



County of Simcoe
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 7/5/2013

MEETING TIME: 9:30 – 11:30 am

ATTENDANCE: **PRESENT:** G. Concon (County of Simcoe); R. Griffiths (Local Immigration Partnership -recording secretary); C. Laxton (Youth Haven-Barrie); S. Lee (Local Immigration Partnership) ; T. McAlmont (County of Simcoe); S. McGarvey (County of Simcoe-Research Student); I. Pozgaj (County of Simcoe-Research Analyst); S. Rowbotham (Ontario Early Years); Y. Skybin (YMCA Newcomer Services Simcoe/Muskoka); G. Webster (OPP); R. Wisken (Local Immigration Partnership):

REGRETS: S. Plewes (NSMLHIN); L. Westcott (Green Haven Shelter for Women); D. Woods (Child Youth & Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County)

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership Human Services Sub-Council

1. Welcome

G. Webster welcomed the group, round table introductions were made.

2. Roundtable Updates: Newcomer Programming

No updates at this time.

3. 2013 Interpretation / Translation Community Survey

I. Pozgaj introduced the draft list of questions and discussed renaming the survey “Language Services Community Survey”. S. McGarvey did some background research and review of other research studies prior to suggesting draft questions.

- Review survey questions

I. Pozgaj distributed a hard copy of the draft survey to each sub-council member. I. Pozgaj reviewed each question with the group and captured edits and suggestions. Changes will be completed and final survey will be distributed to the group electronically for final review prior to dissemination in September. Survey invitation will be drafted for September 5, 2013 meeting.

4. Update: Cultural Competency Learning Symposium: Learning Together, Growing Together

R. Wisken provided an update on the progress of this working group to date. Over the summer this working group is focusing on securing 3 keynote speakers and confirming the event date. G. Webster spoke to the OPP commissioner; he has agreed to provide a keynote address to the symposium. The event will be held at the Barrie Holiday Inn. In the fall Workshop Request Forms will be sent to identify agencies to provide a workshop for the symposium.

5. Newcomer Recognition Awards

R. Wisken provided an overview of the awards ceremony that is being hosted by the Welcoming Communities Sub-Council. The event (an evening tea/dessert) will take place on Wednesday October 23, 2013 in Bond Head, during National Citizenship Week. The Working Group is establishing a Selection Committee for the awards and is looking for a volunteer from each Sub-Council to sit on the committee. C. Laxton volunteered to sit on the Selection Committee for this Sub-Council.

Sub-Council members were requested to help disseminate the awards application forms once they are finalized (late August).

6. Organizational Cultural Competency

- [Standards of Organizational Cultural Competence](#)
- [Self-Assessment Tool](#)

S. Lee provided a brief overview of the above documents from the University of Ottawa. Specifically focusing on Appendix B which speaks to the different stages of where an organization might currently be. At the end of the Learning Symposium this could possibly be a good activity to provide to the attendees of the day. The importance of continuing to meet the changing demographics was stressed. This tool could be an excellent resource to assist agencies and organizations as they prepare for continuing demographic changes. At the next Sub-Council meeting, September 5th, this item will be discussed further (specifically how to implement a County wide self assessment). I. Pozgaj suggested a survey to get a sense of cultural competency benchmark of attendees of the Learning Symposium. This could then establish a level of interest of attending agencies and organizations.

Moving forward this will be a standing item on the agenda to further discuss.

7. Other Business

- Newcomer Client Case Studies – R. Wisken introduced the idea of providing updates/scenarios based on members' experiences providing services to meet the needs of newcomers. This is based off of the standing agenda item of the Employment Services Sub-Council where members learn from each other's experiences. The Sub-Council agreed this would be a good opportunity to share on an ongoing basis and will appear as a standing agenda item.

8. Next Meeting Dates

- September 5, 2013 – 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- October 17, 2013 – 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- November 21, 2013 – 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Meeting adjourned 11:00 am.