



County of Simcoe
Social and Community 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



SUB-COUNCIL NOTES LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

SUBJECT: Human Services

MEETING DATE: 10/17/2013

MEETING TIME: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

ATTENDANCE: : L. Anderson (Colibri); A. Cayen (Colibri); R. Griffiths (LIP, recording secretary); R. Holt (LIP); J. Kumar (South Simcoe Police); S. Lee (LIP); T. McAlmont (County of Simcoe); R. Milne (Councillor, County of Simcoe); S. Rowbotham (Ontario Early Years Centre); B. Saniga (Catalput/BICS); Y. Skybin (YMCA Newcomer Services); G. Webster (OPP); D. Woods (Child Family & Youth Coalition)

REGRETS: M. Bergin (Catholic Family Services); A. Cheeseman (South Simcoe Police)

1. Welcome

G. Webster welcomed the group. Round table introductions were made.

2. Review of Notes of Meeting of September 5, 2013

No issues with notes.

3. Roundtable updates: Newcomer Programming

B. Saniga (BICS/Catalpa) – CLEO community lawyer will be providing a presentation on home, community and work at their location later this month.

S. Lee spoke briefly on the new human rights policy on “Canadian Experience Barrier”. More information can be found in their brochure; Policy on [Removing the “Canadian experience” Barrier](#)

Y. Skybin (YMCA) – Programming continues in Barrie, Midland and Innisfil, the team is often travelling each week to Midland and Innisfil as interest in services increases.

4. 2013 Interpretation/Translation Community Survey

R. Holt provided an update on the survey, a priority from this Sub-Council, currently only thirteen responses have been received. A second e-mail blast with an extension to October 31st was sent to all partners as well as through 211Community Network. R. Holt asked the group what the group would like the next steps to be.

S. Lee provided copies of the survey for the group to review.

Group decided the survey will be resent to the group to distribute within their own organizations and contact list.

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

R. Holt reported on the Working Group meeting that was held on October 10th. Currently there are only three workshops.

G. Webster indicated she has recruited a presenter to provide a workshop providing details on best practices within the OPP.

- R. Holt opened up the floor to discuss other ideas for workshops
- D. Woods – has connections to Kitchener/Waterloo – she will forward contact information to R. Holt.
- Discussion of who to approach to provide a workshop
- Suggestion to include the Human Rights policy as a workshop at the Symposium.
- LIP will approach the Employment Sub-Council to ask about possible workshops
- LIP will also speak to the Education Sub-Council for possible
- Best practices from separate areas that could benefit all.

6. Welcoming Communities Framework: Broader Public Sector

Table until next meeting.

7. Sub-Council Description Statement

White board brainstorming words;

- Surfacing of issues – gaps, needs, removing barriers
- Network of human and health services
- Equitable access to Human Services
- Raise/create awareness
- Supporting agencies
- Moving forward
- Inclusiveness
- Proactive
- A model of leadership
- Maps of country of origin, religions, languages
- Effective referral – to connect with other strategies “across the chasm”
- Outcomes – empowerment, build capacity, lower social isolations

ACTION: R. Holt will draft a statement to present to the Sub-Council at the next meeting.

8. Newcomer Recognition Awards Update

Awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday October 23rd at The Club at Bond Head at 7:00 pm. Currently there are over 75 newcomers scheduled to attend the event. Master of Ceremonies is Alistair Connolly, sports anchor at CTV2. All were encouraged to attend.

9. Newcomer Client Case Studies

B. Sangia – a staff member brought forward a concern that a client that they were working with was a second wife. The staff's concern was that this practice was not legal in Canada. B. Sangia engaged in conversation with staff and discussed how personal information like this should not affect how the client is served. Good lesson to share with staff.

A. Cayen –received referral from Victim services. The client's second language was French, however limited. She contacted MCIS translation who provided translation. She wanted to be sure the client was clear on her options and rights. The client returned for her next appointment with the decision to go to shelter. Good learning process with partners working together.

S. Rowthbotom – introduced to a new participant from Russia, another participant in the room started to speak to her child in Russian and there was a great connection made between both the parents and children.

10. Portal Update

- S. Lee provided an update on the MIIO Advertising Campaign that is live in Brampton with the first set of ads "Quality Family Life in Simcoe County". The next ad series will be "Working and Doing Business in Simcoe County". Google analytics will be used to track traffic on the portal.
- French language immigration website is now live.
<http://www.immigrationfrancophone-ontario.ca/>
- Agreement for further funding for an Immigrant Employment Council('IEC) that will host further technology on the portal to develop the "Doing Business" section.
- R. Holt encouraged the group to forward information to be posted on the Portal any of the LIP staff.

11. Other Business

T. McAlmont –The County is initiating a Poverty Reduction Strategy with the goal of continuing the work that has already started in bringing individual initiatives together to work collaboratively. Raising the standard of living and minimum wage are main focuses. Measuring those results will be a large part of the Poverty Reduction Taskforce. Sub Committees will focus on action priorities such as transportation and employment, specifically for Simcoe County. T. McAlmont requested that the group keep this initiative in mind, knowing that participation is vital to work together.

D. Woods - Collation is refreshing their strategic plan and encouraged the group to register and attend.

R. Holt – shared that the OSLT is still looking for participants that is set to start on Monday October 21st.

12. Next Meetings

Thursday November 21, 2013, 9:30 am – 11: 30 am

Thursday January 9, 2014; 9:30 am – 11:30 am