

Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

Cluster Committee Meeting - Minutes January 25th, 2010

CLUSTER: Health & Wellness

LOCATION: Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), 2425 Eglinton Ave. East

TIME: 9:30am-11:30am

ATTENDEES: Connie Leung (CICS), Cindy Himelstein (CAST), Anne Crasto (SWCH), Thilaga Jeganathan (CCVT), Mbalu Wembo (CCVT), Ralph Gain (Youthlink), 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

- Introduce LIP to Cluster members and give background information
- 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 community involvement of their organizations. Following the self introduction, project manager requested the cluster members to select a chairperson. Anne Crasto was appointed as temporary chairperson for the first meeting. Collective decision was taken to postpone final decision till next cluster meeting when all members are present.

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Action to be taken:

- *Select a chair person to the cluster*
- *Nominate another member to participate in the steering committee*

2. LIP Overview

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

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. By identifying service availability and gaps, barriers in access to services and in providing services, this will help in developing a comprehensive strategy for the Steeles/L'Amoreaux LIP.

b) Project update:

- 24 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
- Project detailed work plan is in place
- Terms of Reference prepared and shared with the stakeholders (to be finalized by 11th February 2010)
- Neighbourhood scan activities are in progress
- Community Outreach to commence in March 2010

3. Expectations

- Focus areas need to be define under health and wellness cluster
- Members will bring their expertise to the cluster to make it a worthwhile endeavour
- Streamlining access to newcomer services from all regions of the with assistance from cluster members
- Concern that health services need to cater to individuals specific needs rather than just providing an array of services
- Community education and awareness are important steps in this process
- Social support needs to be increased (e.g. Referrals or Advocacy)
- Questions of any Coalitions of Advocacy for newcomers that already exist
- Mental Health issues to be delved into
- Overcoming the issue of isolation of newcomers in their communities deterring them from seeking help

Action to be taken:

- *Define the objectives of the cluster*
- *Agreed on work arrangement*

4. Roles & Ground Rules

- All Cluster members agree that main focus will be providing the community with accessibility to more programs and services
- Stress active participation of Cluster members rather than just attending meetings
- Staff participating in the meeting will share useful information with other agencies

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- How will productivity of the cluster be assessed

Action to be taken:

- *Define the roles and responsibilities of the cluster members*
- *Decide on process evaluation method to assess the productivity*

5. Partnership Gaps and Outreach

Member's suggestions other agencies to include in the cluster:

- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Parks & Recreation
- Hong Fook
- Playing with Rainbows
- Various faith based organizations - (better to reach newcomers for community outreach)
- Clusters agreed that an overall wider scope of agencies that cater to various genders, age groups, race and cultural backgrounds are needed.

Action to be taken:

- *Members would share the contact details of potential agencies*
- *Project management team to forge new partnership*

6. Future activities and meeting schedule

- **Strategy & Approach Planning Meeting February 11th, 2010, 9am-4pm**
- **Next Cluster meeting April 26th, 2010 - Location CCVT :**
Members asked to email the agenda for next Cluster meeting
Chairperson will be decided in the next meeting

Action to be taken:

- *Send meeting schedule to all the cluster members*
- *Send agenda for **Planning workshop on 11th February 2010***

7. Wrap Up

It was decided to agree on working arrangement for the cluster in the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned with the vote of thanks by the project manager.