

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Health and Wellbeing Sub-Council

Wednesday October 12, 2010

10:00 am-12:00 p.m.

Location: Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 3 b

Present: Debbie Turnbull, Nimmi Thind, Jennifer Williamson, Tasha Williamson, Monica Abdelkader, Gisele Hauser, Melanie Elms, Jayne Scarterfield, Linda Davis, Nida Khalil, Catherine Joyes, Shiren Hussien, Janet McAllister, Carol Carnegie and Huda Hussein.

Regrets: Beth Mitchell, Helen Sleaford, Sandra Savage

Welcome & Introductions

Debbie welcomed the group and introductions commenced. She also requested the group to consider the actions that this Sub-council would like to focus on in the implementation phase.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 16 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

The work of the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Council for this year

Chair indicated that going back to this Sub-council's recommendations that was submitted to the Central Council, and looking at the September 16 recommendations, it seems that the priorities are connected.

The following priorities were discussed:

- Mental health and addiction (Increase Immigrant awareness and knowledge about addiction and mental health/ Increase immigrant access to mental health and addiction services)
- Develop and Implement cultural sensitivity training to service providers (develop culturally sensitive screening and assessment tools to assist early identification of learning difficulties issues in children and also for identifying mental health and addiction issues/ Introduce cultural training for health service providers using the train the trainer approach)

Discussion: questions were asked around cultural sensitivity training, who needs it, is it specific to service providers working with mental health issues. It was noted that the issue of cultural sensitivity has come up in other sub-councils, such as the Justice and Protection Services. Such training is needed to all front line workers: health, justice system, social services etc. It was suggested that we may connect with other Sub-councils who have identified the need in their area and work together. In terms of screening tools we need to research what already exists. We may need to check with

the Thames Valley School Board on the tools they use to identify learning disabilities in immigrant children. In terms of consulting with the immigrant, it was noted that available resources on the OCASI website may be useful. It was also noted that reaching out to groups where they worship, learn and reside should occur.

1. Mental Health and Addiction (Increase Immigrant awareness and knowledge about addiction and mental health)

Strategies:

- Look to see what's out there (programs)
- Review existing research/ tools for preliminary screening for mental health concerns, or addiction issues
- Funding: may wish to seek funding for focus groups with immigrants meetings etc., to understand mental health from the immigrant's perspective
- Strategies to deal with stigma: research existing mental health campaigns
- Develop communication strategy to reach out to the immigrants. This may be part of a local or national campaign
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Volunteers

Monica Abdelkader

Debbie Turnbull

Sherin Hussien

Tasha Williamson

Nida Khalil

*Catherine Joyes offered to share information

2. Develop and implement Cultural Sensitivity training to service providers

Strategies:

- Identify agencies that have been trained and review their training modules
- Training models (train the trainer model / sustainability)
- Identify target groups/agencies for training - doctors, social workers, courts, etc
- Develop core training that can be adapted by each organization as per the need and disciplines
- Communication strategy - need to be two way regarding cultural sensitivity: immigrant and service provider (Overarching)

Volunteers

Monica Abdelkader

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.

Recommended Strategies:

- Review available validated assessment tools for identifying learning disabilities in immigrant children
- Advocate for the use of these tools in schools etc.

Volunteers

Jennifer Williamson
Tasha Williamson

4. Provide supports for families in a holistic manner- Increase Immigrant awareness of available resources

Recommended Strategies:

- Case management model – create an independent system navigation support through settlement services
- Connect with the reengineering of hubs (Child and Youth Network, City of London)
- Determine resources (inclusion Sub-council/hubs/mind your mind project and coordinate with these
- System planning (client centred)

Volunteers

Jayne Scarterfield
Nimmi Thind
Debbie Turnbull
Sherin Hussien

5. Create free accessible designated community centres and areas within neighbourhood where people of all ages can meet and spent quality time

Recommended Strategies:

- Have representative on hub committee/system reengineering: Carol/Debbie to follow up
- Look at natural place of meeting: develop a list of places to consider placing postings, flyers etc.
- Culturally specific agencies
- Update group on criteria for facility usage by Carol Carnegie
- Brochures (inclusion is doing it (each Sub-council will work on issue specific brochure), translated brochures – quality control translation content)

Volunteers

Nimmi Thind
Linda Davies
Carol Carnegie

* Monica (offered to provide information)

It was noted that the group may benefit from reviewing existing reports such as the Every Door is the Right Door and the Select Committee of Mental Health and Addiction report that

was released in August with 23 recommendations around system navigation,, case management model for mental health issues.

In conclusion we reviewed the areas of priority for year one and listed the sub council members who have volunteered to further explore / implement these listed strategies. Debbie advised we will send the minutes to those members unable to participate in today's meeting and ask that they confirm within a few days as to what subcommittee they are interested in joining. Each committee member will then receive a list of each subcommittee names and contact information. Each committee will then identify a lead who will assume responsibility to coordinate and facilitate the respective meetings. It will be up to each subcommittee to determine the frequency and local of each meeting

The sub committees will be asked to provide meeting minutes to Huda and to report on their progress at each subsequent Sub-council meeting.

Debbie thanked the group and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Sub-council meeting dates:

Wednesday November 10, 2010 (1-3)

Wednesday January 12, 2011 (10-12)

Wednesday March 9, 2011(10-12)

All meetings will be held at Kinsmen Recreation Centre.

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