

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

Health and Well Being Sub-council

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

SUMMARY NOTES

Present: Debbie Turnbull (Family Networks) Fatoumata Barry (Agente de communications et de projet/Réseau franco-santé du Sud de l'Ontario), Tendayi Gwaradzimba (Life Resource Centre), Sherin Hussien (Cross Cultural Learner Centre -CCLC) Zahra Jabbari (volunteer dietician), Nidaa Khalil (Canadian Mental Health Association), Jim Madden (Middlesex-London Health Unit), Janet McAllister (Centre for Addiction & Mental Health), Mercy Nleya-Ncube (Aids Committee of London), Nimmi Thind (volunteer social worker), Jayne Scarterfield (MLHU), Helen Sleaford (Merrymount Children's Centre), Corinne Walsh (Platinum Leadership), Bonnie Williams (Daya Counselling Centre), Margaret Zaczek (Family Service Thames Valley), Jennifer Williams (CCLC), Monica Abdelkader (CCLC), Dr. Beth Mitchell (LHSC), Patti Dupon (London Intercommunity Health Centre) and Huda Hussein (LMLIP)

Regrets: Linda Davies (London Community Resource Centre, Emilie Crakondji, Tasha Williams (Welcoming Communities Initiative, UWO) and Jennifer Jones (Hospice of London).

Facilitator: Debbie Turnbull

1. Debbie welcomed the committee members and thanked everyone for their interest. Roundtable introductions followed. 15 agencies were represented in addition to two volunteers from the immigrant community. It was suggested and agreed to distribute a contact of the committee members.

Action: Huda will send the contact list with the meeting minutes.

2. Huda advised that the project staff role is to provide the administrative support for the HWB sub-council.
3. Debbie requested the members to review the Terms of Reference with focus on the Roles and Responsibilities of this sub-council. A number of questions and answers were discussed including process for decision making, are we to adopt the Central Council model? This will be determined by the subcouncil. Our task is to review and confirm its Terms of Reference recommended by Central council. Where do we see

housing services? Housing is listed under settlement services. March 31st was indicated as the final day, how is that? The March date is no longer valid. Confirmation of the local strategic plan by Central council has been extended to Aug 2010. The Strategic Plan for London and Middlesex should be ready by June 30.

4. Debbie and Huda briefed the group about the Action Planning Day. Packages were handed out to two members who were unable to attend the Action Planning Day.
5. The group was asked to review the gaps both the overarching and the specific issues identified in the Community Capacity and Needs Report and the results of the priority setting exercise.

It was discussed that the information gathered through surveys may be limited with only 22% respondents. Members agreed in order to draft strategies for the Health and Well Being in London and Middlesex, more research needs to be consulted.

Action: A template will be created to capture highlights of existing research in the areas of health and well being, identifying gaps, barriers as well as recommendations/best practices. Corinne will create the template.

Information that already exists with the City of London, Middlesex-London Health Unit, London Intercommunity Health Centre, the London Health Science Centre, Local Integration Health Network will be collected. Members agreed to share research pertaining to health and well being for immigrants and refugees.

It was suggested that Parks and Recreation, City of London and a LIHN representative be invited to participate . It was confirmed that the sub-council can invite any representatives to participate on the committee and/or if we can seek to consult with representatives as needed.

Action: Jayne Scarterfield will follow up with the healthy living consultant at the City of London.

Action: Dr. Beth Mitchell will contact the LIHN health consultant in the London area. Beth mentioned that the LIHN is doing a road show and will ask them to present to the group on the information collected thus far.

It was discussed that barriers are two-fold. One is barriers in terms of the existence of specific services and the other barriers in terms of accessing services. As the committee moves forward with drafting strategies, a portrait with these two barriers in mind to be created.

The groups also discussed that we need to differentiate between gaps and barriers all citizens experience versus those that immigrant experience. For example the issue of lack of doctors and dental health pertains to many society members with limited incomes. Comments were made that immigrants can and do find their own solutions to problems and often just need the information, or tools to problem solve. Another point discussed pertained to nutrition and the importance of having this discussion with immigrants as they change food habits.

In response to another comment, there was a caution to be careful not take our own experiences with immigrants and assume it applies to all immigrants.

In terms of the working template provided for gaps and barriers and suggestions that were provided by the LMLIP staff, it was suggested that the information from the report be entered, to help members in their work.

Action: Huda will transfer the identified gaps and suggestions into the template and send to the group by February 26.

6. In terms of French interpretation, there were no members who identified a need for interpretation. Fatoumata offered to interpret for any additional members who do not speak English. Fatoumata is the only Francophone on this sub-council and she is fluent in English.
7. Selection of Chair: two nominees withdrew their names (Dr. Beth Mitchell and Fatoumata Barry). Three remained who were interested in chairing and/or co-chairing the sub-council. The nominees were requested to leave the room. Members unanimously agreed that there needs to be a chair and two co-chairs as the work of the chair can be overwhelming. It was also clearly stated that the Chair will represent the HWB sub-council at the Central Council. The group decided to appoint Debbie Turnbull for the Chair position and both Janet McAllister and Corinne Walsh to the co-chairs position.
8. **Meeting Dates:** The sub-council confirmed the following meeting dates:
Tuesday March 2, Wednesday March 24, Thursday April 8 and the last meeting Thursday April 22, 2010
Meeting times: 1–3 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 2 (1–3) Location Kinsmen Recreation Centre