



“Preparing Youth For Success” Event Notes

June 12 2014, Student Activity Center, Washington Adventist University

Attendance: Curtis Watkins, Enoch Affum, Jr, Greg Clark, Kate Stewart, Brandon Johns, Howard Kohn, Kyle Rivers, Bruce Williams, Jennifer Craft, Brian Kenner, Jarrett Smith, Loretta Long, Karla Castro, Vanesa Pinto, Jennifer Wofford, Leicia Monfort, Seth Grimes, Una Kettering, Pat Tyser, Kathy Porter, Gia Mejia Naranjo, Jay Keller, Elizabeth McMeekin, Vineda Myers, Gloria Bonilla, Joyce Seamens, Terry Seamans, Phil Shapiro, Marika Partridge, Larry Ravitz, Bruce Baker Co-facilitators: Franca Brilliant, Mary Jacksteit

Introduction

- CHEER focusing on youth development; in past has focused on health, housing, local economy
- Representation at this event –
 - Youth organizations – MANUP, Takoma Radio, LBAA, Blair H.S.
 - Schools and colleges – Montgomery College, WAU, Blair HS
 - Faith groups – None, but Mary serves as CHEER liaison to religious organizations
 - Businesses – Larry
 - Government – Mayor Bruce Williams, Terry Siemens, Jarret Smith, Kate Stewart, Bryan Canater, Seth
 - Youth – Enoch and Kyle from Washington Adventist University
 - Parents – several
 - Funders – Takoma Foundation
 - Other community organizations – IMPACT Silver Spring
- **Facilitators** (Franca and Mary)
- **Preparation for this event**
 - CHEER has led a process with the Takoma Foundation and Rec Center to identify goals to help youth successfully transition into adulthood and employment
 - Several previous events
 - Speaker event with leaders of youth organizations in Takoma Park (TP)
 - Conversations with members of the community to tease out issues and identify actions to address them
 - Meeting with youth to get their perspectives
- **Other Notes / Announcements**
 - Recognize the City Jobs Pilot – 5 slots for young people this summer
- **Large goals / vision** we are striving for
 - Every young person in TP has a relationship with a caring adult ([mentoring](#))



- Every young person in TP is prepared for employment ([employment](#)), includes gaining skills and experience
- Every student receives an appropriate education ([education](#))
- Community-wide collaboration will assist TP youth in making a successful transition to adulthood ([community collaboration](#))
- Young people are part of the process of reaching these goals ([youth participation](#))
- **Questions: Does TP include the DC side?**
 - Focus on TP, but people cross boundaries; include Long Branch and some of DC near TP
- **Goal tonight: Get to actionable ideas that people can/will work on following this meeting**
- **Breakout groups** – Will discuss the gaps and areas/goals where we could have an impact. Brainstorm actionable ideas in the following areas, then identify top two ideas, and people make commitments to specific actions.
 - 1) **Summer and after school jobs** (Greg Clark) – could be internship, apprenticeship, skill development, etc.
 - 2) **Financial literacy** (Kathy Porter, Takoma Foundation/CHEER) – What does it take to be an adult? Developing financial independence
 - 3) **Career exposure** (Curtis Watkins, WAU) – broadening the horizons to youth in TP
 - 4) **College exposure** (Brandon Johns & Elizabeth, IMPACT/LBAA)

[Breakout Groups: Points of Discussion and Top Ideas](#)

1) Summer and After-School Jobs

Points of Discussion / Top Ideas

- **City Pilot SYEP Program**
 - Evaluate in the short-term – 1) administration, 2) employer, 3) youth
 - Evaluate in the long-term – expand employers, continue with current employers, expand to after-school
- **Internships that provide training**
 - Paid or unpaid
 - Takoma TV, radio, public works projects (small meaningful projects), docs in progress
- **Senior Village/Intergenerational Job Bank**
 - Jobs bank, opportunities for young people
 - Volunteer/service learning
- **Key partners**
 - Old Takoma Business Association
 - Reemberto
 - IMPACT Silver Spring



- Crossroads Development Authority
- Government, City Council
- Schools
- PTAs
- Village of Takoma Park (entity for senior villages)
- Faith-based organizations

2) Financial Literacy

Points of Discussion

General Discussion

- Online financial issues and online security
- Primer on consumer credit
 - Credit cards
 - Student loans
- Personal money management and budgeting
- How to use money to your benefit
 - Saving/investment programs
 - Incentives to save
- Wealth creation
 - Home buying
 - Savings and investments
- Home buying clubs
- Retirement savings
- Basic economics: national financial system vs. barter system
- Local resilience circles
- Bank On – encourage use of banks vs. check-cashing / predatory lending
- Michelle Singletary
- Character-building
 - How to use money
 - Frugality

Actionable ideas

- Curriculum on financial literacy
 - All age groups – elementary, middle and high school
 - Include personal budgeting
 - Include gamification
 - Partner with Bridge Forte at Washington Adventist University
- Budgeting apps
 - Evaluate what's out there / need someone to research budgeting apps
 - Promote use



- Entrepreneur class
 - Include financial literacy
- Crow-funding (new forms of investing)
 - Using to teach investing
- Money mentors
 - For specific financial decisions

Top Ideas

- **Money Mentors Club**
 - To learn financial literacy concepts
 - Identify mentors – people already known / respected
 - Create program structure – club?
 - Publicize and network in the community
 - Target groups where most needed
 - Schools
 - Tenant associations
 - TP Recreation Department
 - Games and prizes
 - Use “Gamification” – combine fun and learning to teach people about financial literacy
 - Create a two-way learning process between mentors and youth
 - Offer incentives
 - Club first, then individual mentors, i.e. could transition to “Money Mentors”
 - In the long-term, develop budgeting apps
- **Curriculum on financial literacy**
 - All age groups – elementary, middle and high school
 - Include personal budgeting
 - Include gamification
 - Partner with Bridge Forte at Washington Adventist University

3) Career Exposure

Points of Discussion

How do we help youth gain career exposure?

General Discussion

- Contests and competitions with a goal to improve skills (i.e. freerice.com, an online SAT game)
- Use technology to connect to youth broadly
 - i.e. Takoma Radio – Producer Posse Training
 - Gaming and animation, i.e. Web Kids
 - Who else is sharing training – makers, builders?
- Also consider non-technology routes – gardens, outdoor opportunities



- Provide jobs
 - One example is Larry's real estate business:
 - Includes home inspection, home maintenance, landscaping, etc.
 - A good business opportunity in TP to help people "age in place"
- After school programs
 - Good for networking and exposure
- Meet young people where they are, and find them/go to them

Actionable Ideas

- **Set up a system connecting organizations and youth, provide various internship opportunities – may be a longer-term goal, i.e. 1 year
 - Put youth into appropriate placements aligned with their interests
 - Include training
 - Leverage collaborations with community organizations
 - Provide pre-training for summer internships during winter break?
 - Allow youth to test different work areas
 - Help to define choices, i.e. corporate/business, non-profit, different sectors, etc.
 - There is a program like with through ACSGW called Stepping Up
- Gardening/farming – connect with farmers markets, Co-op, neighborhood/community gardens (Dr. Amen?)
 - Latin American Youth Center has a program like this with University of Maryland / Sheridan Community Garden in Riverdale
- Paid lawn/yard work
- Money motivates youth!!
- Multiple pathways – important to check out options
- Offer visits to places of employment
- Provide exposure to careers through interview
 - Speed-dating interviews to gain information about jobs

Top Ideas

- Speed-dating-style Interviews between youth and people in different career paths
 - At schools or after-school programs
 - Prepare substantive questions ahead of time:
 - i.e. What is your typical day like? What do you wear to work? What are your favorite / least favorite things about your job? How did you get interested in / choose your career?
- Takoma-wide program matching organizations willing to take entry-level people/youth and youth with interests (in youth orgs)** (*described in more detail above*)



4) College Exposure

Points of Discussion

- College tours
- Financial aid
- Colleges and universities
- Reaching/exposing kids early, i.e. 5th to 8th grade
- Parent involvement early
 - How can colleges and universities get the information to youth and parents?
- STEM (science, technology, engineering, math and medical) and science competitions and universities
- College students reaching out as mentors and ambassadors
- Support kids while in college to prevent dropouts for first generation college students
- Career centers – work with youth from freshman year on
- PSAT and SAT prep earlier, i.e. middle school / 7th and 8th grade
 - Classes offered by Montgomery County schools and in Rec Department
- Action items
 - Connecting Colleges with Rec Centers/PTAs and Improving Communication
 - Colleges and universities meet with rec centers, PTAs, church groups, etc.
 - Make the connection
 - Improve communication
 - Identify how to effectively communicate with PTAs and parents
 - Exposing Kids to College Classes and Life
 - Linking college professors with middle and high school students
 - Have kids visit university classes, specifically using the subjects the kids are interested in
 - Have students from 7th grade on go to college social events, i.e. basketball games
 - Bring parent groups
 - Have City support/fund these college exposure programs
 - Expose parents to college financial planning

Top Ideas

- **Exposing families to college**
 - Parents – financial planning: how to get your kid to college
 - Kids to college classes and social events
 - Start college visits/trips early on, 5th and 6th grade
 - Bring youth to college social events, i.e. pep rally, sports games
 - Have students sit in on college classes of interests
 - Focus on bridging the gap to connect parents and kids to college



- **Connecting colleges to parent groups**, i.e. PTAs, community centers, recreation department, City programs, etc.
 - Build synergy between community and parent groups and colleges
 - Sharing knowledge from the college (out to groups)
 - Labor groups – giving information for people that cannot make it to these events

Commitments

Commitment	Person / Organization	Comments/Notes	Contact Info
Convene and coordinate TP youth development activities	CHEER		
Summer and Afterschool Jobs	Howard	Call Me	
	Greg Clark	TPRD	gregoryc@takomagov.org
	Seth Grime	I can help with village of TP (senior village) connection	
	Jay Keller	Summer, afterschool	jayktakoma@gmail.com
	Loretta Long	Summer jobs	Lorettam.Long@gmail.com
	Gia Mejia	Help organize/develop process Develop /implement evaluations	gia@communitycheer.org
	Kathy Porter	Help organize TP Youth Collaborative of youth organizations	
	Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy		
	Kate Stewart		katemarystewart@gmail.com
Financial Literacy	Elizabeth	Financial literacy / money matters club	Elizabeth@impactsilverspring.org
	Bruce Baker	Curriculum on financial literacy	
	Una Kettering	To attend follow-up meeting, exploratory interest	301-270-5550
	Loretta Long	Financial literacy	Lorettam.Long@gmail.com
	Kathy Porter		
	Larry Ravitz	Money mentor	larry@ravitz.com
	Washington Adventist University	Enactus: Bridge Forte Professor Pichot Interest: Financial literacy Students:	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enoch Affum ○ Kyle Rivers 	eaffumjr@gmail.com kylerrivers131@yahoo.com
	Bruce Williams	Money mentors	
	Jen Wofford	As PTA leader I can help with outreach for a financial literacy event (I need to attend one myself!)	
	Washington Adventist University	Develop financial literacy curriculum; long-term collaborator	
Commitment	Person / Organization	Comments/Notes	Contact Info
Career Exposure	Franca Brilliant	Community Activist	
	Greg Clark	TPRD	gregoryc@takomaparkmd.gov
	Jennifer Craft		Jennifer L Craft@MCPSMD.org
	Marika Partridge	1) Career day – I can represent a career in public radio 2) I can help with training in radio production	marika@takomaradio.org
	Larry Ravitz	Share knowledge of home/building maintenance and repair	larry@ravitz.com
	Pat Tyser		ptyser@acsgw.org
College Exposure	Brandon Johns		
	Loretta Long	College exposure	Lorettam.Long@gmail.com
	Elizabeth McMeekin	College exposure	
	Vineda Meyers		vinedamyers@gmail.com , 240-305-5822
	Jarret Smith		301-960-7462
	Jen Wofford	- As a PTA leader I will help with connecting colleges to PTA - I will help expose kids to classes by asking my friends who are college professors to host high school classes	