

Long Branch Partners Meeting Agenda March 16, 2021

Purpose of meeting: To create a common space in which local agencies and organizations working in Long Branch area can meet to share information, seek opportunities for future collaboration, and begin to develop a sense of belonging to a network

Attendance Reemberto Rodriguez, Anthony Featherstone, Randi Drewry, Lisa Buttner, Buddy Daniels, Jose Guzman, Cynthia Grissom, MCPL-Febe Huezo, John Brill, Bruce Baker, Grayce Wiggins, Lauren Goldberg

Presentation from WorkSource Montgomery Anthony Featherstone, CEO and Cynthia Grissom

- Worksource Montgomery is the primary worksource development agency for the County.
- We connect our businesses to job seekers and our job seekers to businesses.

Services for job seekers

- We offer a variety of services: If you are underemployed, unemployed, or looking to switch employment, they can help you.
- Right now, they are virtual.
- If access is a problem, in the future, people can come to the facilities in Wheaton and Germantown to use computers.
- Some workshops offered include resume building, interview skills, & working one-on one with a career advisor.
- They also offer training programs for people who are eligible for the program. This is geared towards short term certification programs.
- They will also offer transportation assistance and child care for those who need it.
- They will develop a customized plan for any Montgomery County resident.

Services for employer partners (Cynthia Grissom)

-Worksource Montgomery offers no-cost services for businesses.

-Worksource Montgomery will provide a recruitment event if you have 3 job openings. Right now, they are virtual and they will also offer pre-screening for you.

-To get services, you must register.

-2 weeks notice is advised for recruitment services. These services include social media marketing. Ex. Flyers (they can make it for you or send one yourself). They also offer information sessions.

-You can also access more intricate labor market data.

-Worksource Montgomery also offers on the job training opportunities. They will subsidize an employer & pay 90% of the entry level salary to help that employee. The employer must also outline what the employee will learn from that experience. Every 2 weeks, the employer also needs to describe what the employee did.

-Worksource Montgomery also promotes the State's apprenticeship program- there is a list provided by the state

- Worksource Montgomery also promotes Maryland Business Works- They will train internal people if they have been working for you for 6 months (\$4000)

- Worksource Montgomery has locations in: Germantown, Wheaton, and they now offering services through libraries

- Worksource Montgomery is now featuring an employer every single day in March. They will organize the entire session where they will just send a link to the employer.

-Worksource Montgomery will also connect businesses to resources.

-Worksource Montgomery also has longer and temporary term counselors available to potential employees.

-All of these resources are available at no cost.

-Contact information:

cgrissom@workssourcemontergy.com

www.worksourcemontergy.com

Discussion

-Anthony: The State has set aside grants to help those from the pandemic. So please send those who may need assistance to them.

-Randi question: Can the Silver Spring hub help connect to some of these training programs?

Cynthia says Worksource Montgomery can give a presentation to people on how to use services. You just need proof of citizenship and proof of residency in Montgomery County. You also need to show you're unemployed or underemployed.

-Febe question: Do they provide information in Spanish?

Cynthia- Yes, and they also provide services in other languages as well. They have bilingual staff.

Anthony-In the future, they will provide a live instructor that speaks Spanish

Cynthia- They will also provide interpreters for disabilities if needed

-Bruce question: How do we make a referral?

Cynthia- It is probably best to reach out here: 301-929-6880 and afryer@worksourcemontgomery.com. She also mentions that anyone can go to any recruitment or workshop and it is at no cost

Anthony- If they cannot offer a service due to documentation, they can try to help connect to other resources since those without documentation cannot receive the federal services. Documentation only matters when Worksource Montgomery has to put out funding to a person. Training workshops and information are still available to those who are not documented (resume building workshops, interview building skills)

-Bruce question- Has this information been shared with the Long Branch Business League?

Cynthia says no. She has never done a formal presentation to CHEER. She went to one quick round the table meeting with the Business League.

Information sharing and discussion on how to get Long Branch residents vaccinated for COVID-19 Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, Director

-Do not wait on the Montgomery County Government to get vaccinated.

-If you can sign up for Six Flags or places like CVS, please sign up there.

-You need to do what you can to get vaccinated.

-The County government only has $\frac{1}{3}$ of the access to the vaccines given to the County.

-The County is focusing vaccines on those who are underserved.

-Right now, the County is having trouble meeting the demand.

-They are focusing on POC in certain zip codes to get vaccinated. He says Long Branch is definitely one of the areas that is of focus.

-Here is the County vaccine website:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/>

Registration is also available online.

-The Montgomery County Volunteer center is the place to contact if people want to help with county sponsored events.

-We are asking everyone to get the word out to pre-register: Go to montgomerycountymd.gov to pre-register. It comes in many languages. You can pre-register and they will contact you when your category is ready.

Discussion

-Lisa question: Does Latino Health Initiative have promotional videos as people have expressed being scared about the vaccine because of social media?

Roberto-Yes

-Lisa question: Are there efforts being made specifically with churches?

Roberto says the National Cathedral is helping to vaccinate. Roberto said the issue has been with the smaller evangelical churches in Long Branch. Roberto says we should not coerce people into getting a vaccine either.

Lisa: I think convincing promotional videos in Spanish that we can share via text, WhatsApp and other social media will be extremely helpful!

-Roberto talks about trying to get vaccinations for the Garden Apartments in Long Branch as he wants to get vaccination centers within Long Branch.

Other information Sharing or suggestions

- MCPL(Febe)- Montgomery County has a Vaccine Phone Line: 240-777-2982. Please share this number with anyone who is eligible to pre-register but does not have the means to do it on their own. Spanish assistance is available.

-The City of Takoma Park has a new project called the Garland Ave Project. They are developing 2 new homes. Applications end March 20th. They will be duplexes. They will also all be green and sustainable. It will be a 30 year mortgage at 0% financing. You must be a U.S. citizen or have a green card to qualify. If you know people who are interested in being homeowners, please have them Apply at Habitat for Humanity <https://habitatmm.org/how-to-apply/home-purchase/> or they can get an application at the local police station.