



Prevention Coordinator position available

The Collaboration Council is currently seeking a Prevention Coordinator for its Many Voices for Smart Choices (MVSC) substance abuse prevention program. The Prevention Coordinator assists the Collaboration Council in its efforts to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs by youth and young adults, and engages community stakeholders in encouraging positive youth development. Must be a Certified Prevention Specialist or Certified Prevention Professional or eligible to pursue the certifications within 6 months of employment. A Minimum of two years in the field of substance abuse prevention. For complete job description and where to send you cover letter and resume click here [Prevention](#)

[Coordinator Job Description.](#)

Community of Practice workshops

November 9 & 16, 2017
Understanding Program Culture Part 1 & 2
 9:30-12:30PM

November 15, 2017
Adolescent Development
 9:30-2:00PM



Save A Life

On Saturday, October 21st over 200 community members, substance abuse professionals, elected officials, middle and high school students, and parents attended our first Save a Life Montgomery: Opioids and other Substance Abuse Community Forum at Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg.

The agenda included time to visit resource tables with information on local resources, interactive youth activities and advocacy (youth earned 4 SSL hours for their participation), speakers, and a panel discussion. Dexter Manley was the keynote speaker sharing about his personal struggles with addiction.

Sponsoring partners for the event included the Montgomery County Collaboration Council's Many Voices for Smart Choices™ Collaborative, State's Attorney's office, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the Bar Association for Montgomery County Maryland and the Universities at Shady Grove.

Poster contest winners from Gaithersburg Middle included: Norma Rivas, 1st place, Jose Lisandro Cortez Artiga 2nd place, and Kevin Comayagua, 3rd place.

One community member commented, "I would strongly recommend this program because many people (such as myself) are totally unaware of this situation. Thank you for your effort." Watch for details of the next Save a Life Forum in January.



Mentoring

On October 20th, we were joined by author and speaker, Dr. Torie Weiston-Serdan for a conversation on the marginalization of youth of color. Dr. Serdan, also author of the acclaimed book Critical Mentoring engaged guests in an eye-opening conversation around how communities and youth of color have been historically oppressed by systems and structures designed to keep their voices marginalized. Dr. Serdan asserts that the only way to break the bonds of marginalization is to join in tandem with youth and engage them as equal partners in the efforts to abolish racism, sexism, adultism and homophobia. Our guests walked away not only having gained more perspective, but also asking when she would be back in Montgomery County to speak again.



Lights On Afterschool

STEP Afrika! Sets the Pace for a Lively Lights On Celebration in Silver Spring

On Thursday, October 26th, the African Arts, Culture and Education (ACE) Academy took part in the national Lights On Afterschool community celebration of afterschool programs at the Long Branch Community Center.

Over 100 young people, parents, community members and special guests were treated to lively dance performances led by **STEP Afrika!** with ACE Academy students, in addition to songs and hands-on art activities provided by DaVinci's Apprentice. A special Lights On proclamation from Governor Larry Hogan was presented by Andy Neuman from the Maryland Out of School Time network. Special guests included: Jarrett Smith, Councilmember, and Sara Daines, Community Development Director, City of Takoma Park, Gabriel Abornoz, director of Montgomery County's Department of Recreation, Daniel Koroma, Community Liaison, Office of Community Partnerships and Nikki Yamashiro, Director of Research, Afterschool Alliance, Washington DC.

Thanks go to the Takoma Foundation for its support of our Lights On celebration, Bete Restaurant for the delicious Ethiopian food, and ACE Academy community partners, including Capitol City Cheesecake of Takoma Park, Carpe Diem Arts for the amazing artists (including STEP Afrika!) they provide as part of the programming for ACE Academy, Community Preservation and Development Corporation, Move This World, Brass Ring Company, Da Vinci's Apprentice, Sharp Insight, LLC, Montgomery Knolls Elementary, Pine Crest Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary, and Takoma Park Elementary.

Montgomery County Collaboration Council receives funding for ACE Academy through the Maryland State Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, as well as additional support from the City of Takoma Park. The program for elementary students in grades 1 through 5 is in its third year of operation at Park Montgomery in Silver Spring and Essex House in Takoma Park. For more information, please contact Kathy Stroup, Project Director Kathy.stroup@collaborationcouncil.org

WELCOME NEW COLLABORATION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Ellen Icaza. Mary Ellen Icaza has over 15 years of experience working in urban public libraries. Presently, she is the Public Services Administrator for Community Engagement, Programming and Learning for Montgomery County Public Libraries in MD, a system of 21 branches, where she oversees all programming, community outreach, and special events. She leads Early Literacy programs and services, the Workforce/Business Development program, the Summer Read and Learn program, and outreach services. She works with nonprofit organizations and local government agencies to develop partnerships and administers branch operations at 7 locations. Previously, Ms. Icaza was the Virtual Services Program Manager, responsible for all web and social media communications and new technologies for the library system. Additionally, she has worked in web communications and project management in education and government. Ms. Icaza received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The Catholic University of America. She was named a 2004 Library Journal Mover & Shaker and was selected as a participant in the 2015 American Library Association Leadership Institute.

The following appointments represent the community sector and will serve a three-year term with the option to reapply for a second three year term in 2020.

Monya Bunch-Battle. Monya is an attorney and professor who teaches at the Howard University School of Law, as well as at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her legal background includes more than 10 years of private law firm practice as a litigator, in addition to serving as in-house counsel to a brokerage and investment services firm. Monya was recognized by Washington, D.C. *Super Lawyers Magazine* as a “Rising Star” in 2014 and 2015 in the area of ERISA/employee benefits. Prior to her legal career, Monya dedicated her career to community organizing and development as Director of Community & Government Coalitions at Agenda for Children Tomorrow (A.C.T.). At A.C.T., she supported a neighborhood-based planning coalition by linking community projects related to child welfare, family planning and youth services. She also served as Director of the Foster Parent & Adoption Program at the Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council. Monya received her B.S. in marketing from Hampton University, her M.P.A. from the University of Hartford and her law degree from the Howard University School of Law.

Carolyn D. Lowery, MSW. Carolyn has worked as a Network Builder at IMPACT Silver Spring since early 2016. Her professional experiences have centered on addressing and correcting equity disparities and have included addressing the co-occurrence of mental health and substance abuse disorders, developing and teaching in an English-learning program in rural Colombia, South America; and community organizing and building in various settings. She has always been interested in the intersections of policy, research, and community and continues to investigate how they inform each other. Most recently, she has focused on addressing racial equity at the individual, neighborhood and, systems and structural levels. Carolyn received her B.A. in psychology from Syracuse University and her M.S.W. with a focus on management and community organizing from The University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Alejandro Roberts. Alejandro is currently a residential counselor III with the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County. He is a long term community member with deep rooted connections and a belief that an organization that provides value to the community will be supported by the community. He is passionate about youth and youth work and is the parent of a special needs child. He has experience in public relations and fundraising, and working with people from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. He is engaged at the community level with many of the audiences the Collaboration Council serves. Mr. Roberts is a diverse professional with extensive knowledge in counseling and educational service delivery in both the for-profit and non-profit settings. He received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Paine College, Augusta, GA and has taken graduate courses at George Washington University with a focus on special education for adolescents with emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Gislene Tasayco. Gislene immigrated to the United States from Lima, Peru at the age of 3. Almost 18 years later, she could not be more grateful for the decision her parents made in choosing Montgomery County as their home. Growing up in Montgomery County as a low-income, undocumented Latina, Gislene understands the importance of social services. She has worked with youth since the age of 13 in a number of capacities. When she is not working with youth and families, Gislene uses her Data Science certification to disaggregate education data for the purposes of research and policy work. Gislene is a Ronald McDonald Scholar, Comcast Scholar, Dream.US Scholar, and a graduate of the 2013 class of Youth Leadership Montgomery.