

Social Inclusion Working Group

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2021

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Zoom

AGENDA

- 1. Land Acknowledgement**
- 2. Welcome & Introductions**
- 3. Grassroots Support Update**
- 4. Debrief: New of Tragedy in Kamloops, BC**
- 5. Strategic Plan/ Emerging Issues**
- 6. Closing and Next Meeting Date**

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 that introduced themselves and gave small updates on their organizations. New manager also provided an introduction.

3. Grassroots Support Update

Recapped that in the previous meeting the consensus fell on having an electronic survey to share with grassroots groups to learn about the supports they need, but also have a personal component ie. Follow-up phone call, zoom meeting or other media platforms

- Recognized that groups may not be able to engage with surveys due to capacity or may not be a priority in the moment.
- Once we create survey we can connect with groups like Refugee 613 or neighborhood pods who are already doing this type of work for assistance with outreach and also make connections to share available resources
- WG would like volunteers from agencies to support creation of survey questions and outreach with follow up and phone calls.

- Alicia offered to help with outreach through phone calls, requested a catchment area and clarification as to what type of groups to target ie. such as tenants groups
- Group agreed that as long as grassroots group worked with newcomers or would like to engage with newcomers it would be agreeable.
- We should also connect with other organizations already working with grassroots for wider reach.
- Should engage the LIP and potentially send survey through network to see who else can help
- Members would find it helpful with existing workloads if draft can be made and request feedback on it by a deadline

Survey Sample Questions to Engage Grassroots Group

- A. Who is the target audience? ie. age, neighborhood, demographic, newcomers
 What type of support is provided?
 What do they need (support) from network?
 What are outreach strategies?
 How are folks referred?
 What agencies are they connected to? What supports do they already have?
 What led to group creation/origin?
 Temporary or long term?
 Membership limitations?
 What is their capacity? Waitlist? How many are being supported at a given time?
 What types of training would increase capacity?

- B. What types of support agencies can provide? (Preface to survey to highlight resources)
 Follow up service user/ agency referral?
 Outreach for resources?
 Training in particular mental health support for members and community, leadership, effective organization etc.?
 Consultation/grant writing, proposal, financial reports, budgets?
 Toolkit/material for Grassroots groups?

*Toolkit could be long-term and could be an item in the deliverables that we would like to do over the coming months

7. Debrief: News of Recent Tragedies

Space was given to discuss and debrief recent racially motivated incidents in media, particularly those that took place in Kamloops BC and London Ontario. Group members shared ideas and thoughts.

- WG group member shared their organization made space to discuss during all-staff meeting and individual program areas and felt they were good discussions that showcased different perspectives
- Some organizations sent out resources/contacts for places such as counselling and distress lines, particularly for indigenous populations, would be helpful to send out to the work group

- Another member shared they were also provided similar services, covered by their organization for any costs incurred. Issue was raised at their anti-racism committee and staff looked at ways as to how they can support tangible initiatives
- A member shared that staff want to take action but are in fear of offending- not wanting to appear as heroes or saviors. Want to provide ethical support with dignity to communities affected. Would like a recommended campaign to join
- Also, staff are wondering how to deal with guilt and how it can be eased, though we all have a responsibility to our communities
- Important to keep in mind most folks are not trained in mental health counselling and can do more harm when addressing certain issues
- Youth have wanted to take action. Fundraising even small amounts has been helpful in providing actionable ways to take part in change.
- Providing spaces for listening, has been helpful and should continue as the work goes along
- Shared experience of community built on erasure of history. An example was given by a member whose TCH community had been built on top of an indigenous burial ground and commemorative signs and information had purposefully been removed.
- Mention was made of Frontline Staff Support Working Group. Another session is in the works and information will be shared with the group for their staff once details are confirmed.

4. Strategic Planning

The strategic planning will continue over summer 2021. TSLIP is working on a 4 year plan that will be developed primarily with input from the Council but will also include consultations, roundtable discussions and surveys. Members were encouraged to complete for review.

Members were reminded of overview for the planning process:

- Needs assessment in form of survey (linked in zoom chat)
 - Taken to our council meeting along with feedback from groups- narrow down urgent themes
 - Summer focus group(s) set up to gain specificity on themes
 - Working groups will use to develop their projects and work plans
- Items mentioned include: need for consolidated list for available trainers/ consultants- at present recommendations come informally through networking, there is a need for newcomer specific training
 - Idea was presented as a ranking system with reviews and have consultants pay small subscription fee to advertise and stay current
 - LIP website will have a platform for training via Youtube, also LIP trainings available on website
 - Members will be able to list events and trainings on website in future

Social Isolation Network

- Last meeting discussed putting network creation on pause due to schedules changing, shifting funding and staggered reopening
- Very broad as most programs address social isolation but working in silos. Original aim was to improve communication between services

- Can we use existing platforms ie. Refugee 613 or settlenet.org as tools?
- Needs refined definition as all newcomer programs have an objective to reduce social isolation

5. Changes to Working Group

Jassi, current lead would continue to work on Grassroots piece, while Nadia, new manager will take over responsibility for next meeting and will be in touch with meeting time.

6. Closing

Group confirmed they would like to retain standing date of every second Monday in the afternoon for meetings. Afternoon time preferred but not specific start was decided, as school will be heading back in the fall and parents do not yet know how work schedules will look. Next meeting will be July 12th in the afternoon.