

# North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

## Team 2: Community Engagement in Settlement

### Meeting Minutes

**Location:** North West Scarborough LIP – 331 Glendower Circuit - Unit #6

**Date:** June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Attendees:** Glen Gifford (SHHC), Grainne O'Donell (TDSB), Cyleta Sealy-Gibson (Glendower Resident), Hakima Yusufi (AAO), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LIP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

#### 1. Welcoming

- One new member to Team 2, Cyleta Sealy-Gibson representing Glendower community and an active member of many community groups

#### 2. Updates – Planning Session #4 & Team progress (Please refer to Planning Session #4 meeting minutes)

#### 3. Review and Match Team “Outputs” and Recommendations

- 1) Identify existing capacity of the community groups\* (residents, faith-based, parents groups, etc.)
- 2) Identify what roles community groups would like to play in helping newcomers
- 3) Identify types of training/awareness raising initiatives needed to enhance the capacity of community groups
- 4) Identify settlement organizations already working or are willing to work with community groups
- 5) Build the capacity of settlement service providers – identify best practises and maximize those practises among council members – What do we do best as service providers to engage the community groups in our areas? – What do we wish we could do better to engage community groups?
- 6) Identify one or more partnership models

#### Feedback:

- Outputs are the achievements of the Team and will be on-going and are for the most part already in practise
- Each output and objective are created to keep members on track and are the vision of the LIP
- Ensuring council members commitment to put recommendations into practise requires getting their approval and feedback at every step of the process and making sure that every step taken is as transparent as possible
- The roles of community groups in settlement will need to be defined and is very crucial. Feedback from settlement agencies will help to identify the role of community groups presently and how different community groups can work with settlement service providers to help newcomers.
- Deciphering the breadth and depth of community capacity building, and who will co-ordinate how community groups work with agencies – Partners?

- Decipher which agencies are/willing to train community groups, and those that are apprehensive to involving community groups in settlement need to be asked why?
- All challenges that arise need to be presented to council in order to move forward
- In regards to finding relevant and effective training, community groups may not know the type of training they need in order to assist newcomers – education on issues affecting newcomers and needs assessment of newcomers will be very important factors to include in training. Some of the training needs could be identified through on-going focus group discussions, team/ cluster and one-on-one meetings. Council member agencies have to identify resource persons to develop curriculum and train the community members
- Due to various factors there is a huge disconnect amongst services, potential clients and community groups that needs to be addressed
- Partner agencies have to share their working experiences to identify best practices (engage community groups)
- To build a partnership model we need to examine those already in practise achieving collaborations and co-ordinations with community groups and extract the best practises and build on areas that are lacking. We have to identify or develop more than one partnership model. Each member agency has to assess the level of willingness to work together with community groups (willingness of the settlement agency as well as different community groups)
- Council has to explore the possibility of establishing a committee for collaborative training delivery.
- For a better collaboration and working arrangement, settlement agencies and community groups have to agree on set of principles and develop protocol

#### 4. Feedback of Draft Recommendations for Improvement

- 1) **Community groups provide useful information to the newcomers when they find it difficult to visit service providers:**  
Community groups may contact the agency and in turn the settlement agency can send their staff to the neighbourhood where the newcomer resides - **most preferred**  
**Or**  
Community groups can accompany the newcomer to the settlement agency – will need to provide provisions for transportation
- 2) **Figure out how community groups can work closely with settlement agencies – make recommendations for how to improve relations between community groups and agencies**
- 3) Settlement service agencies provide training to the community groups about all services within the neighbourhood then adjoining neighbourhoods
- 4) Settlement service providers provide opportunities to residents to do professional volunteering to help them build their networks, creating an incentive that will enhance their ability to find a job – **working guidelines will need to be clearly defined to protect both volunteers and hired staff**
- 5) **Community groups provide information about newcomer traps that exist within employment, housing, legal system, health care, etc., to avoid exploitation**
- 6) **Provide opportunities for community groups to become more aware of politics on all levels of government and their relevance to their own, and newcomers issues to encourage civic engagement among themselves and newcomers**
- 7) **Develop a model to work together in outreach and engagement. Roles of settlement agency and community groups are defined and agreed by both parties.**

#### 5. Closing

Team 2 meetings for the months of July and August are postponed and will resume in September.