



Health and Mental Health Working Group

Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2021

10 am – 11:30 am

Zoom

Attendance: Cathy Kurelek- Access Alliance, Teresa Dremetsikas –CCVT, Barbora Gomezova – Culturelink, Domine Rutayisire- CCVT, Rosa Ribeiro- Parkdale Community Health Centre, Nadjib Alamyar- Woodgreen Community Services, Craig Carter-Edwards- LACC and Welcome Home TO, Corina Carvallo -Skills for Change, Danny Anckle-Cecil Community Centre

TSLIP: Paulina Wyrzykowski

AGENDA

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Announcement and Next Steps
4. Project Finalization and Working Plan
5. Agency and Program updates
6. Closing

1. Land Acknowledgement

TSLIP staff read Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and introductions

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff, members were thanked for attending the meeting. Members provided introductions.

3. Announcement and Next Steps

- As ratified by TSLIP's executive committee, the Social Inclusion Working Group will merge with the Health and Mental Health Working Group
- Social Isolation is a component of mental health and much of the discussion, topics of uptake and interest overlap
- Group will begin in January, delegate the work and break out in smaller sub-committees and come together every 6-8 weeks to update on progress

4. Project Finalization and Working Plan

- Projects were selected from H and MH WG group discussions over the last two months and emailed feedback by working group members
- TSLIP also took into account sector needs, TSLIP's historical work and work undertaken by other Toronto LIPs
- Idea is that at least two projects will be worked on simultaneously allowing group members to select what they are most interested in
- Still room for emerging needs and to take up other issues should they arise.
- Feedback is primarily needed on the proposed timelines

New Projects

- Black Frontline Staff Support Network
- Mental Health Impacts on the Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Building capacity series to support newcomer youth
- In addition to any emerging issues that are identified throughout the year
- All projects would need to be completed by October 2022

Discussion Questions and Comments

- When will the Black Frontline Staff Support Network Begin? ASAP
- Woodgreen has youth advisory council and can support in terms of planning, resources and support, youth have already received training
- Work plan is designed to meet funder requirements does not mean all projects need to be discontinued once the work plans ends
- Projects were ranked by interest and what came up in needs assessment
- Need to look at projects from inclusive perspective

5. Agency or Program Updates

- Cecil Community Centre has had a demand for in-person programming and has added additional days based on response. They will be closed from Christmas Eve until January 4th and will open fully and screening will be done at reception. Aim is to create a welcome and friendly atmosphere as they return to business as usual
- Youth have been resistant to masks and are slowly being vaccinated while seniors groups have had 100% compliance
- Woodgreen will close for 4 days during holidays, some on site service are available and all locations are partially open. Rooms have been prepared for events with public health in focus, though it appeared that some newcomers have been fearful of interacting with others
- Culturelink is offering a program called Winter Blues that will be ongoing throughout the holidays. It will be online with group sessions
- SEPT workers are preparing an event on mental health resources for youth and children
- CCVT open for in-person services Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, groups still virtual. Will be closed for stat holidays. Youth counsellors recently delivered holiday toys, very labour intensive and has required a lot of pre-planning.
- Skills for Change wants to have rapid testing, but has been slow going. Also they have union obligations and have been trying to develop plan with union cooperation. Return was planned for January but may be delayed. IRCC is saying business as usual by April 2022
- Rapid tests should be made more widely available shortly
- Access Alliance can not close for more than 3 days at a time in order to provide medical services and some in-person programs and services run through will be limited during the holiday break

6. Closing

Next meeting will be in January, a doodle poll will be sent to all participants of the merged groups