

# London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

## Central Council

### Wednesday, May 5, 2010

**Present:** Dev Sainani, Debbie Turnbull, Naeem Qureshi, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Salah Badawi, Lauren Touchant, Henri Boyi, Vicki Esses, Asma Ahmed, German Gutierrez, Trevor Hinds, Elisabeth White, Kelly McManus, Huda Hussein and Nina Hamou.

**Regrets:** Munira Ahmed, Anne Langille and Jo-Ann Hutchinson.

#### SUMMARY

##### **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly welcomed and thanked members of the Central Council for their commitment. This meeting is the last meeting before the May 26, Community Strategy meeting.

##### **Minutes**

Minutes of the April 27 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Central Council.

##### **Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI)**

Vicki reported that Elisabeth White has agreed to be on the WCI Executive Committee as one of three community representatives.

Eighty people attended the WCI Action Research on LIPs event on April 30-May 1. There was representation from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and other levels of government. Discussions surrounded the different strategies for developing a strategic plan, ways to link the LIPs, sharing strategic plans, collaborating, moving forward and obtaining data. It brought the various LIPs together, advocating together for change that we want to see and sharing ideas and best practices. Overall the event was very successful.

The department of Clinical Psychology is holding their annual spring retreat to talk about mental health services. One of the goals is to begin the process of forging a community-university partnership focused on the provision of accessible and effective mental health service to London's immigrant populations.

##### **Strategic Plan Discussion**

Huda highlighted that three updated templates were submitted from Inclusion & Civic Engagement, Justice & Protection Services and Settlement.

The group was asked to note the following changes to the priorities summary chart:

- Inclusion & Civic Engagement have added action verbs to their priorities
- Justice and Protection Services have included examples of what is meant by justice and protection services.

## Review of Priority Setting Template of all Sub-councils

It was suggested that we add the sub-themes under each priority wherever applicable.

**Action: Staff will update the template to reflect the suggestion**

This summary is a high-level snap-shot of the priorities, like what you might see in an executive summary. There is a shared agreement that wording and language will be changed to be consistent.

### Outcomes /Vision (Diagram)

Staff and Co-chairs met last Friday to put together the following documents based on the discussion of the last meeting of the Central Council.

1. Outcomes Template reflecting the following outcomes:
  - LMLIP Council Terms of Reference
  - Staff and Co-Chairs analysis of Central Council discussion
  - CIC Modernized Approach Outcomes

CIC sets the national agenda for immigration. As a community in our planning, we need to be aware of the national agenda and how our plan will fit into the broader piece.

2. Overarching themes identified by this council from the last meeting:  
Overarching themes were linked with outcome statements. These general themes included specific examples of what, how, where and who. It illustrates the big picture for strategic plan.

**ACTION: Examples should be general and should avoid specifics unless it is an advocacy piece.**

Brief overview of what the strategic plan may look like:

- Purpose
- Background (including principles)
- Vision
- Big Picture
  - Supports and services for immigrants
  - Supports for service providers
  - Communication and access to information
  - Host community
  - Systemic Barriers (Advocacy)
- Sub-themes
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Health & wellbeing
  - Inclusion & civic engagement
  - Justice & protection services
  - Settlement

Comments about the diagram:

- The word community should be reflected in the diagram
- Arrows should link the Sub-councils together to show the connectedness among them, for example the connection between Education and Employment and Inclusion & Civic Engagement and Health & Wellbeing may be reflected by the arrows.

- The LMLIP Council Model was shared with the group which shows that Sub-councils are interconnected.

**Action: Project team will review diagram.**

## **Overarching Themes & Outcomes Draft Document**

### **a. Supports and Services:**

#### Types of services/supports

- In the outcome statement, the use of the phrase “our community” may be interpreted negatively. The Council endorsed this statement, *“Immigrants have increased access to supports and services to ensure that they can successfully participate in the community.”*
- Advocate for a broadened scope of immigrant supports (specific program names are removed)
- Neighbourhood life course is unclear. Needs to be reworded
- Outreach workers needed for counseling, not specific to addiction supports
- Supports to navigate the system should be included

#### How are they delivered?

- Coordinated case management system. This statement was endorsed to include “client-centered”
- Neighbourhood and community based activities. The word “activities” was substituted with “supports and services”
- “Involvement of the immigrant in developing strategies and implementing programs” was included

#### How are they coordinated?

- Build/foster “community” and inter-immigrant networks. The word “community” was added
- Statement regarding shared space and recreation needs to be clarified

### **b. Communication and Access to Information**

Outcome statement was changed to *“Immigrants have increased access to information about available services, cultural expectations and on how to successfully use the system in the community.”*

#### How/where

- London and Middlesex Immigration Portal as the central tool for communication “where possible”. “Where possible” was included
- “Media literacy” was changed to say “Media strategy” to counter negative depiction of immigrants”
- “Community locations” such as tourist centres, bus stops, schools. “Community locations” was added
- Provide culturally sensitive information in various languages and promote language simplification for information on community services and supports
- Develop common “issue specific” information package(s). “Issue specific” was added and package was pluralized
- Advertise service and supports through media was moved from “what” to “how”

### What

- “Awareness about other cultures” replaced “cultural content”

### **c. Host Community**

The outcome statement was changed to say “*London and Middlesex residents, are exposed, educated and engaged in positive interaction with diverse traditions, behaviours and experiences of all the cultures that make up the community and understand the benefits of diversity and are more accepting.*” Specific stakeholders were moved from outcome statement.

### Who/Stakeholders

- The following stake holders were added: media, business, community residents, government, service providers and volunteer organizations

### What

- “Systemic discrimination” was added

### How

- Diversity training was added

### **d. Supports for Service Providers**

- The outcome statement was changed to *Service providers and volunteers have increased access to sustainable funding, information, diversity training and resources to ensure timely, effective and responsive services for immigrants.*

### Collaboration

- Collaboration across sectors and with cultural groups should be added. (or is it host community)

### Tools (add resources)

- Information and training for frontline workers

### Stakeholder Groups

- Remove specific stakeholders

### **e. Advocacy/ Systemic Change**

- It was discussed whether the word advocacy was the best one to use because of the negative connotations it might have. It was agreed to keep it as it is one of the principles in our Terms of Reference and it was also indicated that CIC uses the word. May wish to use an endnote to explain what is meant by advocacy.

### Government Eligibility Credentials

- “Universal access to employment” was changed to “equal access to employment”
- Advocate to “extend and expand” existing CIC eligibility criteria to include refugees and new Canadian citizens
- “Advocate for fast and affordable process of” recognizing foreign credentials”
- “Advocate for increased funding for educational support and language development services to assist immigrant students with special needs.”

### Barriers to Services

- It was suggested that these barriers are both barriers to accessing services and to inclusion
- Language, costs and awareness of available services were added

### **Co-Chair Remarks**

Elisabeth reported that 28 LIPs out of 31 LIPs were present at the WCI Action Research on LIPs meeting. Mary Barr, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for CIC made several key announcements:

- There will be seamless transition into the implementation of the strategic plan. Funding will continue to support meetings, planning and implementation.
- LIP councils are not decision making bodies about spending CIC funds.
- CIC and AMO are working to develop tools and resources for the LIPs. Both the Provincial and Federal governments are committed to working with municipalities.
- LIPs are a mechanism, not a service.

CIC must approve the final strategic plan before phase two can begin.

Elisabeth also informed Council that recommendations from the Sub-councils and the WCI Characteristics of a Welcoming Community report, are being reviewed at the City of London, as part of a review of housing in the City.

### **Next steps:**

It is important that the Central Council attend the Community Strategy Meeting to be recognized for all their hard work. Chairs may be asked to present their groups' work to the community. Debbie and Henri have sent in their regrets. Co-chairs are encouraged to present in the absence of the Chairs.

Sub-council Chairs will be asked to forward the final notes for their area to their participants for reference in advance of May 26.

**ACTION: Staff will share updated materials and ask for input via email.**

**ACTION: Chairs of Sub-councils to meet at 11:00 a.m. prior to meeting on May 26 to touch base. Staff will arrange via e-mail.**

Next meeting:

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

1:00 pm. - 4:30 p.m.

London Convention Centre

RSVP to [nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca](mailto:nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca)

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