

## Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Location:** L'Amoreaux Community Recreation Centre, Youth Lounge - 2000 McNicoll Ave.

**Attendees:** Jorge Silvestri (MNLCT), Kitt Hunter-Wolf (VPI), Helenna Huang (ACCESS), Thilaga Jeganathan (CCVT), Yoga Arulsubramaniam (TESOC), Lee Soda (ACSA), Artan Spahui (PICS), Timothy Chan (Faith, Love, Hope Ministries – Resident), Yvonne Ma (CFSO), Hanifa Kassam (ACSA), Alice Mui (Carefirst), Frank Chu (TCDSB), Sulekha Sathi (TPL-Agincourt), Angela Bourikos (CIC), Karen Evans (TDSB), Helen Yang (YMCA-NIC), Marie Herrera (TPH), Christopher Lawrence (Operation Springboard), Dan Rutembesa (CCS), Oleg Valin (EMYS), Anne Crasto (SCHC), Mahalakshmi (Resident), Mei Tin Lee (CICS), Charisma Juneja (Resident), Stephanie Yin (Aisling Discoveries), Neelu Nagi (TESS), Freba Shahsamand (MCI), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LIP), Rezwan Karim (NWS LIP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

### 1. Welcoming and agenda of the Meeting

#### Introduction

- Self introductions of participants
- Brief key note from Hanifa Kassam thanking all the partner organizations for their continuous contribution in the past and commitment to the implementation phase.

### 2. Project overview

- Overview of NWS LIP Priorities during the first year.
- Identified where PC was interested in shared activities because of common barriers
- Coordination and collaboration – Identified that this is already happening however increasing these instances is key
- LIP PC Themes:
  - a) Feedback on themes identified
  - b) Link to the priorities of Year one are:
    1. Capacity Development
    2. Effective Outreach Methods
    3. Collaboration and Partnership
    4. Community Education & Engagement
    5. Effective Evaluation Methods
- August meeting – theme will be Capacity development
  - a) Noted that the themes are there to allow for further discussion as to how we work towards building the capacity of our local frontline staff
  - b) Partner organizations will suggest one to more organizations to be invited as guest speaker

### 3. Progress Review

- Ed meeting –
  - Purpose – to share the progress of the development phase
  - Reviewed the priorities of the implementation phase
  - Receive renewed commitment from PC members

- 2011-2012 Work plan
  - Based on project implementation plan, each working committee developed their work plan from April 2011 to March 2012
  - Each Working Committee
- ToR
  - Identified the need to review to revise the ToR
  - Reviewed by the members and Management Committee
  - Finalized in May and submitted to CIC
- Engaging new stakeholders
  - Follow up on missing stakeholders and those who others felt should participate
  - Park, Forestry & Recreation of City of Toronto has joined as council member.
  - 6 organizations joined the LIP as resource partners during first quarter.
  - 8 new residents were engaged with the LIP initiative and 2 residents participate in each Working Committee. 6 residents have been recruited in the Partnership Council
  - Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services and, Toronto Police Services are other two members joined us in March 2011.
- Review on online information
  - Identified the three major sites prominently provide information for newcomers that were reviewed
  - Over the last one year, there are many changes made and additional improvements are still needed
  - Working Committee will follow up and share their findings with the Council before submit to relevant authority.
- Welcome package
  - Lead – Malton Neighbourhood services
  - City and Province specific materials are distributed To include flyers and info in the welcome package follow up with LIP team
  - Three recommendations made by the sub- committee which are
    - Provide some of the information before the newcomer arrives Canada
    - Provide area specific service directory
    - Share customized list of service providers
- Other
  - Create inventory of faith based group – request for follow up made
  - Service Provider Inventory – request to for follow up made
  - Capacity Building for frontline staff – ongoing participation
  - Website - new improvements – request for PC members to continue participating

#### **4. LIP Communication Strategies**

#### **5. Proposed Communication Strategy**

- Objective – creating a brand, increase awareness, improve internal communications, utilizes social ...
- Strategy – Logo, knowledge, redesign, connecting online,
- Tactics – Branding, internal communications, newsletter, PR, Website & Blog, Community Launch
- Discussion and feedback

- i. Will there be a way to direct people to other LIPs
- ii. All LIP portal was highlighted

**(See Communication Strategy presentation for more info.)**

## **6. Presentation by member organizations**

### **a) CICS – Mei Tin Lee**

Programs provided by CICS:

- LINC
- Referrals
- Settlement services
- Solution focus counselling – employment,
- TPL partnership
- Community services – youth drop-in, family and senior services, early years program, school readiness training, afterschool programs, children weekend classes
- Youth leadership and life skills training programs are very successful
- Some training and programs have fees, however they are minimal
- Sessions delivered in various languages
- Various funding through government and private entities

### **b) CCS - Dan Rutembesa**

Programs provided:

- Open to all regardless of religious background
- Assist in settlement into Canada
- Services available in over 30 languages
- LINC
- Employment access program
- Refugee sponsorship program
- Various locations and a kiosk in Cedebrae mall
- Provides itinerant services at East Scarborough Storefront, ACCES employment and some other agencies.
- Partnership w/ TPL

### **c) MNLCT – Jorge Silvestri**

Programs provided:

- Assist newcomers in becoming engaged into society and participate as active members
- Holistic service delivery, w/ anti-oppression and equal rights for all newcomers (do not turn any immigrant away)
- Short and long-term settlement
- Language, employment, settlement orientation, childminding services, bridge training, youth and senior programs, French classes, citizenship classes, parenting support, yoga classes, business start up classes, translations, etc.
- All services and classes are free
- Advocacy with government regarding anti-oppression

**(Please refer to MNLCT presentation for more info.)**

### **d) TESOC – Yoga Arulsubramaniam**

Programs provided:

- Settlement support to newcomers to Canada
- LINC
- ISAP
- Job Search Workshops w/ JVS
- Women Aiding Women Program funded by City of Toronto.
- Anti- racism program
- Provides interpretation and translation services in 12 languages
- For some of their programs they need spaces which they foresee as an area of future collaboration with other council members.

**(Please refer to the TESOC presentation for more info.)**

**e) The Family Council (affiliated with Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) – Lindsay Brown**

The Family Council funded by CAMH, currently have 150 family members who work as peer resources for the clients. The Council is doing systemic advocacy through Family resource centre and provide services on harm reduction and peer support/counselling for clients facing challenges with addiction, mental health and concurrent disorders.

Language especially interpretation and translation services is one of the area CAMH is interested in collaborating with other agencies.

**7. Any Other Business**

- Requested to submit signed memorandum of understanding was made
- Request was made to complete Inventory of programs and services, outreach methods, etc.
- New deadline to submit them all is June 21, 2011
- Tool to create an inventory of faith-based groups, resident groups and other community groups will be shared by June 21 and members were requested to support to complete this task.

**Announcements:**

- City of Toronto service review survey – deadline June 17<sup>th</sup> 2011
- Middle Childhood Project survey by the City of Toronto – deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011
- Recreation Service Plan survey – deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011
- Mani requested the participants to widespread the message and provide inputs to these three important surveys.

Online links are:

<http://www.toronto.ca/torontoservicereview/>

<http://www.toronto.ca/family>

[www.toronto.ca/parks/engagement/serviceplan](http://www.toronto.ca/parks/engagement/serviceplan)

**8. Wrap up**