

Working Committee #4: Community Engagement & Social Inclusion - Minutes

Date: September 8th, 2011

Time: 10 am- 12 pm

Attendees: Ping Hu (Resident), Laura Harper (Agincourt Community Services Association), Yvonne Ma (Chinese Family Services of Ontario), Ning Zhang (Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services), Jessica Roher (Scarborough Civic Action Network), Anna Kim (Civic Awareness Project), Adair Heath (City of Toronto), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LIP), Rezwan Karim (NWS LIP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

- Welcoming and sharing the objectives of the meeting
 - Laura will be chairing the meeting today
 - Members do a brief introduction

- Discussion on activities for the second quarter
 - Inventory survey of faith based and community groups
 - Objective to find the potential within grassroots and faith-based groups in assisting in newcomer settlement
 - Have not had the chance to receive as many contacts as anticipated
 - Encourage LIP members to share their known contacts from within the NWS area

 - Inventory of existing networks
 - Template developed and sent out to partner organizations
 - Three major networks identified: NAP, SLYE & SCAN
 - A summary description of NAP and SLYE network was shared with participants
 - All networks are open to work with the LIP member organizations
 - Need to identify how the LIP and networks can collaborate – Ex. Upcoming events, training, workshops, or any other activities.
 - It was stated that NAP and SLYE have their own annual work plan. LIP has to look at how its Community Engagement Committee can fit into their work
 - Again we encourage LIP members to share their known networks

- Briefing on Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN) and Civic Awareness Project (CAP)

- Discussion on supporting SCAN and CAP activities
 - Jessica Roher (SCAN)
 - Group of not-for-profit and residents groups, that work on political issues

- Will be holding a number of debates in different communities for the upcoming provincial election
- September 19th next debate at Agincourt Library
- SCAN seeks support from the NWS LIP in promoting this event among area residents
- Encourage residents to send questions to Jessica if they are unavailable to attend the debate
- Agencies may be able to work with clients to get questions from them to forward to Jessica
- LIP could approach partners to see if they could incorporate some of the CAP teachings to encourage civic awareness – groups that already meet to formulate 1 or 2 questions and the issues that are relevant to them – pre consultations
- Create an outline on the voting processes and the different levels of government
- Put out a call to LIP members for translators for SCAN events (w/ political knowledge)*
- Outreach and Translation support will be needed from NWS LIP
- Fact sheet, flyer, and jurisdictions will be sent out by Jessica to be distributed

Anna Kim (CAP)

- Provide information on political issues, the levels of the government, the relevance of civic engagement and culture, and how to get involved
- Provides a 10 week series workshop. Topics include Canadian history and culture, voting rights, raising awareness of civic campaigns, civic literacy, including a tour of City Hall.
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- Leadership workshops
- Need support in how to outreach to the community and get them involved and want to learn about civic and political issues and how they can make a difference
- The next CAP workshop starts September 19th until November 2011 and is looking for participants. The following workshop is scheduled to start in January 2012
- Needs outreach, guest speakers, and venue support from the NWS LIP members
- Adair suggested to include resident individuals like Craig brothers as resource speakers

- Any other business
 - Support ongoing community events and cultural activities
 - PICS Open House in October (Midland & McNicoll location), Ning will share further details with LIP to get support to promote the event
 - Identify agencies, community groups and networks interested in using volunteers
 - The NWS LIP has collected some information from its members, still waiting on some further information that will be collected through one-on-one interviews with partners
- Wrap up

Next working committee meeting will take place October 26th 10am – 12pm at ACSA (upstairs boardroom)