

Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

Cluster Committee Meeting - Minutes January 26th, 2010

CLUSTER: Employment, Training, & Employment

LOCATION: Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, 2600 Birchmount Rd

TIME: 2:30pm- 5pm

ATTENDEES: Cathy Smyth (City of Toronto), Barbara MacDonald-McLieggh (Operation Springboard), Jorge Silvestri (MNLCT), Lingling Zhu (MNLCT), Hanna Cabaj (TCDSB), Karen Evans (TDSB), Nana Miladinovic (CAST), Jessica Kong (CICS), Nora Abdulkarim (CAF), Mani Mahadeva (S/L'Am LIP), Shirin Mandani (S/L'Am LIP), Michelle Davis (S/L'Am LIP)

1. Introduction

- Lead agency, Project management Team & Cluster members

2. LIP Overview

1. Introduce LIP to Cluster members and give background information
2. Project update

3. Expectations

- a) Expectations of Partner agencies
- b) Project expectation

4. (a) Roles

- Role of cluster Committee
- Contact and relationship with other working bodies

(b) Ground Rules for Clusters

- Develop ground rules based on the Terms of References

(c) Partnership Gaps and Outreach

- Identify agencies to be include action plan to increase membership

5. Future Activities & Meeting Schedule

- Plans for future discussion

6. Wrap-up

- Next Steps

1. Introduction

Project manager welcomed the participants. Cluster members made a brief introduction of themselves and organizations to which they belong. Following introductions, members propose to elect either 2 or 1 chair person (s). Cluster collectively agree to elect Jorge as chair and Hanna as co-chair.

2. LIP Overview

- a) Introduce LIP to Cluster members and give background information

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Project manager briefly explained the project objectives and process of establishing partnership council, 4 cluster committees and steering committee. Cluster members will support the project by providing necessary input to develop the strategy. They will also be involved in data collection and community outreach. Identifying the services availability and gaps, barriers in accessibility and providing services will help to develop a comprehensive strategy for Steeles/L'Amoreaux LIP

b) Project update

- 23 agencies agreed to join the partnership council and one council meeting was held in December 2009.
- 4 clusters established
- Project management team is on board
- 2 animators already identified and two more to be hire
- Project detailed work plan with timeline is established
- Terms of Reference was prepared and shared with the stakeholders (to be finalized by 11th February 2010).
- Neighbourhood scan activities are in progress
- Community Outreach will start in March 2010

3. Expectations

- Cluster will determine what role they will play in the S/L'Amoreaux LIP
- Feedback is needed from Clusters members on how they can help one another and LIP
- Open communication between Clusters will be needed so all stay informed of what other Clusters are doing
- Looking out for overlapping and reoccurring issues in the areas of services within the Clusters
- "Action vs. Talk" - LIP is a strategy plan to make services more accessible to newcomers and bridging services gaps
- Exploration of what other coalitions are doing to give us more information on how to conduct LIP and where to focus efforts
- It was stressed that we have to incorporate ideas mostly from community feedback in developing the strategy
- Some members requested narrative version of the project proposal
- Members proposed to break the focus areas into smaller components and then develop innovative solutions to connect the services
- Some cluster members are concerned that funding will be wasted on developing a plan instead of proving services
- It was suggested that member agencies could look into what we can do without additional funding
- Concerns that all may be done in vain
- List what needs funding (prioritize) – E.g.: childcare during community focus group meetings, TTC token for transportation, food and beverages

Action Points:

- *Share meeting minutes and key initiative of one cluster to another*
- *Share narrative version of the project proposal*

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4. Roles & Ground Rules

- Participation and attendance in most meetings should be honoured
- Advance notice through email must be sent if unable to attend a meeting. It is appreciated if the person who is unable to attend would share their ideas through email before the meeting.
- Terms of reference will be governing document for the council and clusters

5. Partnership Gaps & Outreach

- New members can be identified by Cluster members and PM
- Approaches to expand the partnership
- Invite employers and possibly create a focus group of employers
- Invite selected community representatives to Cluster meetings
- Create a leaflet of services from service providers within the S/L'Am area for the community
- Faith communities to join cluster
- Engage parents and students that have left the school system
- East Metro Youth Services – to help w/ website
- General website: Settlement.org* for reference
- Involvement of Employment Ontario

6. Future Activities & Meeting Schedule

- Planning Workshop headed by Danny Nashman will commence on **February 11th, 2010 from 9am-4pm** (Location TBA)
- Cluster meetings will take place on the last Tuesday of every month, at a rotating meeting location determined at the end of each meeting
- Next Cluster meeting will be **April 27th 2010, 2:30pm, 1057 Mc Nicoll at Victoria Park (inside Victoria Business Village)**
- **Community Summit in March** – cluster and committee members will be invited (Date, time and location –TBA)

7. Wrap up

Meeting was adjourned with the vote of thanks by the project manager.