

LBCAY STAKEHOLDER MEETING Notes/Event Agenda

6:00-6:20pm: WELCOME & LIGHT MEAL

- Silver Spring Block Party on 9/27!!! 🎉 It will be at Veterans Plaza. We hope to see you there!

6:20-6:30pm: LBCAY UPDATES

- Vanesa introduces herself as the ELD Program Director for CHEER. She says that one of the purposes of this meeting is to meet new people and to get to know more of the people we have seen before. We also want to learn more about the opportunities for Long Branch youth too.
- Seble is the LBCAY program manager. Seble is really happy to see the organizations here that support youth. We have the Tess Center, Community Bridges, Montgomery College, and Ecopreneurs coming. The LBCAY stakeholder meeting talks about opportunities for youth, resources you can offer, and issues youth are facing.
- Seble mentions that LBCAY was working on a grant for the past few years and that they allowed us to keep going for this upcoming grant year. At this meeting, we will be talking about current LBCAY programs and we will also be showcasing the youth organizations that are here today. You can sign up for programs here too!
- Seket (one of the first student participants in the exploration club programs) speaks: She did the program for 6 weeks. It was at the Long Branch Community Center. It was really great! Learned about things like bank accounts and stocks. It is not something that is really taught in schools. It was a really good experience! The college and career readiness program was great too because they are getting ready for college. Learned to write college letters and how to get recommendations. It was really great!

6:30-7:00 pm: UPCOMING LBCAY PROGRAMS & YOUTH SHARING

- Financial Literacy
 - Seble mentions that one of our programs coming up in October is financial literacy. Financial literacy deals with everything around money. This will be for middle and high school students. This class focuses on things like credit, money, how to view money, and stocks. This is not normally taught in schools. We are partnering with P4L for this program. We have a few youth here that will share their experiences.

- College, Career & Job Readiness
 - Jacob speaks. He works with Identity, They are leading the college and career readiness club. Identity works with youth all throughout Montgomery County. Identity is partnering with CHEER to offer a 6 week program on college and career readiness. Will talk about things like financial aid, mock interviewing, the transition from high school to college, and letters of recommendation.
- Robotics Club
 - CHEER will be partnering with UMD this Fall to do a robotics program.
 - This program is led by UMD. It is called Lego Mindstorms.
 - You will be programming robots. It will be very hands-on!
 - It will be taught by college students and staff at UMD.
 - This program can take up to 30 students (middle and high school).
 - It is open for 6th-12 graders.
 - If a student wants to have a role assisting in the program, they can get SSL.
 - It will probably start the 3rd week of Oct. It will probably be on Wed from 3:30-5:30 pm.
- Youth Gardening Club (CHEER)
 - CHEER recently did a short 5 week club for youth in gardening this summer.
 - Lisa (CHEER's Neighborhood Gardening Director) leads a community gardening program. They work Mon, Wed, and Fri on loaned properties from neighbors.
 - It is a great opportunity to work with the earth, learn about the earth, improve your mental health, and learn gardening techniques.
 - Alejandro (youth ambassador) speaks: He also participated in this program. He learned about all types of plants and the nutrients they need to grow. Also, he got to meet with students who were interested in planting, and that was nice!
- CHEER Youth Ambassador Program
 - Vanesa (CHEER) talks about this. We are calling the youth we work with ambassadors not only because they are volunteers, but also because they are representing the community through what they are doing. For example, youth have been serving as interpreters at events. They have been helping out with CHEER's food distribution. Youth also served as Camp Counselors for CHEER's Camp Piney Branch.
 - Kaylee (a youth ambassador) speaks. She is a senior at Catholic University. She got involved because she is Vanesa's daughter, but she likes working with CHEER! She started working to help at the food distribution. She got to meet a lot of the teens in the neighborhood. She also was a camper at Camp Piney Branch as a senior in HS. She was then a counselor. This past summer, she was promoted to be a teacher at the camp. She also mentions that she wanted to be a teacher at some point in college, but she changed her major. She still loves working with the kids though. Camp Piney Branch offered things like field trips, games, and arts and crafts with the kids.
 - Alejandro (a youth ambassador). He started helping at the food distribution. He was also a counselor at Camp Piney Branch. He is so grateful to God for this opportunity. He was able to improve his leadership skills. He was able to learn how to organize

these kinds of activities (events through LBCAY) and meet many people to help him with issues. He currently is a student at Blair High School. He was also able to tell his friends how important SSL hours are and how much he has been learning doing these activities through LBCAY. The other opportunity that he had was that he was a part of Camp Piney Branch. At Camp Piney Branch, he learned so much about the behavior of children and how to be more patient with them. He learned how to work with them mainly. He also enjoyed working as a team with the other counselors and teachers. He was very grateful for the opportunity that CHEER gave him.

- Seble adds that CHEER's food distribution was 2x a month, but now it is only 1x a month due to a recent loss of funding. She mentions how Alejandro has been at every food distribution. She also talks about how LBCAY has a ton of consistent youth volunteers that have been part of things like Don't Pollute, Power in the Park, and other events in the area.
- Kam (another youth ambassador) speaks - It has been a great opportunity to meet new people and get networking connections!

7:00-7:30: STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION SHARING

- **Community Bridges**- Isabel from Community Bridge (Deputy Director) speaks. She has brought 3 girls with her. Community Bridges serves girls in grades 4-12 all across Montgomery County. Their big mission is to empower girls to be the best versions of themselves. They go to schools every week. Also, they are big on college access as well. She mentions that it is important for us to build a connection with the youth by going to schools. The youth advisory council is something they started this past year. They give feedback and advice on how to form programming at Community Bridges. Community Bridges serves over 400 girls
 - Youth 1 (Pres of the youth council) speaks: Her experience is that she worked on the fall field trip and fall fest. The fall fest is more of an event to recognize the girls and celebrate the girls.
 - Youth 2: (Sec of the youth council) speaks: Helped with Fall Festival. Also, helped with the field trip. Really enjoyed it!
 - Youth 3: (VP of the youth council) helped plan the field trip. Talks about how the girls like to just gather around and talk. It helps her to express herself more and talk about things.
- **Montgomery College** rep speaks: They have a new facility at the East County Center. She invites everyone to a family Fall Festival on Sept 28th. They also have classes that they are offering like English classes that they would like to share. On Monday, there is also an information session on technology. Another program being offered is the HVAC program. The HVAC program is just about air conditioning. The process is very easy! You just need to be interested in HVAC. Call them at 240 567 9080 for any questions.
- **Ecopreneurs** founder speaks: Thinks of Ecopreneurs as an eco based academy and live peace tech. Him, his wife, and the community are the team. They are addressing biodiversity through this group. One program is how to become a green entrepreneur. This is an entrepreneur that can do good for the environment and for the community. They also have programs like financial literacy, how to learn soft skills, and how to resolve conflict. Their primary focus is how one can become an entrepreneur by doing good for our mother earth. They also have yoga and meditation. They like to take a holistic approach to things. Peace

begins within one's self. If we don't have peace within us, how can we have peace outside? The program is starting October 5th. This is a very flexible program. Based on one's talents, passion, or interest, there can be different groups. It goes until May 31st, 2025. He loves working with youth and working with youth helps bring change to the world.

- **Tess Center (Maureen Larenas):** The Tess Center has no programs specifically for youth, but they work with whole families and seniors. Essentially, they work with the general public. They help with things like problem solving, application assistance, and navigating resource assistance. Right now, they are temporarily working remotely. They also help with things like SNAP, people facing eviction, medicaid, and referrals. Another speaker from the Tess Center speaks: she says they provide services for low income families. They help with financial assistance, housing applications, child care assistance. SNAP, ACA, dental, clothing, and food for County residents. Also, they help link those not from the County to resources too. 240-773-8260 is their contact. Also, they help provide tax assistance and help people file for a tax ID number. Also, have pro bono legal services.

7:30-8pm: RESOURCE TABLES, PROGRAM SIGN UP & NETWORKING