

Working Committee #5: Family Settlement and Legal Support – Minutes

Date: August 25th, 2011

Time: 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Attendees: Wael Homaidian (ACCT), Frank Chu (TCDSB), Mei Tin Lee (CICS), Jing He (Resident), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LIP), Rezwan (NWS LIP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

- Welcoming and objective of the meeting
- Activities undertaken during the second quarter

Update inventory of services not available

- Developed a chart with that identifies newcomer settlement services that are available but less or not accessible and not currently available in NWS
- Participants review the formatted list that will be sent to all partners for their collective review in the next Partnership Council meeting

Feedback:

- First column title needs to read “Available & Limited Accessibility”
- For reasons of inaccessibility the option to have “others” with space for details (ex: resources)
- Replace option E with “Cost”
- An added underserved area is people living with physical disabilities, and services for refugee claimants
- Another column to be added to rank the services based on agency’s priority (Ex: ranking of importance)
- Participants worked on the existing draft inventory format to test its usability and based on above inputs, the template was revised (see attachment)

Network among basic service providers

- Collection of information on housing service providers has been compiled, and follow-up to compile food, furniture, and clothing banks is underway
- Participants reviewed compiled inventory of food, cloth and furniture banks within northwest Scarborough
- Next step will be to contact the listed organizations and approach them to establish a sustainable working relationship among basic service providers

Expand education / Awareness programs

- In the previous meeting discussion it was expressed that as a council we need to promote and support educational/ awareness events, programs, sessions, etc.
- Also training among council members needs to be conducted based on the training needs identified by member organizations.
- Training that can be organized this year through the LIP are: legal services, immigration law (new policies), housing issues, newcomers scam & fraud, etc.
- Participants suggested that though some training sessions on housing issues were conducted in the past, always there is a need for this training and other areas.

Identify scams and fraud target newcomers

- Report from TPS was shared with participants, mainly targeting seniors (see attachment)
- NWS LIP will compile a list including other scams and frauds targeting newcomers as well to be shared with partners and posted on the website for their future reference
- It was suggested by the members to translate the document in different languages. LIP manager proposed that member agencies can help to accomplish that task

Inventory of available legal services and needs

- 5 Legal service agencies are listed
- List details what each provides and types of orientation/training offered
- CLEO offers legal information in different languages on their website and also distribute printed education materials such as booklets
- Private legal practices are not included a part of the inventory list
- The list will be edited and shared (see attachment)

• Wrap up

- Next WC#5 meeting will take place October 26th 2011, 2:30-4:30pm at (TBA)