

# Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

## Cluster Committee Meeting Minutes January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**CLUSTER:** Inclusion & Engagemnet

**LOCATION:** Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA), 4155 Sheppard Avenue East - Suite 100

**TIME:** 9:30am- 11:30am

**ATTENDEES:** Adriana Salazar (MNLCT), Adair Heath (City of Toronto) Cynthia du Mont (WSNCC), Gael Gilbert (ACSA), 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

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

### 3. Expectations

- Expectations of Partner agencies
- 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. Members propose to have a rotating chair person. For this meeting Adair Heath was elected as chair person.

# Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

## 2. LIP Overview

a) S/L'Am LIP is a one year strategic planning project to become one of the 13 already established LIP's in Toronto. The main objective of S/L'Am LIP is to strategise and build a network comprised of community service providers targeting newcomers, thus improving their overall standard of living and well-being.

LIP consists of a Partnership Council, Steering Committee, and four Clusters which consist of:

Health & Wellness, (2) Education, Training, & Employment, (3) Inclusion & Engagement, (4) Settlement

LIP will extract information from members expertise in their particular service area, as well as from data collected from community outreach tools. Strategies will be formed based on service gaps and issues that arise.

b) Project Update:

- 24 Agencies on-board
- 4 Clusters created
- Terms of Reference (draft) in place
- Work plan developed
- LIP staff on-board – PM, Community Outreach Worker, Administrator, 2 Animators (2 more TBA)
- developing data collection strategies
- Future Strategic planning, Inter LIP, and Cluster meetings finalized
- 1<sup>st</sup> Strategy Draft for June and to be finalized in October

## 3. Expectations

- Identify gaps in services found in one's own field of service
- Suggest strategic approaches
- Clearly define how to connect newcomers to services (accessibility)
- Clearly define how the partnership will be a valuable entity for the community
- Open communication through reviewing, commenting, and providing feedback on gaps in service
- Set the course how LIP collaborative identify and engage the community
- Engaging newcomers in the social and political process and politicians in newcomer communities
- Exploring rights of immigrants awareness to the community
- Engaging the community so that they have a voice in the decisions and actions taken by the LIP
- Promote community participation, as well as, political, employer, and educational and health care institutes
- Examine and incorporate strategies of successful LIPs.
- Explore how established Canadian residents can engage newcomers (ISAP receives funding for senior mentoring program)
- Decipher barriers of newcomer groups, address and reduce them (e.g. prejudices)
- Newcomers vs. Settled Immigrants- long-term services
- Involve the business sector into building community capacity (e.g. Tim Horton's employment and ESL programs, RBC ads to hire newcomers)

# Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

- If community members participate in the cluster meeting, honorarium or travel expenses

## 4. Roles & Ground Rules

- Members are expected to review the data tabled and comments
- Supplement the information needed for the project
- Members are expected to share their expertise
- Attendance and punctuality is crucial
- Cluster members are to host and Chair meetings
- Cases of conflict of interest are addressed in the Terms of Reference
- Members are asked to assist with community outreach and data collection
- Include community in cluster discussions

## 5. Partnership Gap & Outreach

- CICS – welcome home/ Chinese community
- Business community
- Politicians
- Banks – RBC, TD Canada Trust, Chamber of Commerce

It was suggested to connect with other institutions and individuals to get their support in developing strategy

- Connect with Media for community outreach - e.g. community newspapers
- CNIB & Hearing Canada – receive funding from the government for outreach programs to newcomers
- Leaders from the Faith communities
- Carina ACSA Youth worker – to connect with a younger audience
- Lucy – has Mandarin and Cantonese connection

## 6. Future Activities & Meeting Schedule

### Planning Session February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 9am-4pm (Location TBA)

Cluster meeting will take place at ACSA on the last Wednesday of every month. Time will be determined at the end of each meeting.

## 7. Wrap up

Next Cluster meeting is **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 9:30am-11:30am at ACSA**

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