



County of Simcoe
Social Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: February 2, 2012

MEETING TIME: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

ATTENDANCE: Anderson, L. (Colibri); Douglas, L. (LIP, recording secretary); Harvey, A. (Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing); Laxton, C. (Youth Haven); Lee, S. (LIP); Millar, R. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Saniga, B. (Catulpa); Varughese, S. (Catholic Family Services); Webster, G. (OPP, Chair); Westcott, L. (Green Haven Shelter)
Regrets: Cayen, A. (Colibri); Cheesman, A. (South Simcoe Police Service); D'Ambrosio, L. (Best Start); King, P. (Elizabeth Fry Society); Rowbotham, S. (Ontario Early Years); Woods, D. (Child Youth & Family Services Coalition)

SUBJECT: Human Services Sub-Council Meeting

1) Introductions around the Table

G. Webster, Chair, welcomed members, and members introduced themselves.

2) Review of Notes from Meeting of November 9, 2011

The review of notes indicated that the focus was not on the human service area directly. The sub-council should refocus on areas that need to be addressed from a human services perspective, what we can do through the planning process, what needs to improve, and who is missing from the table.

Who is Missing?

- Legal services – family law/criminal law
- Victims assistance groups
- Legal advocate
- 310 or York addictions (go into schools) – Bradford
- Food banks
- sports/leisure programs → soccer clubs/hockey clubs/brownies/guides/YMCA fitness programs
- Shelters
- Jumpstart
- Chigamik – health centre – 2 reps
- Seniors Groups – i.e. CHAT
- Midwives – work well with newcomers
- Welcome Wagon - handouts
- CAS
- Newcomers – feedback & contribution
- Taxi companies
- DND – Borden

LIP will review contacts and extend invitations to some of the missing sectors.

3) Update on LIP Activities/Research

S. Lee provided an update on LIP research activities, the current status and activities of the sub-councils, including the development of a 5th sub-council on business development, and the additional focus groups planned in the next few months to engage employers and more newcomer groups. Funding was received from the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board for the development of a resource guide for employers, *Hiring Immigrants Makes Good Business Sen\$e*, which will be available in March.

The Pledge to end Bullying was circulated at the meeting. The initiative was started by CTV, with many schools and local celebrities signing on. Video clips can be viewed on the CTV website.

4) Video: Journey of Cultural Competence

A video on culturally sensitivity that was presented at the recent Train the Trainer workshop hosted by The Hospital for Sick Children was played. Although the video was medical-based, practices could be applicable in other areas.

5) Establishing Priorities

Opening Doors Project

Announcements were made on the upcoming Opening Doors Project workshops: *Journeys to Canada* on March 27; *Starting from the I* and *Building Bridges* on June 12; and *Journeys to Canada* on June 14. Flyers for these events were circulated at the meeting.

Planning for Best Practices Conference

Feedback was requested on the idea of a holding a professional development Best Practices Conference. Members appeared supportive of the idea; however, recommended that registration fees should be kept to a minimum to accommodate not-for-profit organization participation.

Additional Priorities

Members identified the following areas as priorities:

1. Sharing practices experiences with other service providers (4)
 - forum
 - service
 - planning
2. Education (9)
 - What I need to know as a service provider → knowledge
 - Immigration
 - Cultural competency
 - Self-awareness
3. Media (1)
4. Language/interpretation (8)
 - is it strategies to build?
 - funding
 - how to deliver (best practices?)
5. Navigating Conflict - legal system (2)
 - community legal clinic?

Sub-council members were then asked to identify their 3 main priority areas out of the 5 listed.

Top 3 Priority Areas

1. Education
2. Language/Interpretation
3. Sharing Practices

6. Role and Scope of Human Services Sub-Council

Tabled.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the sub-council is scheduled for May 3, 2012, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre.