



County of Simcoe
Social Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2012

MEETING TIME: 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

ATTENDANCE: Boulanger, F. (College Boreal); Douglas, L. (recording secretary); D'Ambroisio, L. (Best Start); Gamache, G. (Le Cle d'la Baie); Greaves, M. (Georgian College, Chair); Green, S. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Helmerichs, R. (Georgian College), Holt, R. (LIP); Keery, H. (SCDSB); Lee, S. (LIP); McCann, M. (SMCDSB); Oliveira, I. (BICS); Rodford, E. (Barrie Learning Centres); Sloan, P. (SCDSB); Vanderwater, L. (SCDSB)

Regrets: Hobbs, S. (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network); Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire catholique); Whittington, P. (Georgian College)

SUBJECT:

1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed members, and members introduced themselves.

2. Updates

Ontario Population Projections Update 2010-2036, Ministry of Finance, was circulated to committee members. S. Lee expanded on the projections with an increase of newcomer immigrant children. 37% of population growth in Collingwood from 2001-06 was new immigrants. It was noted that the data is comprised solely by age populations.

S. Lee provided an update on the other Sub-councils and reviewed their areas of priority. If Sub-council members know of frontline staff who would be interested in being involved on any of the Employment working groups (employer education; professional development; newcomer education; immigrant employment council), please contact R. Holt. The first meeting with Settlement Services group, which was held on March 28th, provided an excellent info-sharing opportunity. The Business Development Sub-council will be launched in conjunction with CIRRO workshop training. CIRRO has an excellent benchmarking tool, "Community Attractiveness Indicators for Newcomers", which has 44 indicators to examine 7 areas of community development.

S. Lee reported that the following 4 themes have been identified for the LIP settlement strategy through research: readiness; inspire; celebrate; and opportunity. The draft Settlement Strategy will be presented to the Partnership Council on June 21, 2012. It will be presented to the sub-councils after that date. CIC deadlines for draft and final Settlement Strategy and Action Plan were noted.

3) Best Practice Discussion (continued)

Frédéric Boulanger, College Boreal

- Training for immigrants offered in Windsor, London, Mississauga and Toronto – not currently available in Barrie; however, when developed, it would be based on this model
- Assist in English language skills
- LINC (levels 1 -7) & ELT programs for students at a higher level & are job ready
- Credited programs offered in French only.
- Offer full & part-time studies, continuing and distance education
- Collaborate with government departments, i.e. a program with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for those students who qualified abroad – language training provided.
- Boreal and Georgian share Collier Street Employment Centre.
- Collaborate with Georgian College on projects and programs, i.e. apprenticeship program, although Georgian doesn't offer this in French.

Lora D'Ambrosio, Best Start Program

- Included but not limited to Early Years Centre, day care, CAPSE, children 0-6 and families
- Reach out to families, including Métis and Francophone, how to meet needs of newcomers
- Invite families to be inclusive
- all programs incorporated changes to curriculum – look at language, culture, foods
- Examine data where there are certain populations
- Focus on early learning – inclusion, cultural sensitivity, etc.
- Best Start network – planning dollars that support translation (French)
- Current focus on child and family centres (Charles Pascal) → first one in Innisfil starting
- Recommendations on how to enhance centres to assist other service providers
- Looking at Penetang community – aboriginal, francophone, anglophone
- Different dynamics in different communities
- Funding for Best Start – has no money except for a pocket of small money from committee members. Planning dollars.
- CAPSE – mother-care program – do regular site visits – overwhelmed at immigrant participation and interaction with each other
- Early Years Centres – provincial; CAPSE – federal
- Work closely with school boards
- Special needs resourcing.

Day Care

- pre and post day care in schools - public board hours 7:00 – start and 3:30 to 6:00 pm
- public board contracted out to 2 providers
- licensed and parents pay although some eligible for subsidy
- Catholic board – same but in fewer locations (7 sites)
- Immigrant family might want to know if area they settle in has full day care
- Every school will have full day kindergarten by 2014.

4) Exercise Establishing Priorities for Education Sub-Council

The following items were determined by the sub-council to be areas of priorities:

- Education map - easy to read map for immigrants – where to go – pamphlets (10)
- Educational profiles by country of origin (comparison chart of education system of other countries – learning values) (5)
- Listing of unique characteristics of Canada/Ontario school system? What is the difference in public school systems?
- Cultural competency (7)

- Identify own culture to allow for a smoother integration for newcomers into the school system → set common ground
- Language training for children for entry into secondary school (4)
- Partnerships with community partners to support secondary academics (1)
- High school students to support ESL as “volunteers” (program in Bradford)
- High school mentorship programs with elementary students, i.e. math circles
- Passport club/multi-cultural clubs in high school (3)
- Fund for credential recognition (2)
- Information sessions for immigrant parents on post-secondary expectations (i.e. housing, laundry, campus life)
- Integration of family into community (isolation/socialization)→ parental involvement in school → parental isolation can affect children’s isolation → newcomer focus groups indicate school would be a good hub.

Of these items, members then selected the following 4 areas they would be most interested in moving forward on:

- 1) Education Map
 - include language services – navigational feel – Simcoe County
 - breakdown into age groups, 0-6; 6-18; 18+
 - use OMAFRA benchmarking tool
- 2) Cultural Competency
 - equity policies – school boards - new policy at SCDSB, Georgian College
 - invite Phyllis Hewitt – specific questions – must be in line with policy
- 3) Educational Profiles by country of origin
 - Use former profiles as samples
- 4) Language training for Youth
 - Secondary school – language issues
 - challenges
 - language skills affect on graduation
5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre. The four priority areas will be revisited as well as the integration piece (isolation/socialization).

