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TORONTO SOUTH LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Centre for Social Innovation - Annex

In attendance:

Executive Committee Members

Axelle Janczur, Access Alliance
Bill Sinclair, St. Stephen's Community House
Debbie Hill-Corrigan, Sojourn House
Diane Dyson, WoodGreen Community Services
Lisa Randall, Culturelink
Mulugeta Abai, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
Sean Meagher, Social Planning Toronto

Project Team

Paulina Wyrzykowski, St. Stephen's Community House (meeting facilitator)
Sandra Guerra, WoodGreen Community Services
Giovanni Rico, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
Laura Buccioni, Social Planning Toronto (minutes)

Presenter

Sally Fazal, Innoweave

Regrets:

Cassandra Wong, Parkdale Community Information Centre
Catherine McNeely, Newcomer Women's Services

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Collective Impact Discussion (facilitated by Sally Fazal from Innoweave)
- TSLIP Team Report
- Succession Planning and Diversity
- AOB

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Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting facilitator introduced Sally Fazal of Innoweave and invited committee members to introduce themselves and their agencies.

Strategy and the Collective Impact Approach Discussion:

Sally Fazal gave a presentation on Innoweave's Collective Impact model and approaches, and how such an approach could be applied to the Toronto South LIP's Strategic Plan.

There was a brief discussion on the foundations of Collective Impact and its origins in community development and social impact concepts and frameworks. Successful approaches to collective impact were reviewed, along with some example projects: the Hamilton Healthy Birthrates Coalition, Ending Youth Homelessness KFLA, The Collective Impact for Toronto Youth Initiative, Seniors SI (ESDC New Horizons for Seniors Program).

Sally stressed the importance of having a mutual understanding of intended impact and beneficiaries, and the group explored some of the complexities and existing struggles around impacting root causes. Sally also had some recommendations for a collective impact approach based on the TSLIP strategic plan. She suggested considering segments of beneficiaries, i.e. different categories of immigrants/newcomers based on status, length of residency in Canada, support networks, etc. She also suggested adding the health of the collective (the TSLIP and the agency members) as an outcome to measure as well, looking at things like how well everyone is working together.

Concerns about accountability to deliver and measure outcomes influenced by exogenous factors largely out of the control of the committee and the sector were brought up. The group discussed the value of setting goals that can serve as beacons to help evaluate strategy and impact, and course-correct when necessary, regardless of whether originally intended outcomes are met. Sally stressed the importance of establishing a mutual understanding of the boundaries around that which you can control and aim for at the start of the process.

The group discussed how a Collective Impact undertaking could work alongside the recent strategic planning without duplicating previous work. The facilitator acknowledged that though the goals from the strategic plan are broad and difficult to measure, much of the collective impact process seems similar to the strategic planning process. The collective impact approach could offer an opportunity to go through a larger process that builds up to the next strategic plan, or it could be an opportunity to operationalize the strategic plan by providing tools and exercises to support working groups in realizing goals from the strategic plan. The group also discussed how, as a large LIP, there are opportunities to acquire valuable learnings to share across the sector and with other LIPs. Throughout this discussion, Sally recommended taking a holistic approach rather than trying to focus on just one project or aspect of the strategic plan.

The group discussed further how to implement a collective impact approach that works with the strategic plan without duplicating efforts, and the importance of reaching a mutual agreement on intended impact. The group also discussed the time frame and workload of the project; Sally indicated that the development phase usually takes 6 months (though the TSLIP's strategic plan

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work may shorten that period), and the implementation phase usually takes about a year. The group briefly discussed ways of working on this project in ways that minimize administrative burden, acknowledging that most of the work would likely fall to the Executive Committee.

The group also discussed concerns around buy-in among agencies primarily involved in the implementation phase. Sally explained that the framing that is done during the developmental phases can galvanise and focus agencies in the implementation phase. She also stressed the importance of authentically engaging agencies (particularly those delivering front-line services) from the beginning to build buy-in and avoid having the focus fixed on existing tactics.

TSLIP Team Report:

The facilitator provided highlights of TSLIP activities since the last meeting of the Executive Committee.

MCI grant and IRCC contract negotiations

As of the meeting date, there had been no news about the proposal submitted to MCI through the vulnerable newcomers sector capacity building stream, and no news from IRCC about contract negotiations.

Pathways to Prosperity and the Canadian Council for Refugees

TSLIP staff had attended the Pathways to Prosperity conference, where there was particular focus on Reconciliation initiatives by LIPs across the country. TSLIP staff had also attended the Canadian Council for Refugees consultation.

Collective Impact EOIs

An expression of interest (EOI) has been submitted to Innoweave as part of the InterLIP, in addition to the EOI that was submitted to work on collective impact within the TSLIP only (and which was discussed in the first part of this meeting). The LIP managers suggested that this work would be best suited for the Systemic Issues Working Group, and the TSLIP director will be reporting back to that group to consult with its members.

National Settlement Council

Regarding efforts to advocate for LIP presence at the National Settlement Council, a general letter was signed by over 30 LIPs across the country in support of this, and OCASI is involved.

IT Updates

The executive committee was updated on recent changes to the TSLIP IT infrastructure. TSLIP staff now have separate emails on the TSLIP domain. Migrating TSLIP documents to a cloud system is also in the works.

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Financial Report

The facilitator explained that two line-items from the TSLIP budget have yet to be spent: website upgrades and professional & consultant fees, totalling about \$10,000 in unused funds. Three spending options were suggested: a website upgrade feasibility study, supporting the speaker's bureau, and furthering reconciliation work. The group discussed how to use the funds and agreed on allocating approximately \$8,000 to a website feasibility study (including some upgrades or improvements) and \$2,000 to complement other resources leveraged by member agencies to support the Speaker's Bureau. They decided that reconciliation work required more thoughtful planning through a longer conversation at a later date, and that enough periphery resources (such as Toastmasters, the United Way Speakers Bureau) could be leveraged to support the Speaker's Bureau without investing more than \$2,000.

TSLIP Membership Fees

The facilitator explained that framing around membership fees needs to be updated to reflect the way those funds are directed, and that requests for membership fees had been delayed during council recruitment, but would be sent out before fiscal year end.

Succession Planning and Executive Committee Diversity

The facilitator reviewed the Executive Committee's statement on succession planning and diversity, and confirmed that September 2018 is the deadline to reach some of the initial goals.

Next Steps

The TSLIP Director will discuss with Sally from Innoweave what next steps might look like, and work on a draft work plan, before committing to moving forward.

Other Business:

TSLIP Researcher Position

The role is anticipated to be filled by early January.

Next Council Meeting

The group agreed to have one more TSLIP Council meeting before fiscal year end.

Meeting adjourned