

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

Central Council Meeting

November 30, 2010

Present: Elisabeth White, Kelly McManus, Vicki Esses, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Lauren Touchant, Jo-Ann Hutchinson, German Gutierrez, Salah Badawi, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Anne Langille, Henri Boyi, Huda Hussein and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Debbie Turnbull, Asma Ahmadi, Dev Sainani, Trevor Hinds, Naeem Qureshi.

Guest: Juan Carrera, Community Planning Specialist, Beginnings & Transitions, United Way of London & Middlesex

Welcome and Introductions

Kelly introduced Juan Carrera has joined United Way with a focus on their impact area, Beginnings and Transitions.

Co-Chair Remarks

Elisabeth shared that we will likely be offered the opportunity to extend the work of the LMLIP to March 2012; however, negotiations with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) have not yet begun.

On November 22, the Co-Chairs and project staff met with the following senior system partners in our community:

- Tim Deslippe, London District Catholic School Board
- Laura Elliot, Thames Valley District School Board
- Suzanna Hubbard Krimmer, London Public Library
- Philip Hunt, London Economic Development Corporation
- Dr. Graham Pollett, Middlesex London Health Unit

Regrets were received from London Police Services and the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

The purpose of the meeting was to learn how each organization is addressing immigration and immigrant issues.

Kelly noted that it was interesting to learn how organizations are supporting immigrants in our community. Servicing immigrants is part of their core service delivery model and not an add-on.

A similar meeting with funders will be held in the new year now that we know the needs of the Sub-councils.

Elisabeth, Lauren, Salah, and Huda presented to the City's Social and Community Services staff on November 23, 2010. Staff appreciated hearing from the immigrant representatives and would like to engage them in future discussions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of October 26, 2010 were approved.

Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI)

Vicki reported that she, along with Elisabeth, attended the WCI/LIP Conference in Ottawa on October 28-30. Conference included workshops about implementation and communication. Presentations from the Conference and LIP Strategic Plans are posted on www.welcomingcommunities.ca. There are now 34 LIPs in Ontario and 9 applications are being negotiated.

From last Central Council meeting

a. Sub-council Priorities

Huda provided an overview on the Sub-Council Priorities. The chart was updated to include two additional priorities under the Health & Wellbeing Sub-council.

Anne and Jean-Pierre shared that volunteers from the Education and Employment Sub-councils will meet in December to discuss how to move forward collaboratively.

b. Draft Multimedia Communication Plan

Huda presented the Draft Multimedia Communication Plan. The Plan is one of the overarching themes that emerged from the six Sub-councils' recommendations. It aims to create awareness about cultures among the host and the immigrant communities and highlight the impact of immigration in London and Middlesex. This Plan is about engaging stakeholders, residents, government and service providers that provide services for immigrants in the six areas of focus of the LMLIP and volunteer organizations in the conversation.

The following members volunteered to serve on the Advisory Group to work with the Project Coordinator and the Social Marketer on developing the Multimedia Plan:

- German Gutierrez
- Jean-Pierre Cantin
- Lauren Touchant
- Salah Badawi
- George Perez (confirmed his participation via email)
- Dev Sainani

Kelly recommended that Juan Carerra join the Advisory Group. Elisabeth indicated that Jill Tansley will be asked to join the discussion.

Huda advised that there may be opportunities for a phase two LIP-wide Plan.

ACTION: The Advisory Group will meet to review the Project Parameters that Huda will prepare.

Comments on the Multimedia Plan

The group suggested the following:

- internet tools be included in the delivery method
- objectives to include awareness of cultures for immigrants as well
- provide some guidelines on the project parameters and define ownership of the project

- Journalism students from The University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe may like to take some of this on as an internship
- consider the role of international students and how to reach out to them
- The website: www.media-awareness.ca may be reviewed
- Salah is researching the feasibility of a radio show or station. He hopes to share it when the Advisory Group meets.

Vicki indicated that WCI is working with Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC) on a funding application to have journalists working in settlement agencies. This may be a good fit with the Multi-media Plan if it is approved.

Kelly clarified that the Sub-councils will be accountable in terms of generation of content. The role of the Social Marketer will be to take our content and make it real.

c. Shared Priorities- LMLIP/ Child & Youth Network (CYN)/ Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy(SNS)

At our meeting on October 26, Lynne Livingstone, Chair of CYN and Cheryl Smith, SNS, encouraged us to look into all the plans, see where we connect and how we can move forward together. Huda provided the group with a draft document outlining the common themes among the three initiatives. The intent of this document is to begin to identify areas of collaboration and partnership.

While the LMLIP is focused on the immigrant population, the Child and Youth Agenda and the London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy Resident Task Force are focused on all residents in London.

This is an overview of the shared themes which emerged from each of the three plans:

- Neighbourhood based activities
- Employment and Training
- Housing
- Targeted Programs
- Literacy & English as a Second Language Supports
- Healthy Living
- Childcare Supports
- Voluntarism and Political Engagement
- Access to information
- Collaboration

ACTION: Project team will schedule a meeting with Lynne, Cheryl and Sub-council Chairs after the Holidays.

Other Comments

Going back to the Multi-media Plan, Henri encouraged everyone to keep employers in mind. We should pay attention to diversity and sensitivity training.

Jean-Pierre echoed Henri's concern. Jean-Pierre shared that the Western Region Training Board also highlighted sensitivity training as a priority.

Anne shared that CCLC and WIL are engaged in a joint initiative to match professionals with immigrants. A successful milestone has been achieved with 100 mentor matches made.

ACTION: An invitation will be made to London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council to present to the Central Council.

Vicki brought up a concern that we do not want to take on more than we can handle at the Sub-council level.

ACTION: Sub-council Chairs will report back on what has been accomplished so far at the next Central Council meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, January 31, 5:00-7:00 pm

Regrets to: nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca

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