

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

Wednesday January 12, 2011

10:00 a.m – 12:00.

Location: Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 4

Present

Debbie Turnbull, Tasha Williamson, Beth Mitchell, Jennifer Williamson, Corrine Walsh, Sandra Savage, Carol Carnegie, Jayne Scarterfield, Monica Abdelkader, Bonnie Garba, Mahin Ghasemiyani and Huda Hussein.

Regrets: Nimmi Thind, Helen Sleaford, Nida Khalil, Linda Davis, Janet McAllister, Catherine Joyes, Gisele Hauser

Welcome & Introductions

Debbie welcomed group and the new member, Bonnie Garba, an interested citizen and Mahin Ghasemiyani, SWIS Supervisor were introduced.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of November 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

As the group prioritized for the Year One Plan, smaller working groups have been established. The lead for each group will be reporting back at each Sub-council's meeting.

Update on Central Council

Huda shared with the group that at our last meeting the common themes among the three initiatives in London, i.e., the Child and Youth Network, Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy and the LMLIP were discussed and a date to meet with the Chairs of CYN and SNS will be scheduled. Sub-councils' chairs will be invited to that meeting. Debbie advised that while there are many common areas, we will need to advocate for the case management/system navigation aspect as it is not reflected in either of the plans.

It was also noted that work on the Strategic Multimedia Communication Plan is underway and that a consultant will be retained to work on developing a multimedia plan and key messages targeting both the ethnic and the host communities. Sub-councils will be the content generators of messages.

Reports from working groups

Reports back:

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

Sandra Savage (Lead): reported that the group is working on a funding proposal through the Healthy Communities Funds with United Way's support of 15% of the proposed funds. The group changed the wording of the goal to better reflect the focus and outcome to: To increase awareness on mental health, addiction and start the dialogue on the issue to enhance understanding of mental health and addiction issues among immigrant communities and to have an effective community response to individuals with any mental

health and addiction issue. The draft proposal will be presented to the Political and War Trauma Work Group since this dovetails with the group's work. The overall focus of the proposal will be to increase immigrant awareness on mental health addiction; to start dialogue to enhance understanding of the immigrant experience. This will be done by engaging leaders from diverse communities in forums. The opening address/forum would be to retain the services of the MT Space group to present two skits in London (spring and fall). The proposal will include hiring a coordinator to deliver the outcomes of the proposal. (See attached draft logic model).

In response to a question about ways of connecting with the immigrants, it was noted that immigrants are represented in every Sub-council as well as the Central Council and all along the LMLIP has been engaging the immigrants. These immigrant representatives may assist in providing contacts to different communities.

Next meeting of the group is February 3, 2-4 at Family Service Thames Valley.

2. Develop and implement Cultural Sensitivity training to service providers.

Corrine Walsh (lead) reported that she and Mercy met and discussed the objective of this group; the question of how big is the scope; what resources are available and how we may use them. More discussion will take place in the upcoming meeting late in January.

3. Develop screening and assessment tools to assist early identification of learning disabilities in immigrant children and also tools for identifying mental health and addiction issues to be used by mental and physical health care providers.

Tasha (lead) reported that she and Helen were at the meeting and due to some miscommunication, Beth Powell was not at the meeting. They identified potential resources in the community such as Joan Dunn from All Kids Belong, who may have some tools; Tasha also connected with Dr. Kwame McKenzie, (Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto) and will further contact him for resources. Dr. Beth Mitchell is currently supervising Tasha's paper and is a resource to the group. Debbie also suggested that Dr Vicky Esses (UWO) and Dr Susan Chaung University of Guelph may also be contacts for resources.

4. Provide supports for families in a holistic manner- increase immigrant awareness on available resources.

Debbie (lead) reported that the group discussed ways of supporting immigrants in a holistic manner. Information needs to be in natural point of access. The group also identified groups who need the information such as: outreach workers, newcomers, settlement workers who need to be well informed on resources so that they can pass that information to the clients via a data base or website. It was noted that NIC is in the process of creating a community database, following an Australian model. The group also started the discussion on how we need to support agencies to seek funding for interpretation services.

It was also suggested that "Help Yourself Through Hard Times" booklet provided by the united Way be translated into the top five languages spoken in London, taking into consideration that some languages may be at the top of the list, but that community has been here for generations and no translation may be needed (i.e., Polish). Next meeting will be scheduled.

5. Physical Health

Jayne Scarterfield (lead) reported on behalf of the group. Translation and interpretation is an issue that challenge immigrants in accessing services. Information sharing is key to

accessing services. With limited available resources of interpretation, immigrants may not have equal access to services. Group also discussed the need to provide medical training to interpreters through Fanshawe College and other institutions; the recruitment of internationally trained medical professionals by the interpretations services; the need to educate health care providers and develop a health information brochure in multiple languages about resources.

Review of Year One Plan and prioritize for Year Two

The group reviewed the Year One Plan through the working groups' reports. It appears that some groups may work together in some areas, such as group one and four. It also appears that priorities two and three may be taken to the Year Two Plan.

Wrap up and next meeting

Next meeting: March 9, 2011(10-12), Kinsmen Recreation Centre, room 4.

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