

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council

Monday, March 1, 2010

Present: German Gutierrez, Janette Butler, Michael Goodmurphy, Saleh Alathamena, Suzanne Huot, Lourdes Assis, David Cottrill, Rose Aquino, Dharshi Lacey, Oscar Enriquez, Robin Armistead, Monica Abdelkader, Nina Hamou;

Regrets: Nadia ElSherbini, Valy Marochko, Estela Quintero-Weldon.

Welcome & Introductions

Individuals were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

Contact Lists

There was consensus that a contact list will be developed and circulated. Anyone who does not wish to have their name on the list is to contact Nina directly.

Other communication tools suggested included, Google Docs and Box Net.

Clarification of Terminology

The group reviewed the draft definition. They felt that it captured many of the same ideas found in other definitions. Suggested additions include:

- Recognizing that we are one even though we are not the same.
- Idea of belonging, sameness and bridging uniqueness.

ACTION: Nina to send revised definition to group for approval

Review of Research Collected by Members

The group discussed various research pieces they had reviewed prior to the meeting. Key points touched on:

- Francophone Migration Forum: Services designed for a system that are supposed work a certain way. Sometimes the system is broken.
- Building Relationships
- Community development process that can occur in identifying the needs in a neighborhood or community. Changed mindset in terms of how we approach it.
- Taking a step back... how are we ensuring they are going through the steps.
- One step stop. To identify and put numbers to the problems.
- Statistics:
 - Immigration is complicated, there are different types of immigrant
 - Service providers do not have access to data they need. Most people didn't land in London.
 - We are working with narrative data.
 - LMLIP would be better facilitated if they had access to information

- When can we say someone is included?
 - Production: being part of a place, creating roots, being part of economy.
 - Belonging is self defined. Can be productive but not included. When someone is able to use their abilities to contribute to the community.
- Stages of inclusion and engagement

ACTION: Nina to send compiled research by e-mail

Review and Ranking of Priorities:

Looking at the identified gaps, four priorities stand out:

1. Define the target population
 - Meeting point of all the councils is demographics
2. Design of a holistic diagnostics tool that can illustrate the specific stages of the different paths to inclusion that each individual is passing through at a given moment. (Rooting Newcomers)
 - Self identified needs
 - Paths to inclusion/newcomer needs regardless of what they are
3. Engaging the host community in the initiative of Inclusion
 - Not understanding what it means to be an immigrant or refugee. Lack of caring not education. Media, ministries, government. Identifying community champions to come on board.
 - Series of workshops, books on refugee children, campaigns
 - Finding a common occupation or activity to bridge the differences.
 - Living books exhibition
 - Find a way to recognize all the people who engage in diversity training
4. Creating asset based bridging tools to bring together the host community and the newcomer communities and empowering them so they can take the reins of their own destiny as one united whole.
 - Self defined needs and interests
 - Need to adopt a model based on discovering assets people bring to community.

Next Steps

- The group must further summarize and narrowed own priorities
- Brainstorm activities and strategies for addressing each priority

Next meeting

March 24, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 2a. 20 Granville St.

Regrets to: nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca