

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

Date: October 26th, 2011

Time: 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Attendees: Yvonne Ma (Chinese Family Services), Frank Chu (TCDSB), Mani Mahadeva (NWS LIP), Michelle Davis (NWS LIP)

- Welcoming and objective of the meeting
- Discussion on 2nd Quarter activities
 - Update on Inventory of services not available
 - Two of the legal organizations that were contact in Scarborough have declined to join or become a resource partner with any LIP, however they will assist in services to clients and training of staff if required
 - To fulfill our work plan we may need to revise our approach to gaining these types of services within NWS
 - Another option is to outsource from legal service providers outside of Scarborough
 - We will connect with other LIP's to see how they are tackling this topic
 - Will also connect with Metro Chinese and South Asian Legal Services which is based in the downtown area
 - Expand education / Awareness programs
 - We have not received any feedback from members on these needs
 - An ideal place to start these types of initiatives would be LINC or ESL classes, depending on the individual instructors
 - Next step is to connect with TDSB and TCDSB
 - In regards to housing issues depending on the needs: affordable housing, waiting lists, tenants rights, etc. the appropriate approach to education and awareness can then be decided and carried forward
 - Healthy Eating has been an arising topic for newcomers
 - The LIP will request a list form TCDSB of the regular training sessions
 - A barrier expressed by CFS that regularly conducts training sessions and often times they have low turnout and sometimes need to cancel sessions
 - Connect with Basic needs service providers/ stakeholders
 - Will need to network and make connections with local food banks

- Have been able to connect with a Scarborough vegetarian food bank but they do not wish to participate in any LIP's
 - Have connected with Muslim Welfare that is already connected to their faith-based community and are not looking for new networks
 - It is difficult to create networks and build relationships among food, clothing and furniture banks as they often have already established networks and have their own means of funding and support
 - It may be possible to connect the smaller independent basic needs service providers with larger ones. Ex: Scarborough Vegetarian food bank with Daily Bread Food Bank to just initiate dialogue on how they can benefit each other, discuss barriers and the possibility of starting by establishing a referral system
 - Also we will need to connect with Second Harvest on how they are operating in Scarborough
- **Discussion on 3rd Quarter Activities**
 - Support education / awareness programs on selected topics
 - With the feedback from today, further work to connect with individual members to follow-up on specific activities will be carried out

Identify organizations to be invited to serve in northwest Scarborough

 - Addiction Counseling Services, more LGBTQ positive spaces
 - Connect with 519 (major LGBTQ community service provider)
 - Further regarding LGBTQ, consultation with OCASI's model program and conduct a session with front-line staff of member organizations
 - Next year activities – Feedback from Partnership Council
 - This discussion will be postponed until the next WC#3 meeting after we have sent out the ranking of priorities survey to members that could not attend the Partnership Council meeting on October 18th 2011
 - Wrap Up

The next WC#5 meetings will take place on January 26th 2012 from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, location TBA. The decision to have an additional meeting in February will be decided at the next working committee meeting.