

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

Central Council

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

SUMMARY

Present: Elisabeth White, Kelly McManus, Munira Ahmed, Asma Ahmed, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Salah Badawi, Henri Boyi, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Vicki Esses, Trevor Hinds, Anne Langille, George Perez, Naeem Qureshi, Dev Sainani, Lauren Touchant, Debbie Tunrball, Huda Hussein and Nina Hamou.

Introduction

Elisabeth White, City of London and co-Chair of the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) welcomed and thanked all the members of the Central Council for coming. She asked each member of the Central Council to introduce themselves. The role of the LMLIP Council is a Strategic Planning Role. It was highlighted that this project connects with various other community Initiatives, such as the Child and Youth Network and the London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council.

Review Terms of Reference: Roles & Responsibilities of Central Council

Kelly McManus, United Way of London & Middlesex and co-Chair of the LMLIP provided a summary of the Terms of Reference. The role of the Advisory Committee in guiding the project and the role of the community in endorsing the Terms of Reference on November 18, 2009 were highlighted. The roles of the City of London and United Way as co-chairs were also discussed. The City holds the LMLIP Contract and the United Way represents the broader community sector.

Key timelines include:

- April 23, all sub-council strategies will be completed and submitted to the Central Council
- May 26, the strategies will be presented to the community for input
- June 30, the draft LMLIP Strategic Plan will be delivered to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

Role of Project Staff

Huda Hussein, Project Coordinator and Nina Hamou, Project Assistant, will be the lead support behind the project and are sharing support for the six sub-councils. They will provide all the information necessary to move forward and will attempt to distribute the meeting minutes quickly. Moreover they will be the point of contact for any questions or to have something distributed for the group.

Follow up from Community Action Planning Day

There were 143 individuals present on February 2, 2010. The group felt that there was a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm in the room. Feedback received included that immigrants were eager to share their experiences and it seemed that service providers were eager to listen. It was commented that several groups have tried to bring people together but this time with the support of the City and United Way of London & Middlesex and funding from CIC, there is new opportunity. It was interesting to see how many people were there representing themselves as immigrants and interested community members.

Sub-Council Chair Reports

Justice & Protection Services Sub-council, *Trevor Hinds, Chair*

The Justice & Protection Services (JPS) Sub-council decided to focus on three preliminary areas:

1. Issues of trust
 - Criminal Justice System
 - Protection Services

2. Lack of education/ cultural knowledge
 - Service Providers
 - Newcomers
 - General Community

3. Lack of community collaboration and inclusion of alternative solutions
 - Between service providers
 - Across systems- government and non- government
 - across cultural groups

The group will continue to flush out goals and activities that will come as a result. The JPS sub-council will bring in consultants for specific issues in order to get individual expertise in shorter time frame. The group already has one confirmed consultant for the next meeting.

Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council, *German Gutierrez, Chair*

The Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council created a definition of Civic Engagement & Inclusion first because they felt that their area of focus was too broad. The Sub-council has decided to focus on the following areas:

1. Defining the target population
2. Engaging the host community
3. Rooting Newcomers: identifying or creating a diagnostics tool illustrating different paths to inclusion.
4. Creating an asset based bridging tool to empower the host community and the immigrant.

Employment Sub-council, *Anne Langille, Chair*

Two issues moving forward:

1. Need to identify overarching issues which are broader and more generic
2. Blue Sky Issues: The group identified many noble thoughts but not to be disregarded. However, decided to focus on things we can influence locally.

Three priorities have been identified so far:

1. Communication/integration piece
 - Common assessment, intake tool shared by all employment services.
 - Standardized intake process
2. Employer connections
 - Lots of information that came through from February 2, Community Action Planning Day and the Community Capacity and Needs Report, which will be addressed under this priority.
3. Systemic barriers such as eligibility.

It is important to focus on realistic and tangible activities but it is important to name all those issues which we do not have local control over.

Health & Wellbeing Sub-council, *Debbie Turnbull, Chair*

The Health & Wellbeing sub-council decided to focus primarily on: mental health, trauma, recreation, and nutrition.

The group collectively decided and committed to collecting more research and information in order to be sure that they are making informed decisions.

Although the Council does not have the capacity to do more research at this point, there are many existing studies that have been done and there are Students in the Ethnic Migration program who may be interested in doing research.

Settlement Sub-council, *Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Chair*

The group required some focus on the first meeting. They still needed clarification and individuals still had gaps to add. At the second meeting tasks were assigned and the group came across some areas which were overlapping. The group identified an issue with outdated statistics from Stats Canada (2006) and the desire to identify what community looks like now.

Education Sub-council, *Jean-Pierre Cantin, Chair*

The Education Sub-council has not yet ranked the priorities. There is much complexity, richness and diversity in the discussion. There are about 15 agencies, 4 immigrants and one member of an ethno-cultural association. The group decided to split into smaller groups to review the gaps. When they came back individuals had identified more gaps.

Currently the group discussed the following gaps:

1. Funding
2. Eligibility for immigrants
3. Access to certain schools and programs
4. Language training

Process

a. Meeting Times

The Central Council agreed that two hour evening meetings work best. The location will be confirmed and shared with the group.

In order for the Central Council to be ready there needs to be another meeting scheduled in the second week of April and one or two meetings at the beginning of May.

Next Steps

ACTION: When possible, Nina will send out all the sub-council meeting minutes in advance, every member will be responsible for reviewing the minutes.

ACTION: Contact list will be created and shared.

Next Meeting

March 29, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 2a

Regrets to nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca