

Health and Mental Health Working Group

Meeting Minutes

October 16th, 2017

10:00 to 12:00pm

Centre for Social Innovation

Regent Park

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Terms of reference
4. Mental Health Ambassadors project
5. Hong Fook Presentation
6. Policy Review

Attendance	
Alejandra Salgado	Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
Maria Lo	Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Tooba Satei	Madison Community Services
Janet Ngo	CAMH Refugee Mental Health Project

Staff	
Giovanni Rico	TSLIP / Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

1. Welcome and Introductions

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff, and provided with a copy of the Meeting Agenda. Members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Copies of the previous meeting's minutes were distributed to members. Minutes were then approved.

3. Terms of reference

Members were each given a copy of the newly approved Terms of Reference. They were reviewed by staff and highlighted the terms when it came to commitment and participation in the group. It was highlighted that all members are committing to attending at least 4 out of 6 annual meeting in order to maintain a consistent workflow.

4. Mental Health Ambassadors Project

Members were updated on the recent findings of the mental Health ambassadors' project and that the Toronto North LIP would soon have a report with all its findings. Remembering the previous discussion on how to take these findings members discussed the need to help in implementing a mental health training for front line staff so as to help in bringing the baseline of all front line staff to a better level in the Toronto South. LIP staff would bring the official report once it is published in order to move this item forward.

5. Hong Fook Presentation

Maria Lo presented the program that Hong Fook has developed for Frontline staff. It is a two day program that has been offered to all agencies in Toronto. The program is free of charge. She then went over the curriculum and the reasons on why they are needed. Members the discussed how to implement this in the Toronto South. It was agreed to divide the session into 4sessions of 2.5 hours with a max of 20 participants with a registration of 25. Toronto south LIP will host one of these trainings to gage interest of the members. Agencies who show lots of interest can then be referred to Hong Fook for them to do an agency wide training for their staff. Training will go ahead and talks about where to draw the line between settlement and counselling need to be more elaborate so as to have a better explanation for agencies who may be struggling with this issue.

6. Policy Review

Members then gave their input on the different policies that are creating barriers for newcomers' access to health and Mental Health services. Interpretations and translations for counselling specially for men that are free of cost. The importance of this is huge in the relationship with a newcomer and a service provider. Especially when it comes to mental health services were communication needs to be extremely effective for the service provider to better serve the client.

There are a lot of services that are specifically targeted to women but there still exist a stigma for men, therefore although members acknowledge the need for gender specific services there is a need to not leave behind other genders as they are more often falling through the cracks. Members believe agencies have liability concerns when it comes to mental health training for their staff. There needs to be a training issue on what a screening is, a clear protocol for all agencies on what settlement workers can do which is screening.

There is also a sense that some Management may not being in touch on what settlement workers needs are. There needs to be more Dissemination of information, training for managers on the topic specifically when it comes to liability issues or concerns. Members also discussed who we need to bring to the table, Sherburne health, Toronto Public Health, Women's Health and Women's Hand, Regent park community health Centre were organizations that the LIP staff will move to invite for the next upcoming meetings.

7. Next Meeting

November 20th, 2017 10:00 am to 12:00 pm