

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Central Council Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Present: Kelly McManus, Elisabeth White, Asma Ahmed, Lauren Touchant, Henri Boyi, Anne Langille, Salah Badawi, Debbie Turnbull, Vicki Esses, Dev Sainani, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Naeem Qureshi, and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: German Gutierrez, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, George Perez, Trevor Hinds, Munira Ahmed, Huda Hussein.

Guests: Lynne Livingstone, Cheryl Smith.

Welcome and Introductions

Elisabeth thanked members for their attendance and introduced Lynne Livingstone, Director of Neighbourhood and Children Services and Child and Youth Network (CYN) Chair; and Cheryl Smith, Manager, Community Partnerships & Funding.

Elisabeth stressed that it is important for us to be aware of other initiatives that connect to the LMLIP Strategic Plan.

Child and Youth Network (CYN) - Lynne Livingstone, Chair

Lynne gave an overview of the CYN, which includes 140 community agencies, 340 individuals. All organizations around the table have been asked to make in kind contributions (financial or staff time).

The priorities of the CYN are:

1. End Poverty
2. Make Literacy a Way of Life
3. Lead the Nation in Increasing Healthy Eating and Healthy Physical Activity
4. Create a Family-Centred Service System (System Reengineering)

Some activities of the CYN include:

- The Real Issue campaign which tells the story of poverty in London and what individuals can do. It aims to change the conversation on poverty in our community.
- Working with Neighbourhood Resource Centres to thinking differently about how we provide basic services and how we can better coordinate and collaborate.
- London's System Reengineering Group is working to change the way services are currently delivered and move beyond the coordination of services to the integration of services. The focus is now on a system that is child and family centered.

Lynne asked the Council to think about the following:

- How CYN can be more inclusive in our work?
- Whether there are shared priorities.
- How can we avoid duplicating and partner?

Lynne extended an invitation to the Council to join future CYN discussions. More information about CYN can be found at: www.london.ca/cyn

London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy (SNS) - Cheryl Smith

SNS worked with residents in neighbourhoods to develop strategies and to understand what makes a strong neighbourhood. SNS is not about making the most disadvantaged better. SNS will impact every neighbourhood and contribute to the quality of life for everyone. The Strategy was developed by asking the following:

- What is the definition of a strong neighbourhood?
- What makes up a strong neighbourhood?
- Where do the neighbourhoods stand?
- How do we move forward city wide?

Cheryl also mentioned that Janice Walters from SNS sits on the Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council. Cheryl will touch base with Mohamed to discuss connection between SNS and Settlement strategies.

Cheryl extended an invitation to the Semi-annual December 9 SNS meeting. Details will be sent by email.

More information on SNS can be found at: www.london.ca/neighbourhoods

Co-chair Remarks

Kelly thanked Cheryl and Lynne for their presentations. Kelly encouraged the Council to think about the commonalities in the LMLIP Strategic Plan and those of the CYN and SNS. One thing which LMLIP has in common with CYN and SNS is that we are not tackling easy questions. Because we are working in the same direction, it is important to clearly lay out the synergies.

Updates:

- Kelly and Elisabeth presented to London Police Services Board. Superintendent John Pare will be joining work of LMLIP.
- Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) Evaluation took place on October 21 and 22. London was the only LIP selected for evaluation. Council immigrant representatives participated in the evaluation focus group.
- Elisabeth and Vicki will be in Ottawa this week for the second Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) and LIP gathering.
- Elisabeth will join the immigration work group for the Association of Municipalities in Ontario.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes for September 28, 2010 were approved.

Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) Research update

Vicki provided the Council with an update on WCI and key projects underway.

- At the WCI-LIP meetings in Ottawa there will be a series of workshops which include, sharing best practices and how to move from a strategic plan to implementation.

- WCI is interviewing opinion leaders to explore the attitude in the community regarding immigrants.
- A study is currently looking at ethnic and visible minorities running at the municipal level. A follow up with the candidates is underway.
- Looking at data on all university applications and the decision patterns of immigrants.
- Small study at Western and CultureWorks is looking at why international students are coming and their expectations.
- WCI is doing some work for Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) focusing on how to measure outcomes.
- Huda will be speaking at the Migration & Ethnic Relations Colloquium on November 4. She will be sharing information about the LMLIP as well as potential research topics and projects for students to look into.
- WCI has finished evaluating CIC's settlement information.
- WCI and CCLC have put in a joint proposal to hire journalists to be imbedded in community organizations to write stories for the media. The aim is to develop a system where we will be tracking information in the media and being proactive.

Sub-council Chair Updates

Health & Wellbeing, Debbie Turnbull, Chair

The group met once in October. There are now five working groups addressing different goal areas. They include:

1. Mental Health and Addiction (Increase Immigrant awareness and knowledge about addiction and mental health)
2. Develop and implement Cultural Sensitivity training to service providers
3. Developing screening and assessment tools to assist early identification of learning disabilities in immigrant children and also for identifying mental health and addiction issues to be used by mental and physical health care providers.
4. Provide supports for families in a holistic manner- Increase Immigrant awareness of available resources
5. Create free accessible designated community centres and areas within neighbourhood where people of all ages can meet and spend quality time

Each group will designate a lead and flow minutes to Huda. The working groups will report back at the Sub-council meeting.

Inclusion & Civic Engagement, Nina Hamou on behalf of German Gutierrez, Chair

The Sub-council expanded on the identified strategy related to neighbourhoods. The group is looking at best practices to engaging immigrants and connecting with the Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy.

Priorities of Sub-councils

Huda is away, so an update on the chart with the information from Health & Wellbeing and Inclusion & Civic Engagement will be done and sent out by email to members.

Jean-Pierre reported that he met with Anne and they have established a way for Education and Employment to connect.

All Sub-councils will be meeting in November.

Items from last meeting:

a. Media Protocol

The Media Protocol was circulated by email for further review. Jean-Pierre provided some input and recommended edits which will be circulated by email. Overall the Sub-council felt the Media Protocol was very comprehensive and well written. Thank you to Dev for his leadership in developing.

b. Ethno-cultural Media Strategy

Project Team met with German and George as our media experts. German and George provided information on the most established ethno-cultural media outlets available in the region and how to approach them. They also highlighted the importance of bringing people as connectors to their own communities as part of these meetings.

ACTION: Project staff will create a media list and begin to engage ethno-cultural media.

c. Multimedia Communication Plan

Kelly touched briefly on the Multimedia Communication Plan (referred to in our last meeting as the *Communication Plan*). Huda is currently working on finalizing the Plan which will be shared in advance of our next meeting. Kelly announced that we have money in our budget to hire a communication consultant.

Salah shared the idea of having a radio station to communicate ideas and messages in various languages as part of the multimedia plan. It was mentioned that North Bay region has launched a similar initiative.

ACTION: An advisory working group will be established to advise the communication consultant will be established from the Central Council's members who expressed their interest in working on the Multimedia Communication Plan.

ACTION: Salah to research what that radio station would look like and report back to Council.

Wrap up and next meeting

The question of sharing the Central Council's minutes in advance of Sub-councils' meeting with sub-councils' members was raised. Given the timing of the Central Council's meetings and that minutes need to be approved first by the Central Council, this will have to be done case by case. If requested by the Chairs the minutes will be approved by email.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 30. The time will be confirmed since the 5-7 time slot no longer works for some members.

ACTION: Project staff will send out a few options for meeting times.

The group also expressed that they preferred to confirm one meeting space.

Please send regrets to nhamou@uwlondon.ca.