
Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa, Jaffar Hayat - Access & Equity Division, and Grace Maciak, Ontario Works, City of Hamilton.

Regrets: Joana Fejzaj, Maher Hamade, Mohamed Hamouda, Hana Pinthus Rotchild, Isaac Acquah, Abdulkhaliq Herati.

Absent:

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.
   None declared.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.
   All were welcomed and introduced themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

   A. Ayrton/Z. Siddiqui
   To accept the agenda.

   CARRIED.

4. Approval of minutes of meeting November 10, 2011.

   A. Ayrton/A. Sahay
   To approve the minutes of November 10, 2011, as presented.

   CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

   5.1 Occupation Specific Language Training (OSLT) Presentation
   There was discussion regarding the merits of the OSLT program that Mohawk College offers. Committee members expressed interest in knowing how many of the participants actually find employment after finishing the program. One member felt that the program was successful for her because it offered a two month placement at Health Sciences
Corporation after which she had the opportunity to become employed while another member found no opportunities available to him after the program.

6. Future Presentations
The chair informed members that if they wished to invite guest speakers to committee meetings, they must make the request under new business during the review of the agenda or e-mail the chair copying M. Carter prior to the meeting.

7. Business Items.
7.1 Work Plan & Priorities.
Tabled to the next meeting.

7.2 Discussion and review of work plan including Priority #3 Employment - Discussion.
Tabled to the next meeting.

7.3 Newcomer Welcome Open House – Debrief.
Staff presented a draft report respecting the “Welcome Open House” held on November 26, 2011. There were 40 service organizations participating and over 200 guests attended the event.

It was noted that some organizations stated that they did not invite their clients to the event. Members felt that the committee may need to put more effort in outreaching to grassroots communities for future events.

Some additional feedback included:
• Participants were very disappointed that the Mayor was not present, however were very appreciative to Councillor Powers for attending and bringing greetings
• Participants expressed a desire to have a networking session for future open houses
• Invite a representative from Citizenship and Immigration Canada to share its feedback
• D. Hosten pointed out that for future open houses, senior management and leadership of the organizations serving new comers in Hamilton must be sought out and encouraged to participate

A draft summary report of the event was handed out including a list of guests and vendors. Members were asked to add any missing information and to correct the spelling of names in the list of volunteers.
M. Trinh/N. Sarwar
That staff invite Citizenship and Immigration representative to a future meeting to discuss the reality between settlement workers and clients and to provide information regarding which agencies are funded for settlement of new comers and refugees.

CARRIED.

8. Review and comment on reports, legislation, studies.
No reports this month.

9. Correspondence/Current affairs.
No correspondence submitted this month.

10.1 Information Sharing Protocol
It was agreed that committee members who have relevant information that they wish to share, will e-mail that information to M. Carter and D. Hosten. They will make the decision as to when and how to distribute the information.

A. Ayrton/Z. Siddiqui
That staff invite Marvin Ryder to a future meeting to speak about the immigration demographics.

CARRIED.

10.2 Mohamed Hamouda.
The committee sent a get well card to Mohamed Hamouda, expressing wishes for a fast recovery.

10.3 Business Cards for I & RC.
Some members expressed a desire to have business cards. The cards will be printed in house.

11. Next Meeting Date.
The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.