

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

Date: January 26th, 2012

Time: 10am to 12pm

Attendees: Ping Gu (Resident), Laura Harper (ACSA-ANC), Cynthia du Mont (WSNCC), Ning Zhang (PICS), Adair Heath (City of Toronto), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LP), Rezwan Karim (NWS LP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

Welcoming and Objective of the meeting

Review Progress:

Inventory of faith-based and residents groups

- Did not receive much feedback, and with the less neighbourhood focus under the future LIP structure, does this activity make sense?
- Uncertainty of how these groups will perceive the LIP now that the structure is changing, may want to hold off until the new structure is fully functioning

Inventory of community networks

- Three networks were connected with and information was compiled
- Members suggested to include information of SLAM neighbourhood associations and the Happy & Healthy Friendship Association in the LIP services inventory

Supporting ongoing education and training programs

- NAP is looking for training institutions and resources to conduct training on selected topics. (Ex: Financial Literacy, including budgeting).
- NAP is also in contact with Toronto Public Health to conduct training on Nutrition. NAP member organizations will be organizing some events to celebrate Black History Month in February where the LIP can provide support by promoting their events

Share discussion outcomes of meeting with resident members

- LIP partner organizations should conduct some health related and senior oriented programs to allow seniors to be engaged
- Overall residents are relatively satisfied with what the LIP has done and want to continue their participation in the Scarborough region LIP
- Suggested having resident only meetings so that they can share their ideas and opinions openly

- Want more English conversation circles
- Interviews and focus groups were effective methods to get the opinions of resident members
- In meetings trying to stick to the agenda items and going beyond the scope of what the meeting makes it difficult to follow for some residents
- Giving more background information would be beneficial going into meetings
- Programs on political and civic awareness are very beneficial as they help to empower immigrants and encourage them to become more involved in Canadian society
- The NWS LIP website has been recognized by the resident members and they recommend that when sending communications to link all intended information to the website to encourage more people to visit the website
- For the proposed regional LIP immigrants council new residents from Chester Le neighbourhood should be included

Future direction of the LIP project

- Current structure will collapse and there will be only 4 LIP's (East, West, Central North, and Central South) Toronto wide, not including the Toronto-Wide City LIP ran by City of Toronto
- Each LIP will receive \$400,000 for 4 Coordinators
- Scarborough (East region) will be led by Catholic Cross Cultural Services (CCS) as agreed by the all current Scarborough LIP's
- The new LIP working structure will consist of a Partnership Council and an Immigrant Council
- No word on if there will be working groups that are more focused on a sector or topic. This will be decided once the new structure is in place in April 2012
- All the Scarborough LIP's will conduct a meeting in March, either the 20th or 22nd to debrief all Scarborough LIP council members of what has taken place and the next steps going forward
- No longer have neighbourhood focus, but will address specific neighbourhood issues

Proposed activities and recommendations for next year (under new LIP structure)

- All the Scarborough LIP's will conduct a meeting in March, either the 20th or 22nd to debrief all Scarborough LIP council members of what has taken place and the next steps going forward
- Joint website and enhanced communications
- Easily accessible meeting locations and support for Immigrant Council members
- Make sure that the Immigrant Council really ear and involved in decision making
- Connect with local neighbourhood networks and associations
- Connect with Social Planning Toronto for research purposes
- Community Engagement piece should not be lost, that needs to be carried out in the next phase

Wrap Up

- Next WC #4 meeting will take place February 23rd, 2012 at ACSA, 4155 Sheppard Ave. from 10am to 12pm