



County of Simcoe
Social Services
Children & Community
Services Department
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

Main Line (705) 722-3132
Toll Free 1-866-893-9300
Fax (705) 725-9539
simcoe.ca



MINUTES

MEETING DATE: September 19, 2012

MEETING TIME: 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

ATTENDANCE: Douglas, L. (recording secretary); D'Ambrosio, L. (Best Start); Greaves, M. (Georgian College, Chair); Green, S. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Hobbs, S. (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Council); Keery, H. (SCDSB); Khrystynko, T. (Barrie Learning Centres); Lee, S. (LIP); Leukam, F. (Conseil Scolaire Catholique CS); Sloan, P. (SCDSB); Vanderwater, L. (SCDSB); Wong, T. (Literacy Council of South Simcoe)

Regrets: D'Ambrosio, L. (Best Start); Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire catholique); Oliveira, I. (BICS); Wang, S. (WCIS-SEC); (Whittington, P. (Georgian College)

SUBJECT: LIP Education Sub-council Meeting

1) Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members, and members introduced themselves.

2) Roundtable Update

M. Greaves, Georgian

- Applied for several funded projects
- Launched the Acute Complex Care for Internationally Educated Nurses program (targeted at nurses trained in India for first year; however, not restricted)
- Could bring coordinator in for next time if interest there.
- Running OSLT for October in business
- Full time ESL program running strong with 5 sections

P. Sloan, Simcoe County District School Board

- Integrating families that are coming through – families directed to the Newcomer Welcome Centre
- Several schools have considerable expertise with newcomers

T. Khrystynko, Simcoe County District School Board

- Over 60 families arrived in County → large number that is English speaking, as well as Spanish and Russian speaking families, 3-4 families from China (Mandarin)
- Providing ESL support
- Many high school age students assessed by L. Vanderwater
- August busy time for registrations
- Offering international language courses on Saturday mornings starting in October (Grades 1-8) → German, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish Vietnamese
- Funding through Ontario Heritage Language Program – will forward flyer to LIP
- Mandarin at Richmond Park school possibly

- Can take credits towards high school diploma

Heather Keery, Simcoe County District School Board

- assessed 59 adults in September – mostly from Barrie
- CLB – pre-benchmark – highest group 5
- Korean and Russian speaking
- Last year's clientele moved into high school to college

Susan Green, YMCA Newcomer Services

- Delivers CIC-funded programs
- submitted funding proposals during summer
- 3 language classes in effect- busy
- Settlement services now available on Saturdays (10:00 – 2:00)
- MCI program – settlement
- cannot handle refugee claimants – CIC restrictions
- Applied for itinerant services – continuing but to a lesser degree – CIC is looking at numbers serviced
- 2 settlement counsellors available
- Some newcomers cannot afford to stay in classes due to employment
- Difficult to get higher level of ESL
- Client-base: Asian, Middle Eastern, Pakistani, Iranian, Iraqi, Syrian

Liz Vanderwater, Simcoe County District School Board

- Number of assessments done in August
- Going into schools now to do initial assessments – making arrangements with principals

Tamara Wong, Literacy Council of South Simcoe

- 6 students
- Few issues with cost
- Citizenship class started
- Attempts being made to connect with migrant workers

Franklin Leukam, Conseil Scolaire catholique

- 5 CIC funded programs
- Applied for funding
- SWIS program for French language schools – applying for settlement worker in this County
- New French school opened in Collingwood on Tracey Lane

Stephanie Hobbs

- Does not work directly with newcomers
- Slight change in guidelines through MTCU – do not fund programs to deliver ESL
- Restricted to serving clients that have benchmark of 6 in language or 4 or less in reading or writing
- Refer those who do not meet English language benchmarks to other agencies
- Literacy services in English and French

S. Lee

- MCI Proposal Meeting held in June as a community information session
- On October 24, Stats Canada releases census information on language
- Settlement Strategy Launch will take place on October 17; location TBA.
- The Gateway IEP Conference takes place in Richmond Hill on October 23 → plans to participate in this conference.

3) Municipal Immigrant Information Online (MIIO) Portal

Budget negotiations with MCI took place over the summer on the portal, which resulted in changes to the language portion of the proposal. Funding for French translation was removed as funding for a French portal was approved. The Project Manager and Admin Assistant positions are now posted, with hires expected to begin in October. Information sessions will be planned for the fall. Input from this group on the Education portion of the portal is required.

Discussions are underway on a 2013 project for GIS mapping for immigrants. Libraries, settlement services, language training opportunities, housing, early years centres, schools (point of entry into school system) would be included. Members will be asked if their organization would like to be included in the mapping.

4) Moving forward with planning in areas of priority

The Chair summarized the areas of priority which were established a year ago: Educational Services Mapping; Country of Origin Educational Comparisons; Cultural Competency; Language Tutorial for Secondary Schools; and Integration.

Following a short discussion, members were asked to determine if these areas remain as priorities and what direction the Sub-council wants to go. It was decided that these areas would be reassessed and direction determined at the October 24th meeting.

5) Immigrant Resource Directory – Education Section

The Immigrant Resource Directory is being developed in conjunction with SMWDB, who has included it as part of their 2012 yearly plan. The Welcoming Communities Sub-council identified the Immigrant Directory as one of its priorities. Education is one of five sections in the directory. The Directory will be translated into 5 different languages and will be available in print and electronically on the County portal, SMWDB website, LIP website, etc.

Information taken from SettlementServices.ca was circulated as a sample of the type of information that may be included in the Education portion of the directory. R. Wisken solicited participation for several members to serve on a working group to develop the Education portion of the directory. Conseil Scolaire Catholique CS (rep), Georgian College (Registrar's Office rep), T. Khrystynko/L. Vanderwater (SCDSB); and YMCA Newcomer Services (rep) volunteered to sit on the working group. The working group is expected to meet approximately 3 times.

6) Meeting Dates

- October 24, 2012 – Agenda items: Reassessment of priority areas and moving forward; Sick Kids video on cultural competency.
- November/December 2012 – The November meeting will take place on the 21st, at 1:30 p.m. Location: Oro Medonte Severn Boardroom.

7) Other Business

There was no other business at this time.