



MAP HOUSING WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday June 27, 1pm at City Centre Library, 10350 University Dr, Surrey,

PRESENT:

Tammy Johnson and Richard Belcham (inasmuch)

Jenny Lam (Options)

Meaad Alharbi (SOS / ISS of BC)

Dustin Lupick (HSABC)

Julia Wu (BC211)

James Grunau (Journey Home)

Derek Chu (Kinbrace)

Imtiaz Popat (Western University)

Saleem Spindari (MOSAIC)

Jenny Moss, Barry Growe, and Melissa Kwan (MAP)

Co-Chairs: James Grunau (Journey Home Society) and Derek Chu (Kinbrace)

James welcomed everyone

Introductions were made

Outline and approval of Agenda – Approved

Minutes from May meeting – Approved

IWG – World Refugee Day

Jenny: It was a successful event as many people came out. Thanks to all the volunteers and next year, we hope to make the World Refugee Day even bigger.

Update for the group on the process with the Province re the MJTT report's roll-out

Derek: Last time we created a counter proposal to MJTT and we still have not heard from MJTT yet—hopefully we will soon.

Current refugee claimant arrival numbers (May highest month so far in BC)

James: This year, there will probably be 3000 RC's coming to BC. The number is only increasing as time goes on. Canada-wide, the overall total of RC's is increasing.

Mead: Many RC's come to Vancouver because they've heard that there are more services here in BC compared to other provinces in Canada.

Saleem: It is not surprising that they want to come to BC, because BC is an easy transfer.

Updates on the current referral process for newly arriving refugee claimants

Julia: We will coordinate with Meaad and Alexandra to discuss about the current referral process for newly arriving RC's.

James: Is it mostly large families that present a challenge to your group?

Julia: Yes, mostly families, because it is a lot harder for them to stay together.

Mead: It's hard for RC's to go to Abbotsford or Chilliwack from Vancouver because they don't have the money to go that far.

James: How about Kinbrace, Mosaic, Inasmuch? Any comments on the referral process?

Richard: It's going well. We now want to make things more efficient. If there's a family of five for example, we hope to have the RC's finish their RC ID before they come to us.

Saleem: Everything is going well.

James: Chris Friesen (ISSofBC) is working on emergency shelter funding from the Province and is now seeing if we can use some of that for RC's.

Richard: Tammy has a recent connection with Chef's Plate, a provider of bagged food, and now they send bagged food donations to the clients who inasmuch serve.

Dustin: We received a grant by Sparc BC which is announced on the Sparc BC website. **Dustin** encouraged people to apply for the Sparc grant - a Homelessness Community Action Grant program, which provides \$6 million to help community groups address homelessness in their communities.

Election of HWG Co-chairs: July 2019 to June 2020

James: Call for any other candidate nominations for HWG Co-chair was made at the general MAP meeting, and at HWG.

Agreed that there had been no other candidate nominations.

Richard suggested that Jenny Lam (Options) would be an excellent candidate for the position of co-chair, because of the different perspective a non-housing provider could provide as HWG Co-chair.

Jenny Lam declined as she is new to the group as well as her position at Options. Options does have some transition housing, and one of the transition houses is here in Surrey.

Jenny M. moved that **Derek and James** will continue as HWG Co-chairs for the 2019-2020 year. All agreed.

Tidying up of any revisions to the Meanwhile Space documents

Barry: We have not had any feedback on the Meanwhile Space documents. We hope that the documents are useful.

Imtiaz discussed with a New Westminster City Councilor about the capacity for Meanwhile Spaces. They discussed how it might take time to get there, but they can definitely gain capacity for Meanwhile Spaces.

Barry: Nasra Mire (past Manager at SOS) gave feedback about needing more specific information on the responsibilities of the landlord. Please add to the document anything that could be helpful as well.

Richard: Where do they reside as electronic documents?

It was decided that the electronic documents will reside on the MAP website in the Members section and kept as Word documents so that they will be easy to amend.

Saleem: I'm still not comfortable saying that it is from MAP. It's why we removed the MAP logo.

James: As MOSAIC and any other of MAP member organizations does research, let's feed it to Barry so that he can make it available to everyone.

Options that could be presented by HWG for a response by the MAP community to any announcement from the Province on refugee claimant housing

Derek explained the options under the Call for Proposal. (*Refer to Call for Proposal document.)

Saleem told a story about collaboration amongst agencies and organizations.

James: Derek and I are proposing recommendation #8. Any feedback?

Imtiaz: I see MAP as a facilitator agency, before facilitating, we should see what the interests are, once we know what the interests are, we can better know how to facilitate.

Tammy: It might be a little complicated location-wise for recommendation 8.

James: It comes down to how much the agencies want to collaborate with each other. Any additional feedback from others?

Richard: I feel there could be a geographic and size tension between Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley.

Imtiaz: I see Richard's point, but there will always be a conflict of interest. Usually when the government gives funding to one agency, another agency will end up partnering with that agency and work together.

Richard: Personally I think option #4 is viable.

Saleem explained stream B funding.

James: Our concern for number 4 is that the government may not be able to deal with multiple agencies, as of now, the government seems to only be dealing with one agency, MAP.

Derek: A good mindset for us would be to look forward. By collaborating as MAP, we can show the province that they can come to us directly. How about we come up with an option that meets all agencies' criteria? What are those criteria?

Richard proposed having Fraser Valley physical representation as criteria because their needs are different.

Saleem proposed the criteria of wider mandate geographically and in terms of services.

Other criteria proposed included having a track record of:

- funding from governments
- and collaborative work with other agencies.

Tammy: One criteria should address future needs – what happens when short-term housing funding ends?

Dustin: When an organization has a broader mandate than working with RC's, then challenges could persist about direction and the roles and responsibilities of different agencies working together.

Final List of Criteria to help guide the decision:

1. Presence in the Fraser Valley and in BC beyond Metro Vancouver
2. An organization with a wider mandate to include a larger geographical spread in BC and to include both housing and services
3. Having a track record with government funding
4. Taking a longer view to the future than just immediate needs
5. Having a track record with refugee claimants
6. Being collaborative as an agency with a history of working well with others
7. Having capacity to manage a significant amount of funds
8. Willingness to work with a leadership council to manage the funds

Next Meeting:

James: Is there an openness to meeting in the summer if need be?

It was decided that members were open to a summer meeting if needed, and that the co-chairs will call a meeting if needed during the summer.

Otherwise, next meeting September 26 at ISSofBC

Adjourned: 3:00 pm.

Meeting on HSABC Conference and MAP's RC Housing Workshop.

Dustin: The HSABC Conference will be held on September 25-27, we're hoping to have MAP present on Sept 26 - afternoon. We expect about 150 participants across the province to attend the conference. The audience will be organizations involved in homelessness sector, (60% from Metro Vancouver). Last year there were representatives from homelessness serving agencies, government, BC Housing, and other social services agencies. The 1.5 hour workshop will focus on training, managing and working with RC's. This workshop will be for people who want to learn more about RC's and issues

revolving around RC's and housing. They will provide resources and on the ground services for homeless. It'll be helpful for a RC to share a lived experience at the workshop as well.

So far, Dustin, Imtiaz, Iris and Tammy can help with the Workshop at the Conference.

****If there is anyone who would like to help out and contribute to the Housing Workshop at the HSABC Conference, please email Jenny and let her know.**

Adjourn: 3:30 pm.