



County of Simcoe
Social and Community Services
Children & Community Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 5/9/2013

MEETING TIME: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: M. Greaves-CHAIR (Georgian College); R. Griffiths (LIP-recording secretary); S. Hobbs (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network); H. Keery (Simcoe County District School Board); T. Khrystynko (Simcoe County District School Board); S. Lacroix (Conseil Scolaire Catholique); S. Lee (LIP); I. Olivira (BICS); E. Vanderwater (Simcoe District School Board); R. Wisken (LIP)

REGRETS: S. Green (YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka); P. Sloan (Simcoe County District School Board); P. Whittington (Georgian College)

SUBJECT: LIP Education Sub-Council Meeting

1. Welcome

M. Greaves welcomed the attendees, round table introductions were made.

2. Roundtable Updates

- S. Hobbs – Reported her organization has been funded for a new program that will formalize transitions between language and employment services.
- S. Lacroix – Informed the group that they currently are offering a program similar to the Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS) program in the Duffrein and Peel areas which is going very well. They are working in partnerships with other regions and looking at the possibility of bringing the same services to Simcoe County.
- T. Khrystynko – Summer ESL programs are in place. FSL is being offered in September 2013. A desire to have the Learning Centres featured in a future Mosaic was indicated; she will connect with R. Wisken
- I. Oliviera – Funding contracts have been renewed. A free program for newcomer children ages 3 to 5 will run July 8 – August 1, 2013 from 9 am – 12:00 pm. This program is to help children become familiar with the Canadian school setting and routines. She will send R. Griffiths the flyer to post on the “News” section of the Portal.
- L. Vanderwater – Literacy Learners camp for ESL educators will be held August 19-22 at the Kempenfelt Centre in Barrie. Any sub-council member who is aware of someone who could benefit from this program is welcome to contact her. The registration fee is \$100 cheque deposit. If the workshop is attended the cheque will be returned to the participant. There will be multiple activities including two keynote speakers.
- M. Greaves – There continues to be an increased pressure to recruit international students. Currently awaiting budget decisions, both provincial and federal, before priorities can be set.

- S. Lee – The LIP is participating in the following events:
 - North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN is hosting an event in Rama on May 28 and 29, R. Wisken will be attending.
 - The City of Barrie is hosting an event for ethno-cultural and faith based groups, Wednesday May 29. S. Lee will represent the LIP. Mayor Jeff Lehman will be speaking for approximately 15 minutes and will be encouraging dialogue with newcomers
 - North Central Corrections facility has approached the LIP for assistance with an event for employees based on cultural competency. Tentatively June 27th.

3. Portal Launch Update (immigration.simcoe.ca)

S. Lee provided an overview of the launch. The portal site is now linked to the provincial webpage. Approximately 90 people attended, with a choir, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, a newcomer speaker, dancer and a marketplace after the formal launch. A request was made to sub-council members to link immigration.simcoe.ca to their websites. The LIP will develop a couple of phrases describing the portal and forward it to groups to post on websites with the portal link.

4. Develop Work Plan

R. Wisken reviewed the work plan, focusing on the following possible work plan items.

- i. SWIS Program
 - Think about as a community where do you want to move forward?
Should this be researched more, looking at different models? Redistribute the slide deck from the last meeting. Organize a meeting with the school boards and the funder (CIC). Initiate the dialogue, let them know that there is an interest. This may involved working together with settlement workers from funded agencies.
- ii. Celebrate Diversity:
 - The group decided to move forward with the development of a “How To” manual as a starting point for school/educational facilities to increase the celebration of cultural diversity
 - Discussion Highlights:
 - Need to clearly define what we are doing and why
 - The difference between “celebrate” and “accept”: The group felt that “celebrating” could be a tool for the outcome of “accepting”
 - M. Greaves suggested that the group should focus on the strategic level and provide the support for events / activities while individuals organizations / school boards would actually implement the activities
 - Rename to celebrate *cultural* diversity
 - Formal distribution of the manual, including ethno-cultural faith based groups.
 - Brain storm idea points:
 - Specific culture days
 - Food
 - Clothing / understanding differences.
 - Falling in love with Canada – U Tube video different faces in Simcoe County, different people singing a line.

ACTION: Sub-council members will research similar toolkits as well as activities to include in the toolkit

iii. Living Libraries

- As a starting point, this could be included into the cultural manual as an activity that can enhance cultural celebrations

iv. Cultural Competency

- Decided that cultural competency is an important component but will revisit this priority at a later date – potentially after the LIP's *Cultural Competency Learning Symposium: Learning Together, Growing Together* in March 2014.

v. Discussion of other possible ideas to consider for the group;

H. Keery spoke to her students and brought forward the following suggestions:

- community kitchen program, not soup kitchens but bringing people together to cook
- International athletes coming to Barrie advertize to attract more top talent
- Would love to see a university in Barrie
- Better jobs, better wage, cheaper housing
- Can't international students get a discount? Scholarships? Bursaries?
- Volunteer opportunities in Simcoe County for newcomers.

T. Khrystko – students asking for more information speaking to native, English speaking individuals.

L. D'Ambrosio spoke regarding a program running in Barrie for early learning programs.

M. Greaves introduced the article from Calgary on labour shortages and temporary foreign workers

5. Other Business

- Newcomer Recognition Awards:

Hosting the first newcomer awards this coming October, 8 award categories. More information on the event to follow shortly.

- Cultural Competency Learning Symposium: Learn Together, Grow Together
To be held first quarter of 2014, including; keynote speaker, panel of newcomers, and exhibit of settlement organizations.

- Settlement Brochure

Distribution of the brochure; will be sent to all Sub-Councils electronically.

Contact R. Griffiths to order hard copies. English available now, translated copies to be ordered once quantities are established.

ACTION: Send out electronic version to attendees with request of how many print copies they would like.

- Call for Proposals Summertime Contact

Discussion of who might be available during the summer months (Pat Whittington or Mac Greaves for Georgian) group asked if they could nominate a contact person within their group.

- Sub-Council Co-Chair – M. Greaves requested a volunteer to co-chair the Sub-Council to help alleviate his work load.

6. Upcoming Meetings

- Next Meeting: June 6, 1:30-3:30pm

Meeting Frequency to be discussed at the next meeting.