



CHOICE meeting March 5, 2015

In attendance: Mirella Villagomez, Jenifer Nazarowski, James Leet, Andi Sledge, Renee Tinder, Holly Shaffer

Faith based representation:

Mary and Joseph Walsh - Northwest Community Church
Vicky and EL Buford - Children of Light Ministries
Dan Spoon, Phil Roy, and Walt Kellcy - First Baptist Church of Lakewood
Barron Wester - JBLM Chaplain
Raquel Goodwin - DOPE Church, WA Engage
Dori Savary, Eddie Johnson, Jacob Coyne, Nate Birdine (student at Lakes HS) - Life Center South
Sami Cesa - Life Center South, Spanish Pastor

Welcomes and Introductions

Review of Norms

Holly Shaffer provided overview of CHOICE, school partnership, community partnerships, and sector representation of faith based community

Community conversation: – What brought you here? What outreach do you currently offer to youth and families? What challenges are you hearing in the community?

Eddie – Life Center South: Lakewood has always had the same needs that have always existed: youth need a place to be, a place to experience being part of a group, feel connected, like they belong. Lakewood has been seen as a place the people don't stay.

Nate – Life Center South: Wanted a group to fit into so participates at a Fellowship Club at school, Wyldlife (6th -8th grade), and Young life. Marijuana is a big topic at Lakes right now. The transiency of the community creates a negative impact.

Sami - Life Center South Spanish Pastor: Reaches kids through music. Youth are receptive to camps. Started doing work with Mizz Vicky at CPHS. Legal status is a huge issue for Hispanic families, so they are not always willing to share information and/or ask for resources. Need to get to know on a personal level to build trust and relationships.

Dori - Life Center South Director of Outreach/South Campus: Tried to work with Springbrook before - lack of connectedness in the community. One church can't do it all. Need to figure out where the best "pocket" is to put resources. Dori sees generational cycle of negative life choices. Need to focus on kids to help break the cycle. Uses Associated Ministries Resource Guide with families ([Associated Ministries Resource Guide](#))

Vicky Buford - Children of Light: Located in Springbrook. Focus on classes and a safe place for adults to create change in family dynamics. Want to open up to community with AA meetings, classes for adults and build up hope in the community. Friday night feeds every Friday in August for youth and adults. Would hand out clothing, too. Believe that folks in Springbrook leave once they are healthy.

Mary and Joseph Walsh - NW Community Church: Have food bank Wednesdays from 4:00 -5:00. Partner with World Vision. Provide blended family counseling. Half of congregation is military.

Provide a lot of support for kids/spouses dealing with separation, abandonment, loneliness, etc. Spend time helping to put families back together. Seeing kids with depression, anxiety, cutting. See challenges with mental illness in both youth and adults. Hosts Celebrate Recovery on Weds from 6:00 – 8:00. Sunday is youth night.

Walt Kelcy – First Baptist Church of Lakewood: Focusing on being less interventional and more transformational. Currently have a community garden, building community youth center next to church. Seek to synergize resources. FBCL partners with EFN to provide food in Parkland. Youth Outreach – visitation with kids, Weds youth group, Saturday youth help with property and grounds in the community. Big focus on relational connections with youth and community. They are seeing kids disconnected from parents, but finding a “home” at the church. Provide classes on Sunday nights that include parenting, financial education and fellowship.

Barron Wester – JBLM Chaplain: They are the hearts behind the shield that help military families plug in. Vast majority of families live in the community, not on Post. Military families face unique challenges – kids desperately want to belong, but hesitant because they know they will be leaving. He helps military families plug-in. Communicated desire to be informed of community events that are happening.

Raquel Goodwin – DOPE Church: Founded in 2013, based in Fife. Focuses on bringing church to community. Focuses on relational ministry - Working with community members who struggle with sex trafficking, drug addiction, criminal history, and the forgotten. Working on building a business ministry to be able to offer jobs to people.

Group input on takeaways from today’s meeting:

- Springbrook residents appear to be very isolated. Some faith representatives don’t feel like they understand all the dynamics of the Springbrook residents.
- **Whole group would like to create synergy to communicate what is happening with organizations, a way to connect with other churches and refer to appropriate resources.**
- Pastor Kelcy would like to see a nucleus for faith based agencies in the area. He would also like to see marijuana information available to churches and parents in the schools.
- All participants voiced their appreciation of CHOICE hosting this meeting and look forward to further collaboration.

Next CHOICE meeting: April 1, 2015 from 1:00 -2:30