



MAP HOUSING WORKING GROUP

Refugee Claimant Assets Mapping Advisory Committee

MINUTES

January 24, 2018, 3:30pm – 4:45pm – ISSofBC Welcome Center

Present: Chair: Theresa Harding (Metro Vancouver HPS)
Loren Balisky (Kinbrace)
Kingsley Eke (RC Lived Experience)
Derek Chu (Kinbrace)
Dena Kae Beno (City of Abbotsford)
Mukhtar Latif and Gilbert Limarae (Pomegranate Consulting)
Nathan Wright (BC211)
Jenny Moss, Melissa Kwan, Barry Growse (MAP)

Chair: Theresa Harding

Theresa welcomed everyone.

Regrets: Jenny Francis and Patricia Mahecha

- 1. Outline and approval of Agenda** – Approved.
- 2. Minutes** from November 22nd meeting – Approved.
- 3. Introductions made by Theresa**

4. Pomegranate's research to date (Mukhtar):

The project scope is to map the existing assets for RC's, the methodology is as follows:

Phase 1: Literature review / Data collection

Phase 2: Thematic analysis of focus group, interview and survey data

Phase 3: Feedback and draft report with Recommendations

We will need to come up with different survey questions to gather more information. There are also multiple focus groups for the survey. We can use their stories in the upcoming conference in Abbotsford.

Loren: Options is doing a resource fair for refugee claimants you might attend For the methodology scheduled. Is Vancouver Island included?

Mukhtar if MAP can provide Vancouver Islands' RC's contact information.
(Sabine Lehr: Inter-Cultural Association of Great Victoria - SLehr@icavictoria.org / 250-388-4728 ext.146)

Mukhtar then talked about the current status of project. They've made connections with GeoBC and BC211 to develop mapping options. Literature review and data collection is being undertaken and questionnaire is circulated to over 60 organizations. The story telling and the mapping of RC's journeys have commenced.

Mukhtar then presented the possible questions for government and shared a graphic of mapping the journey to a home

Loren: What is informing your stages? What creates the clump of information?

Mukhtar explained the graphic more in terms of its stages. The graphic depends on each family's circumstance.

Loren: We can focus on what is happening in the housing, where RC's are staying at particular stages and the daily search for housing.

Nathan: NOTE: From a meeting with CBSA - low risk RC's are now given an appointment at a CBSA office on West Pender (downtown) for the eligibility interview.

Jenny will follow up with CBSA

Kingsley: The RC's now declare their intent upon entering Canada at West Pender.

Theresa introduces **Dena** (Housing and Homelessness in Abbotsford), who shares her success story and work experience.

Update from Pomegranate: Project scope

Mukhtar shared project scope and mapped the existing resources that enable refugee claimants to access housing. We've asked 50 organizations and there are some questions we need them to answer. Questions regarding RC's temporary accommodations, RC's report of the usage of emergency shelters. He then showed a graphic of a story of RC's.

Draft Report Format:

Mukhtar talked about the current response system, its challenges and best practices. Best practices mean "other practices" – we can look at UK or Abbotsford as examples.

Jenny: Barry has done research on other countries and cities before.

Dena: We have done work with quantitative data – this can be shown to the government.

Theresa: Which shelters would be appropriate to include as a service for RC's? Many of the ones in the lower mainland are not for RC's.

Kingsley commented on how services and shelters will let them in if there's space, but sometimes families will have to separate. There are 61 shelters in lower mainland, yet majority do not cater to refugee claimants.

Dena: We also need to consider LGBTQ community.

Loren: Sruthi Tadeipalli is an SFU student doing research on housing models for asylum seekers globally and proposing some solutions for Canada. Loren will put her in touch with Pomegranate.

Theresa asked about the timeline for the draft report format.

Mukhtar commented that it is still in progress; first they need to write down goals and ensure they ask the right questions. Over the next few weeks, Pomegranate will get more data and workshops and meetings will take place in February, then they'll start writing report in March.

Jenny: We have a report due by the end of January with sections on the different roles of everyone. Loren has put together a piece on how to do the reporting. We can work on it and have the bulk of it due by Monday, January 28. There's a big report due in March. We also need to start thinking in terms of financial report.

Barry: Do we have definitions for terms in the questionnaire? (e.g. Transitional housing)

Loren: Celine can provide definitions. Dena can also provide working definitions.

Dena agreed to forward those definitions to the whole housing group members.

Kingsley then described the definitions on a basic level for understanding.

If there are questions about the questionnaire, direct them to Pomegranate website.

Theresa: Barry will complete the research on a Word Document.

Next meeting: February 28th at MOSAIC

Adjournment: 4:45 pm