

Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

Team 2: Community Engagement in Settlement –

Meeting Minutes June 1st, 2010

Location: Scarborough Housing Help Centre, 2500 Lawrence Ave. East - Unit 205

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Attendees: Glen Gifford (SHHC), Malsan Gananendran (ANC Glendower), Grainne O'Donnell (TDSB), Mani Mahadeva (S/L'Am LIP), Cyleta Gibson-Sealy (S/L'Am LIP), Michelle Davis (S/L'Am LIP)

1. Welcoming
 - Mani welcomes participants and runs through Agenda items
 - Cyleta will be the new Steering Committee member representing Team 2 as of July
2. Appoint Chairperson
 - Malsan will be chairperson for today
3. Update on what was discussed in the Steering Committee Meeting - May 11th at ACSA
 - Glen discusses the potential extension of the LIP given from CIC
 - The draft for CIC that LIP will produce raised concerns that there may not be enough time and who is responsible for the written and research portions
 - Mani informs that the draft will be internally done by LIP with partners input, the Strategy paper is due in October
 - LIP project management team will be responsible for the writing and finalizing of the final report
4. Update the progress and discussion
 - Mani informs that there has been six focus group discussions completed
 - It was found that the resident, community, and faith-based groups right now provide referrals related to child-care, food banks, language classes, elementary schools and overall provide for basic needs.
 - Grainne has suggested contacting Karen (TDSB) to conduct focus group discussions with adult students
 - Employment and job training, recreation facilities, legal assistance, help with health issues, affordable housing, reasonable child-care, credential assessment, were areas that the FGD were concerned that they were unable to provide due to lack of knowledge and resources
 - Glen informs that a new employee, Annie from SHHC will be providing information sessions to residents, communities, and clients related to housing

and how to obtain affordable housing. If any clients interested, they can approach SHHC for further assistance including one-on-one counselling.

5. Process Evaluation of LIP

- Mani shares that ACSA has hired an outside source (WISE Solution) to evaluate and assess the LIP process
- Partners will be requested to respond to the process evaluation survey which will be online
- A link will be sent early June and Partners are expected to complete the survey within 2 weeks of receiving

6. Review and develop Goals, Objectives & Outputs for Team 2 (refer to Team 2 meeting Agenda)

- Participants review the handouts and provide feedback

Feedback

- Grainne agrees with the overall approach, but is unclear about number one
- Mani explains that it is the existing capacity of the community groups (residents and faith-based groups, both formal and informal)
- Grainne suggested to have a list of the community groups that have been in discussion with the LIP
- Mani shares who LIP has been in discussion with to date:
 - 2 Chinese groups, 1 Tamil group, 1 Muslim Community organization, CANTYD front-line workers, and SLAM for Change community group
- Glen asked if LIP is considering reaching out to media sources
- Grainne raises the question of the depth of how residents or community groups will assist with newcomer settlement
- Malsan also brings the point of compensation for these groups that will assist in settlement
- Guidelines need to be set as to the expectations of the role of residents, by first identifying the needs of newcomers and asking what residents are willing to do to help
- Malsan brought the point of neglected community groups that may have or not have formal status, how do we reach them
- It was suggested to engage every community effectively. Sustainability of LIP innovative process won't be sustainable without community involvement.
- Mani shares that in the other Teams they suggested that role of residents groups to be limited to referrals only. However groups participated in focus group discussion expressed their interest to do more than referrals and working on an unconditional partnership with agencies
- Team 2 will need to contact the community to see who are currently working with settlement agencies
- Cyleta brings the point that there is not enough engagement from the agencies and a sense of mistrust amongst residents. Therefore, in addition to the discussions conducted by LIP management team, settlement service organizations have to sit with community groups to get better understand about the roles of community groups. This will help to strengthen relationship between neighbourhood communities and settlement service organizations
- The following outputs added to the list:

- Identify the roles community groups like to play
- Study and maximize best practices among the groups
- “building capacity of the agencies”
- Mani shared that some residents groups are only interested in doing referrals due to possible legal repercussions
- Better working relationship between community groups and settlement service organizations can be achieved only through clear understanding of mutual benefit and positive thinking
- Settlement service organizations should be able to match their time schedule with resident groups

7. Update on Stakeholders

- No new stakeholders added to Team 2

8. Next Steps & Next Meeting Date, Time & Venue

- June 28th, 10:00am – 12:00pm, at ANC Glendower