

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Justice & Protection Services Sub-Council Monday, April 6, 2010

Present: Jan Richardson, Neena-Sharma Kendrick, Marcel Marcellin, Ahmed Yahya Ali, Lori Cunningham, Regina Whelan, Susan Dill, and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Doreen Hodgkinson, Melikie Joseph, and Trevor Hinds.

SUMMARY

Welcome & Introductions

Ahmed welcomed and thanked the group for their attendance. In the absence of Trevor Hinds, Nina and Ahmed will co-chair.

Meeting Minutes and Attachments

It was highlighted that the template has been updated to include Dr. Mohamed Baobaid's recommendations. Meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.

The report by the Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) was circulated via email. It included two chapters directly relating to justice and protection services. The group decided that it would refer to the recommendations made in the document to avoid duplication.

Review of Priorities

The following strategies were discussed:

- 1. Issues of trust with the Criminal Justice System and Protection Services**
 - Improve awareness of legal rights and responsibilities in Canada by ongoing outreach to newcomers through the use of culturally sound approaches.
 - Revisit and build on the processes that facilitate wide distribution of public legal education and information (WCI).
 - Provide timely and immediate post-crisis intervention that supports the individual and the family but holds perpetrators accountable while being mindful of pre-migratory experiences. Such a response serves to demystify the process and build positive relations.

- 2. Enhance education and cultural knowledge amongst Service Providers, the General Community and Across government and non-government systems**
 - Design a standardized training tool for service providers, which can be adapted to any cultural sensitivity module, that incorporates cultural understanding, pre-migratory experiences and includes a response to domestic violence
 - Review and seek existing assessment tools to include cultural appropriate aspects that identify risk factors within individuals and families who are new immigrants.
 - Update existing referral resources to ensure that it is inclusive of cultural aspects.
 - Continue to have community learning forums that are geared at government, non-government, and service providers which helps to understand applicable statutes,

legislation directives that relate to newcomers. Such a process aims to create venues for advocacy and greater a greater understanding of the system.

3. Enhance Community Collaboration and inclusion of alternative solutions between service providers and across cultural groups

- Build on existing collaborations to continue to bridge between settlement services and criminal justice system and protection service by creating a communication strategy. Continue to explore successes of Children's Aid Society model and how we can apply it to adults.
- Create an inclusive communication and planning network to ensure the identification gaps, needs, to assist with coordination, sharing of information and establish consistent approaches to assessment and planning particularly between settlement service and the CJS and PS.
- Continue to build and define case management techniques with adults with concurring complex issues.
- Continue to explore successes of the CAS model, and other models, and how we can apply them to adults.
- Need to identify and collaborate between faith based organization, cultural organizations and key people in the community by exploring mediation and reconciliation tools and practices.

4. Enhance prevention and supports for immigrants in the CJS or PS system

Nina indicated that this was a priority she had included based on Dr. Baobaid's recommendations. The group agreed that 'prevention' was needed as a subheading as it was also identified in the WCI report. From the WCI report the group would like to adopt:

1. Explore and implement programs that target and promote the perception of safety
2. Explore and implement programs that seek to reduce the incidents of hate

Next steps

This sub-council needs to consider how to include family statutes and other areas of criminal justice system.

Larger systemic issues should be captured as the Central Council may be able to advocate at the government level.

Regina Whelan sends her regrets for next week.

ACTION: Nina to review Peel discussion papers and WCI report and adopt strategies that have already been identified in order to continue to build on what exists.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 22

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

London Police Services

Regrets to nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca