

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Settlement Sub-council Thursday, April 14, 2011

Present: Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Marel Fielding, Ayan Aden, Arlene Thompson, Jill Tansley, Kathy Milczarek, Mary Lou Albanese and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Mersija Nuric, Nancy Santos, Rifat Hussain, Amani Radhaa, Jenny Lim.

Welcome & Introductions

Mohamed welcomed three new members to the Settlement Sub-council. Despite a lower turnout than usual, the group decided to resume with the meeting and to provide an opportunity for individuals to provide their feedback via email.

ACTION: The Sub-council will have the opportunity to provide input by email or phone.

Approval of January 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of January 19, 2011 were approved.

Update on Central Council

The Central Council reviewed the Achievement Report prepared by Huda. The report includes all the accomplishments of the LMLIP from September 2010 to February 2011. All the March 7, 2011 materials and Central Council minutes are posted on the Immigration Portal.

Report from Working Group

The final draft of the brochure was shared with the members. The following revisions/suggestions were made:

- The Immigration Portal links should be updated to the new links: immigration.london.ca and immigration.middlesex.ca
- ACFO de London-Sarnia should be added to the map on the back of the brochure
- A legend should be included with the map
- "Refugee Claimant" should be removed from the footnote and added to the body of the brochure
- All footnotes should be removed and included in brackets in the body of the brochure

Review of Year One plan

The group recognized the accomplishments of the Settlement Sub-council shared on March 7, Community meeting:

1. Connecting Newcomers to Services
 - Develop a common information package (brochure)
 - Information coordination by service providers by sending information to Pearson International Airport

2. Navigating Systems (ongoing)
 - Managing finances workshops
3. Family Challenges (ongoing)
 - “Understanding your Teens” workshops
4. Housing (ongoing)
 - Tenant and landlord relations

The group reviewed the Settlement section of the LMLIP Community Immigrant Strategic Plan and decided to focus on strategies that build on what exists in London & Middlesex. After much discussion, the group felt that the following areas were important to focus on:

- Intergeneration relationships
- Engaging volunteers in settlement services

ACTION: Add the above two areas to Implementation Plan

Two aspects to consider were intergenerational relationships between youth and seniors as well as intergenerational conflict between parents.

The group suggested connecting to the following key players:

- The London InterCommunity Health Centre
- SWIS Programs as a point of information and referral
- Childreach and other Early Years Centers
- Children’s Aid Society (CAS)
- Middlesex London Health Unit
- The London Public Library for information sharing and space

ACTION: Mohamed offered to share a document which outlines twelve points of best practices for implementing the intergenerational programs.

Engaging volunteers in neighbourhood based services is another area that may be worth connecting with other partner about. Nina mentioned that the Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council is also considering initiating a discussion with Pillar. Arlene shared that the Library is always looking for ways to give a constructive opportunities for volunteers.

Jill Tansley shared that Immigration Portal has a section on volunteering.

ACTION: Nina and Sub-council Chairs to discuss where commonalities exist and what we need to take to potential partners.

Arlene expressed interest in seeing the material for the financial workshops used by South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

ACTION: Mohamed to share financial workshop materials with the Library and ACFO.

Feedback from Community Meeting

Arlene shared that workshop C “Journey’s to Canada” was especially interesting and shared the stories of newcomers. The Library will be putting on a similar session for staff.

ACTION: Nina to capture the work of the Library in the Implementation Plan.

Wrap up and next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled on either May 12 or May 18 9:30-11:30 am.

ACTION: The dates will be sent to the Sub-council.

Regrets to: nhamou@uwlondon.ca

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