

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Justice & Protection Services Thursday June 24, 2010

Present: Lori Cunningham, Trevor Hinds, Neena Sharma-Kendrick, Regina Whelan, Jessica Justrabo, Doreen Hodgkinson and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Jan Richardson, Melikie Joseph, and Marcel Marcellin.

Welcome & Introductions

Trevor welcomed the group and new member, Jessica Justrabo.

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

Debrief:

Role of sub-council in relationship to the LMLIP Council

Trevor gave an overview of the letter sent to all the Sub-councils. It emphasized that each Sub-council will:

- look at area specific strategies, support progress within the area and report to the Central Council through its chair
- will lead implementation of the recommended strategies while working with current members and engaging new partners as appropriate
- will work actively to support the goals identified in the plan

It is important for each respective agency to take the strategy back to their organization and share what they are trying to do to move the agenda forward. The coordination of services is one of the key outcomes of the LMLIP Council.

Community Feedback

The group felt there was a positive response to the meeting on May 26. Hearing the Sub-councils' work was a validation that we are being honest in what the challenges are.

The following suggestions were brought up by the community at the May 26, Community Strategy Meeting:

- Safety – safe environments/personal and communities not sure where it fits – youth issue of gangs
- No specific actions outlined to address racial profiling which increases barriers

It was felt that the suggestions were captured within the strategies and there needs to be a balance between being too specific and too general.

There are also negative connotations with using the term “racial profiling” as it is usually associated with police and removes the onus on all providers. Moreover, strategies relating to issues of trust capture this concept. Nina added that this subject has been discussed at the Central Council level and those issues of racism and discrimination will be emphasized in the overall strategic plan.

It was also heard that LGBTTTQ and marginalized groups were not mentioned in the strategies. The Terms of Reference specifically states: “Our scope will be inclusive of all immigrants in London and Middlesex, regardless of their immigration status, citizenship, age, gender, health status, sexual orientation and number of years in our community.” We need to keep this in mind moving forward.

Next Steps

Trevor reminded the group that we will continue to meet 3-4 times a year and will resume meeting in the Fall.

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