

Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

Cluster Committee Meeting Minutes January 28th, 2010

CLUSTER: Settlement

LOCATION: South Asian Family Support Services (SFSS), 1200 Markham Road, Ste. 214

TIME: 9:30am- 11:30am

ATTENDEES: Christine Ng (CareFirst), Glen Gifford (SSHC), Rabindra Sabat (SAFSS), Sondos Ramzy (ACC), 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 organizations to which they belong. Members propose to have a rotating chair person. Chair selection will be rotating. Members elected Glen Gifford to chair this meeting.

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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.

b) LIP consists of a Partnership Council, Steering Committee, and four Clusters which consist of: (1) 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.

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
- 1st Strategy Draft for June and to be finalized in October

3. Expectations

- Focus on breaking the systemic barriers (e.g. discrimination)
- Push for a recognition of credentials of newcomers
- Push to get the right information to the people (accessibility)
- HUB for the community that efficiently gets all information of services out
- Find services that can provide affordable housing in desirable neighbourhoods
- Identifying solutions to tenant problems
- Information awareness, by communicating to the community to provide them with the necessary information of services
- Collaboration of service providers
- Focus on Community engagement
- Connect with businesses that incorporate the community on-board, CSR
- Have all service providers involved (TTC, Banks, Education, Health sector) – stakeholders
- Budget allocations for service providers
- Seek funding from stakeholders - e.g. banks have fund for community education
- Making sure that the right info gets to the right people the right time
- Cluster to focus on providing information and awareness to newcomers
- Budget for community fairs that provide information to communities – have service providers participate

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4. Roles & Ground Rules

- Regular attendance Stress active participation of Cluster members rather than just attending meetings
- Send regrets via email in advance if member cannot attend meeting and share inputs and comments
- Minutes will be shared with missing members and feedback
- LIP admin will take minutes

5. Partnership gap & Outreach

- Toronto Public library
- Toronto Community Housing
- Colleges
- Private sector
- Canadian Hearing society
- Escorts or mentorship programs
- Invite cultural and main stream media participants to sit in meetings – e.g. Omni TV , Arab Newspaper
- Legal agencies
- Scarborough Elders Association, TCHC , Service Canada, MCI-fund for newcomer programs

6. Future Activities & Meeting Schedule

LIP Project Management Team will be contacting more members to join LIP

February 11th, 2010, 9am-4pm Planning Session (Danny Nashman) – revisit strategies and work plan (Location TBA)

Environmental Scan – Agencies in the area, to provide services information to partners via a pamphlet

7. Wrap up

Next Cluster meeting April 29th, 2010, 10am at SFASS and they have volunteered to host future meetings. Future Cluster meetings will take place on the last Thursday of every month. Meeting was adjourned with the vote of thanks by the project manager.