

Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP)

Minutes of the HOUSING WORKING GROUP Meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018

Location: Welcome Center, Victoria Drive

Attended: Loren Balisky (Kinbrace)
Raul Gatica (Kinbrace)
Mariana M. Vieyra (VAST)
Saleem Spindari (MOSAIC)
James Grunau (Journey Home)
Khim Tan (Options)
Patricia Mahecha (Inland Refugee Society)
Celine Mauboules (HAS-BC)
Jenny Moss (MAP)

2 pm Loren and James welcomed everyone to the first meeting of a newly approved MAP Housing Working Group. They emphasised how the impetus for creating the group has come from the Housing Forum attended on May 10 and the soon-to-be published report on Refugee Housing.

James shared the **Agenda** for this first meeting:

1. Co-facilitators
2. Composition of Group
3. Purpose of Group
4. Meeting frequency and date of next meeting
5. Terms of Reference – to include all the above plus:
 - a. Objectives
 - b. Key deliverables
 - c. Action Steps with Persons Responsible
 - d. Budget
 - e. Timeline

1. Co-facilitators

After some discussion it was agreed that Loren and James would temporarily fill these roles until the group is up and running and all necessary structures (as above) in place.

Expected timeline: up to September 2018

2. Composition of Group

Members of the group had been invited to join openly from the MAP membership and beyond. It was agreed that some targeted invitations to join were appropriate, and the following people will be approached once some more specifics are in place and the Forum Report finalised.

Other members of MAP who could be approached include: SOS, Canadian Red Cross, Nathan (BC211)

The following people/agencies to invite were suggested from outside MAP:

- Marika – Housing Providers
- Rep of BC Transition Housing
- Brooke Mels (sp?) – BC Housing Policy Branch – Celine to contact
- Teresa Holding – Metro Vancouver – Celine to contact

- Raul suggested some grassroots organizations – the question is who?
- Refugee claimant voices? Khim suggested Dennis Suarez from Options could be available Saleem to arrange for a staff person from MOSAIC who was also a former claimant.
- Catherine Ludgate – Vancity – Jenny to contact

A one-year commitment will be requested of everyone.

The private sector would be approached once a more solid plan is in place.

3. Purpose of Group

For the near future there is one clear goal:

Analyze the **Report from the Housing Forum** as it comes out in 3 stages to check for gaps and ensure the report covers the big picture in terms of housing opportunities for claimants. Report due to be published June 13th (mid June). Priorities and goals will be based on the outcomes of the report. From there we will need a strategy to disseminate the report and steps of how to proceed.

4. Meeting frequency and Next Meetings:

To dovetail with drafts of the report the following meetings were agreed:

a) Tuesday June 5th – 1pm

at MOSAIC

ACTION: Saleem to book a room

b) Thursday June 21st – 2pm

at MOSAIC – final draft check of the report.

5. Terms of Reference

In order to have credibility and transparency we must create the group's **Terms of Reference** – see attached MAP Terms of Ref. The section on the HWG could be expanded and otherwise the same terms apply.

6. Other Business

- **We must be aware of what other initiatives are underway, e.g.:**
 - Abbotsford City initiatives in collaboration with Inasmuch
 - Funds available for submissions in June for housing on the old gaming ground. (Patricia)
- - Mukhtar's offer (to build multiple units if someone can bring the necessary land to the table)
 - This can't be allowed to go cold – Mukhtar should be approached soon to expand the idea.

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 5th – 1pm at MOSAIC