



County of Simcoe
Social and Community Services
Children & Community Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 9/6/2012

MEETING TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: L. Douglas (LIP – recording secretary); S. Lee (LIP); S. Peddle (David Busby Street Centre); Rowbotham, S. (Ontario Early Years Centre); Saniga, B. (Catulpa Community Support Services); Skybin, Y. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Varughese, S. (Catholic Family Services); Webster, G. (Chair – OPP); Westcott, L. (Green Haven Shelter for Women); Wisken, R. (LIP); Woods, D. (Child Youth & Family Services Coalition)

SUBJECT: LIP Human Services Sub-Council Meeting

1) Greetings and Introductions around the Table

The Chair welcomed members, and members introduced themselves.

2) Guest Speaker: Robert Hickey, Executive Director, Catholic Community Services of York Region

Mr. Hickey reviewed the history of Catholic Community Services of York Region, their mandate of counseling and settlement of newcomers, community champions, client-based needs, growth anticipation, identification of community needs, funding (80% funding for settlement, 20% for counselling services), CIC funding support, SWIS program in Catholic and Public school boards, hub concept, Welcome Centre locations and partnerships, centralization of services, the need for political leadership and government support, building community capacity, the federally-funded Library Settlement Partnership program and its reduction, expansion of ISAP workers in non-serviced areas; and other funding resources.

Questions followed on the funding portion for settlement; counseling services in different languages, relocation of services, population of newcomers, identifying when change is necessary, salary differentials, inclusivity, and service demands.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hickey for his presentation and time.

3) Review of Notes from meeting on May 3, 2012 (previously circulated)

There were no comments on the notes of the meeting of May 3. Two changes were noted on page 5: section D. Woods - this should read, Child abuse *charter*, not policy; and Wood should be replaced by *Woods*.

4) Updates on LIP Sub-Councils

A chart of the LIP sub-councils was circulated. A Business Development Sub-council has been established since this Council last met. A quick review of the sub-council activities/priorities was provided: Settlement sub-council – marketing; Employment sub-council – output *Hiring Immigrants*

makes Good Business Sen\$e and its 4 working groups on establishing an IEC, employer education, newcomer education, and professional development for front line workers; Welcoming Communities, priorities – public education framework and immigrant resource directory, and the library hub model.

Questions arose on the criteria for inclusion in the Simcoe County Programs and Services list on page 5 in the *Hiring Immigrants* booklet.

5) Portal Update

S. Lee reported that the LIP application for an immigration portal was successful, and interviews for 2 related positions are being set. Links to the Ontario Immigration.ca website and the Durham and Brantford portals were demonstrated. Welcoming letters on the portal will be in various languages; however, the site will be in English. 5 videos representing different areas of life and the newcomers experience will appear on the portal as well.

Questions arose on measurement capabilities, purpose of the portal, widgets, and translation. Information sessions are planned for the fall.

6) Revisiting and Moving Forward with Priority Areas

The Chair asked members to revisit priorities that were identified at previous meetings and to move forward in these areas if interest remains. They include:

- (1) interpretation and translation framework;
- (2) best practices conference.

After discussion, members were agreeable in moving forward with the interpretation and translation framework and best practices conference. There was also some interest expressed in more networking and developing a directory for agencies – a framework for agency services (documenting services, identifying gaps, referral services).

Best Practices Conference:

- Coalition – identify what other organization(s) are doing well and adapt those ideas
- Benefits of best practices of agencies
- Concept paper to CIC for best practices conference → timeframes tighter to use slippage (late fall)
- Examples
 - David Busby Centre - used best practices model from Cambridge – for marginalized individuals/population and homeless. Used to build on concept of welcome centre. County and City on board. Becomes multi-purpose.
 - Chigamak model – 3 pronged approach – English, French, Aboriginal.
- Thinking in own planning purposes – who are we serving?
- Look at Toronto best practices
- Build on what works → don't reinvent the wheel.
- Collaboration → avoid duplication.

Moving Forward

- Working groups will be set up to develop a framework on the 2 areas of priority:
 - (1) interpretation and translation
 - (2) best practices conference.
- An email will be sent to members soliciting interest to sit as a member of the working group

- Staff members within members' organizations are welcome to sit on the working group
- Contact Robyn Wisken for those interested in participating in one of the working groups
- Working groups will report back to Sub-council.

7) Opening Doors Workshops: November 6 & 7

Four Opening Doors Workshops Project workshops will be offered on November 6 & 7 at the Township of Springwater offices. Stay tuned for further details.

Flyers on the upcoming BICS brown bag lunches in September and October were circulated.

8) Next Meeting Dates / Meeting Frequency

The next meeting will take place on October 4, 2012, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.