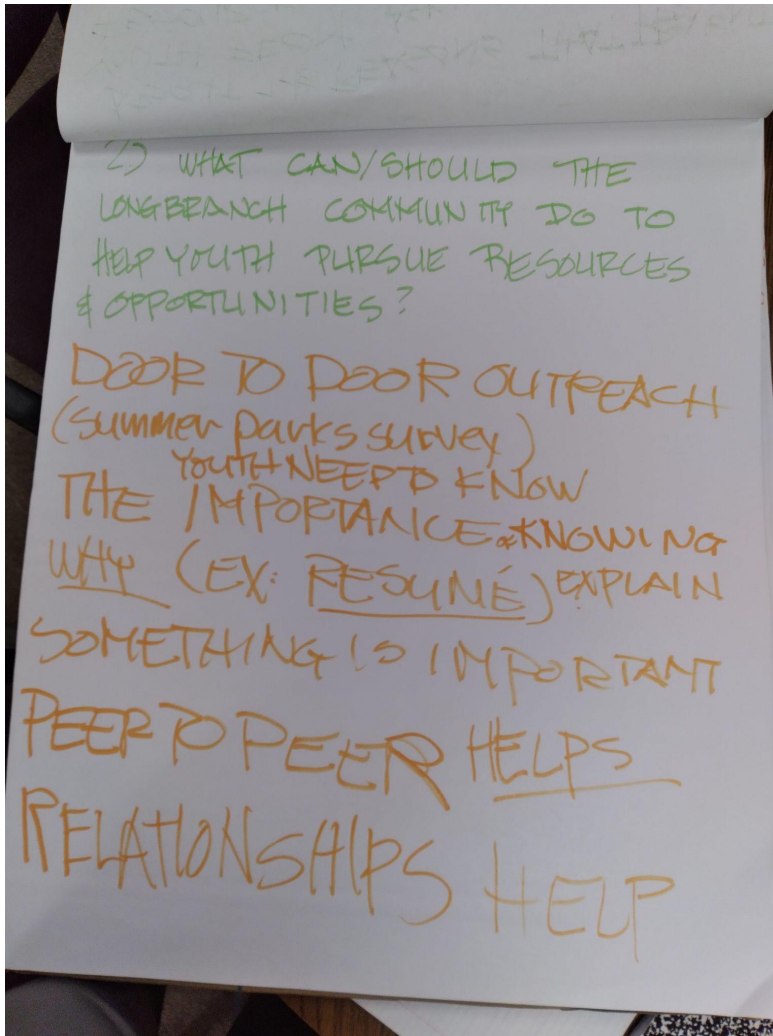


Q2: What can/should the Long Branch Community do to help youth pursue resources and opportunities?

Responses:

- Door to Door Outreach (Summer parks survey)

- Youth need to know the importance of knowing WHY (EX Resume). Explain something is important.
- Peer to peer helps
- Relationships help

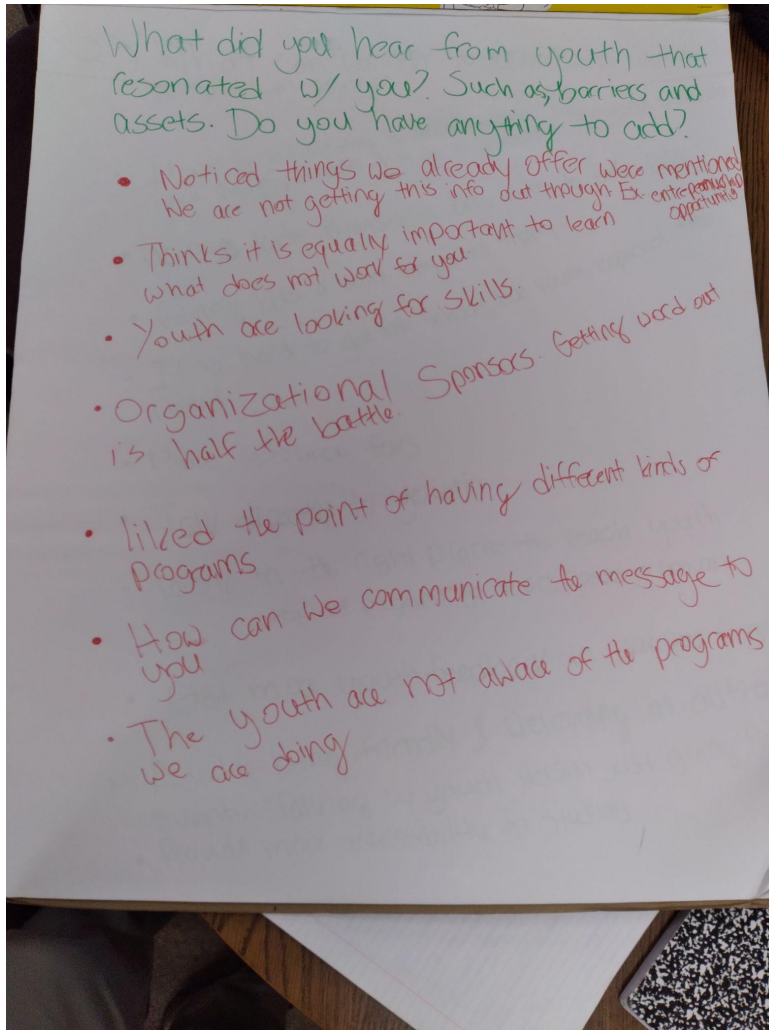


Gloria

Q1: What did you hear from youth that resonated with you such as barriers and assets? Do you have anything to add?

Responses:

- Noticed things we already offer were mentioned. We are not getting this info out though.
Ex. Entrepreneurship Opportunities
- Thinks it is equally important to learn what does not work with youth
- Youth are looking for skills
- Organizational sponsors. Getting the word out is half the battle.
- Liked the point of having different kinds of programs/sessions within a program
- How can we communicate the message to you (youth)?
- The youth are not aware of the programs that we are doing



Q2: What can we do to overcome barriers and build on assets?

Responses:

- It can be intimidating to receive services. Transportation is also an issue. Maybe, have shuttles that go to schools.
- Using kids themselves. Kids listen to other kids.
- Giving kids a voice empowers them
- It is hard (for programs) to get into schools, but youth expressed this need
- More resource fairs
- Talk directly to youth
- Look in the right places for youth Ex. Art programs-go to art classes in schools
- Get more youth feedback in various forms
- Adults being friendly and welcoming during outreach events. Talking with youth versus just giving fliers.
- Provide more accessibility to students

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