

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Settlement Sub-council Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Present: Rifat Hussein, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Marel Fielding, Mersija Nuric, Brian Rhoden, Gaston Mabaya, Jill Tansley, Amani Radhaa, Ishmael St. Louis and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Mayssa El-Sayegh, Nancy Santos, Fadela Ahmed, Deborah Szelepski.

Welcome & Introductions

Mohamed thanked the Sub-council for their attendance. Ishmael St. Louis, of the London Central Church of God was welcomed as a new member.

Approval of Meeting minutes

Meeting minutes of November 10, 2010 were approved.

Chair Remarks and Updates

At the Central Council level, a Multi-media Communication Plan is currently being developed. Furthermore, the Central Council heard from the Child and Youth Network (CYN) and the Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy (SNS). Staff are currently looking at the shared priorities between LMLIP, CYN and SNS. Mohamed was part of the Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy and expressed that it will be interesting to see the crossover recommendations that come up.

Thanks to Jean-Claude's assistance, a package of settlement related information was sent by Nina to Pearson International Airport. Nina was informed that information is already being picked up at the airport. As part of continued collaboration, other entry points need to be identified.

ACTION: Jill Tansley will include Immigration Portal and City related information the next time information is sent.

The group expressed concern that although information may be there, the immigration officer may not remember to give it out. Gaston shared that there is a Francophone information booth at Pearson International Airport.

ACTION: Gaston will find out more information regarding entry points.

Updates

The Information Sub-council met to discuss the creation of a shared information package. Nina, Jill, Mersija, Amani, Mayssa and Valy were involved in the discussion. The information Sub-committee has arranged to meet with the Executive Directors of Cross Cultural Learner Centre, LUSO, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre and ACFO on November 22 to discuss this joint initiative.

Other priorities

a. Collaboration

The Sub-council discussed the role of collaboration: information Sub-committee is taking steps towards collaboration. Rifat elaborated on the Assessment centre at CCLC which is a centre for everyone but eligibility criteria still applies. There is an opportunity for collaboration here.

Jill shared that the Immigration Portal works collaboratively with community partners and there is room to expand it. Jill reported that London hosted meetings for about 20 municipalities which have an Immigration Portal. Experiences, tips and best practices were shared as well. Municipalities also heard from Provincial and Federal governments on tools to use to improve the site.

b. Volunteer Coordination

The Sub-council explored the strategy relating to volunteerism and using a volunteer coordinator to train volunteers to serve immigrants when eligibility criteria becomes restrictive. One barrier the group will need to address is funding. If this project is funded by CIC then there will be eligibility restriction so other funding may need to be explored.

ACTION: Nina to connect with other Sub-councils to see what needs surrounding outreach are.

ACTION: Nina to look into another strategy which discusses outreach.

No action was taken on the above priorities however they may be considered for year two implementation.

The group also heard from Ishmael St. Louis who was involved in Ottawa with a Police Advisory Committee. He has moved to London from Ottawa and is a Pastor at the London Central Church of God near Hamilton Road. He has been in touch with Police Services and is looking at the possibility of bringing something similar to London. He mentioned that he is looking to meet and work with other community partners.

Wrap-up and next meeting

The Sub-council agreed to meet on November 19, 2010.

ACTION: Nina to arrange meeting time via Doodle.