



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

MEETING DATE: 4/11/2013

MEETING TIME: 9:00 – 11:30 am

ATTENDANCE: H. Hie (Georgian College); B. Hoysa (Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities); S. Laycock (Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board); S. Lee (LIP); K. Low (Northern Lights); R. Milne (Councillor); K. Scott (County of Simcoe); R. Wisken (LIP); P. Whittington (Georgian College); L. Woodrow (Career Centre-Barrie); M. Zeng (Barrie Chinese Community Association); R. Griffiths (LIP-recording secretary); D. Newell (Northern Lights)

TELECONFERENCE: M. Terrance (Social Enterprise for Canada); M. Wahl (YMCA Employment)

REGRETS: S. Goruk (Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce)

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership Employment Sub-Council

1. Welcome

P. Whittington welcomed the group and round table introductions where made.

2. Roundtable update (Sub-Council Members)

M. Zeng (Barrie Chinese Community Association): Reported that their Chinese New Year's event was very successful and well attended.

L. Woodrow (Career Center-Barrie): Shared the Career Center-Barrie received a new client as a direct result of the ethno cultural event the Local Immigration Partnership held on March 20, 2013.

H. Hie (Employment Services, Georgian College): The summer job service program in Barrie and Orillia, open to students 15-30, returns this year; employers are also subsidized \$2 per student. On May 15th and 16th local high school students have the opportunity to examine skilled trades Georgian College. If newcomers would like to attend they can contact P. Whittington or H. Hie.

S. Laycock (Work Force Development Board) Newcomer resource guide is almost completed. Printing will be completed shortly. Their year-end partnership dinner will take place on April 25, 2013 at 5:30 pm, at the Georgian College Dining Room.

R. Milne (Town of New Tecumseth) Municipal Deputation presentation to the Human Services Committee, by S. Lee, A. Pickard, G. Webster and C. Colcy was well received. Approval has been obtained to move forward with the deputations to all the municipalities within Simcoe County.

K. Lowe (Northern Lights) – Innisfil office is growing in size; a representative from Ontario Works will now be available on site.

K. Scott (County of Simcoe) – Labour Market Partnership (Project Partners met) April 25th to review status of project and review employer and job seeker surveys as well as determine potential focus groups. Ontario Works case loads continue to grow at a slightly lower rate than previous years. A new satellite location, partnering with Focus, will be open shortly in Alliston (Angus); similar to the Bradford location, with the goal to reduce transportation costs and provide better service for clients.

Ontario Works is investigating partnering with Social Housing and other agencies to open an outreach service in Orillia, similar to some of the models that currently exists in the Niagara area.....a hub model for delivery of programs and services. Ontario Works currently tracks interpretation request as useful antidotal information on newcomer language requirements.

S. Lee –If there is any “News” for the portal please send to R. Griffiths to upload. Funding for the MIO marketing initiative, bus shelter campaign in Brampton, has been approved. The two part campaign will have two distinct messages that will be tracked by monitoring website visits. The two messages are: “Quality Family Life” and “Working and Doing Business in Simcoe County”.

M. Terrance (Welcome Centre, Mobile Unit) - Reported new location at Northern Lights in Orillia every Wednesday as well as Wasaga Beach at the South Georgian Bay Community Health Center the second Monday of each month. An English conversation circle will start in Wasaga Beach soon as well. A new community liaison will be hired shortly.

P. Whittington (Georgian College) – Informed the group of approval for Occupation-specific Language Training from Citizen of Immigration and Citizenship (CIC). College preview day took place last Saturday. A newcomer student was in attendance and Pat was able to lend assistance. Georgian College is hosting a non-full time faculty hiring information session on April 25, 2013 from 3:00-8:00 pm. This could be a good opportunity for newcomers to share their expertise in a variety of topics.

M. Wahl (YMCA Employment Services) - They have hired a new employee, a young woman from China, who will be beginning a 26 week placement through Youth Quest next week. Suggested she would be a great addition to the sub-council.

3. Newcomer Case Studies

K. Scott shared a story about a Mexican immigrant who applied for an Ontario Works position. During her interview she highlighted her immigration experience as a positive attribute because it enables her to relate with newcomer clients.

New comer case studies will continue to be an agenda item. Prior to each meeting if any member has a specific story to share if they should inform R. Wisken and the item will be placed on the agenda.

4. Debrief Ethno-Cultural Event (March 20,2013)

S. Lee informed the group of the positive feedback that was received from the ethno cultural groups who attended. The Facebook post from the President of the Bayanihan Club was shared. The post highlighted the topics discussed, how to find information and a message of encouragement to club members seeking meaningful employment. Members from the Bayanihan Club specifically asked for information on apprenticeships and requested that more information be provided to them. B. Hoysa indicated that his organization could provide a workshop specifically for apprenticeships and EO frontline staff could provide specific help to individuals. This would work well into the plan for a fall event. Information fairs aimed directly at newcomer groups is in the plan for 2014/2015 fiscal year.

5. Portal Launch and Market Place

S. Lee reported the Portal launch is scheduled May 3rd at The Gibson Centre in Alliston at 2 pm. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is scheduled to attend. The portal is Simcoe County’s virtual community. To celebrate this, a Community Market Place will be held after the formal portion of the launch. Invitations for the Portal Launch and Marketplace Registration forms will be sent out this week.

6. Review of Work Plans

R. Wisken reviewed the work plan and working groups. Making sure the work plans are updated on a regular basis to encourage Sub-Council engagement continues to be important.

- **Front line Professional Development** – goal was identified as “Enhance the skills and capacity of employment service staff to meet the needs of newcomer clients by providing training, tools and resources to staff” P. Whittington shared the results of the survey for Professional Development, Cultural Competency day. Working group asked sub- council for input regarding half or full day. Consensus was half day. Cost for the workshop will be between \$25- \$50. Information should be out by the end of the month. R. Milne offered the museum or county conference room as location options.

ACTION: R. Griffiths to investigate room availability for June and send options to P. Whittington and S. Laycock.

ACTION: P. Whittington and R. Wisken will update the tasks within the work plan.

- **Employer Education** – printing of the employer education brochure has been postponed to provide an opportunity for further content review.
- **Newcomer Education** – The Newcomer Resource Guide is being used to develop the workshop; feedback to be provided by the sub-council in May, before moving forward with the project. Projected launch of the workshop will be June or July.
- **Immigrant Employment Council (IEC)** – S. Lee reported the initial funding for this program was not pursued. S. Laycock and S. Lee will be meeting regarding this shortly. The draft proposals were looking at approximately \$125,000. If a Sub-Council member knows of any opportunity for funding please share with the group.

S. Lee informed the group, that the job aggregator being developed by the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board will be added to the MIIO Portal by the end of the fiscal year.

7. CIC Data Cube Presentation

S. Lee presented the CIC Data Cube Presentation authored by G. Hillborn.



Partnership Council
Presentation Feb 201

8. Other Business

R. Wisken presented the joint marketing brochure titled, *New to Canada, New to Simcoe County: Services for Newcomers* that was developed by the Settlement Sub-Council. The group discussed how the document was formatted and the ease of reading for newcomers. The document is currently being printed in English and also is being translated into Arabic, Chinese (traditional), French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese. The brochures will be distributed to: Employment Centers, Libraries, School Board Learning Center, all groups represented in the brochure, Ontario Works and Service Canada. The document will also be available in PDF form. Faith-based and ethno-cultural groups, often sources of informal settlement services, will also be provided with brochures.

Final Word – Round the table final wrap up

- Funding from other sources are always in need, all should keep their eyes open for possible funding opportunities to help newcomers.

- Good work with the work plans keeping groups on track and seeing the projects taken on by the working groups.
- Proactive work preparing to embrace newcomers.

9. Next Meeting Date

May 23, 2013 9:00 – 11:30 am