*Springbrook Tour & Talk Report*

*I’m here to tell you a month & a half later about some huge wins from our event last month! There were 51 people in attendance. We were amazed by how many people pledged to make a commitment to be a resource and invest in substance abuse prevention,* ***29*** *leaders in all! Thank you for your commitment to youth staying drug free in Lakewood:*

* ***11*** *new partners committed to meet with us & engage in substance abuse prevention for youth!*
* ***12*** *organizations want to increase awareness for their staff on substance abuse issues facing their youth!*
* ***14*** *committed to advising & reviewing our strategic plan this next year!*
* ***19*** *committed to attend a Lakewood’s CHOICE coalition meeting!*
* ***13*** *committed to attending the Springbrook Block Party & Resource Fair*

*(July 29th, 1pm-4pm @ Springbrook Park)*

*Thank you for making our 1st event of its kind a success! After looking carefully at all the responses from the event, it is clear there’s a wealth of leadership in this community & solutions already here! Let’s not forget the youth leaders who came: they boldly shared their ideas and solutions too, we need their voice! Overall the diversity & creativity of ideas brought forth affecting substance abuse, public health, infrastructure, equity, community, landlord/tenant law, parks, & our kids was nothing short of amazing. A lot of the great conversation focused on projects, initiatives, & ideas that will be best led by each expert in their respective field as we continue to learn more, grow, & take action together.*

*Having said that,* Lakewood’s CHOICE received an amazing gift in being able to identify solutions from the leaders in our community that match up with our area of focus: Youth substance abuse prevention in Lakewood! The three themes for solutions that emerged from our key leaders were:

1. Educating youth & families on substance abuse
2. Community based programs & initiatives (i.e. block watch, alanon, etc.)
3. Increasing community connection. (safety & sense of belonging)

*If you were unable to make the event last month & want to learn more, I have good news for you: It’s not too late! We are passionate about engaging with you on the issues that matter. Please let us know how we can be a resource for you as you’ve already been a huge resource for us!*

*Thanks again,*

*~James Leet*

*P.S. Come say “hi” at the Springbrook Block Party on July 29th from 1pm-4pm at Springbrook Park!*