

Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP)

Minutes of the HOUSING WORKING GROUP Meeting on Thursday June 21, 2018

Location: MOSAIC

Attended: Loren Balisky (Kinbrace)

James Grunau (Journey Home)
Saleem Spindari (MAP, MOSAIC)
Mariana Martinez V. (MAP, VAST)
Celine Mauboules (H)
Patricia Mahecha (Inland Refugee Society)
Warren Jacobs (BCNPHA)
Jenny Moss (MAP)
by telephone: Khim Tan (Options)

Regrets received: Theresa Harding, Marika Albert, John Dubé, Mandana Salimian, Bob Derksen

2:00 pm Co-chair: Loren Balisky

- **Loren welcomed** everyone to the meeting – introductions.
- Warren and Marika Albert (BCNPHA)** will act as alternates for each other.
- **The Minutes of June 4** were approved.
 - **The Agenda** was approved as read

2:10 REVIEW OF DRAFT HWG TERMS OF REFERENCE

Loren provided background on MAP and the working groups and work to date:

- Originally 4 working groups: housing, legal, information and health (including mental health) Housing most active.
- The overall MAP Terms of Reference have been adopted as a starting point for the HWG.
- A small group: Patricia, Khim and Jenny met to draft appropriate terms based on these and suggestions from Loren and a draft was provided

Loren read out the pertinent terms of reference for the HWG and then invited comments and suggestions.

AGREED:

- **PURPOSE** to read: The purpose of the HWG is to promote the safety and well-being of refugee claimants by finding and creating housing solutions along the continuum of need.
There was some discussion around the need to include advocacy in the purpose. MAP does not speak for it's many agency members and so the role is more in focussing attention on the needs of RC'S as a collaborative.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** it was agreed that:
 - both Committee members and Advisors must be EITHER Partners or Participants in MAP.
 - Committee members to attend a minimum of 7 meetings annually and ad hoc meetings as needed.
 - Advisors attend a minimum of 3 of the regularly scheduled meetings or as requested, annually
 - Advisors cannot be nominated to Executive (co-chair) positions
- **GOVERNANCE:** it was agreed that:
 - Members of the HWG committee will commit to one year's activity from September to June, with the opportunity to renew at the June meeting.

- The Executive Committee is comprised of the co-chairs elected from within and by the HWG Committee at the June meeting.
- **MEETINGS:** it was agreed that:
The HWG Committee will meet each month, except for the months of July, August and December, on the 4th Thursday following the MAP meeting, from 1pm – 3pm in the same location.
- **DECISION MAKING:** it was decided that decisions will be made in the same form as the larger MAP group. See MAP Terms of Reference p 1, # 5 & 6.

It was agreed that other changes could be made to the Terms of Reference later as need arises.

The agreed upon HWG Terms of Reference are attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

3:00 Review and next steps Forum Report

Loren thanked Celine for her exhaustive work in re-working the report. John was also appreciated for providing a thorough context and his review of the document.

Celine noted that her intention was to document all the forum discussion culminating in a clear Action Plan that will serve as a basis for a HWG workplan. The Action plan has clear short-term activities which can be translated into key tasks for committee members. The long-term goals will continue to apply.

There was discussion as to whether forum participants should be named – Saleem has a list of attendees + Eventbrite list Refugee names to be concealed, but acknowledge the student writers.

NEXT STEPS:

Goal is to present the Action Plan at June 28 MAP meeting, and distribute the report to forum participants before the end of the month, even if its not totally completed. The report will encourage other key individuals to engage with the HWG. Saleem noted that the provincial govt. is asking to see the report.

Important to see what gaps exist in the report, e.g.

- Add in current housing plans for RC's that were not mentioned at the forum but that we know exist, to make the report a truly living document.
- James suggested we should also expand on what MAP is.
- Recognize existing initiatives as part of the preamble.
- Add the infographic to a created Appendix – Loren to send Celine an updated version.

TASKS:

- EDIT: everyone to read report and send factual errors, typos and spelling errors to Celine to correct via track changes
- ADD – backgrounder on MAP – Saleem, Mariana and Jenny
- ADD – statistical snapshot in 2017 of shelter and transitional housing for RC's – Patricia, Loren & Celine
- ADD IN – current initiatives – what other agencies are doing (e.g. MPNH program to house youth)
- HWG to report to next week's MAP meeting: HWG committee development/Terms of Reference and Action Points from the report.
- Those who can will meet at 12pm after the MAP meeting to do a final report check prior to distribution.

3:50 COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS TABLES (CHT) and COUNCIL OF CHT

Loren explained that through Theresa and Jonquil's invitation MAP HWG has been invited to present to the Council of CHT's on July 18 about refugee claimant housing needs.

James commented – HWG attended years ago but interest lapsed. Because RC's are showing up in shelter beds there is more interest, together with potential extra govt. funding.

AGREED that **James, Loren and Patricia** will create a presentation and attend.

Jenny will contact the community CHT's to introduce the MAP HWG and seek opportunities to connect.

4:00 Anhart open house June 28

The Anhart Community Housing initiative is hosting an Open House next Thursday 28th 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

Loren took Mukhtar's housing offer to City of Vancouver – we need to demonstrate how 'we' would manage 30 units of RC housing.

Jenny to forward the Open House information to everyone, together with the Draft Forum Report (done)

- **Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm**

Next Meeting: Thursday June 28th – 12pm after MAP meeting at MOSAIC.