

Systemic and Social Change Working Group Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, November 23, 2017
CSI-Annex, 720 Bathurst St. 3rd Floor**

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
Review of minutes from last meeting
- 2. Review of survey results**
- 3. Identifying Policy Issues Worksheet**
- 4. New Research Opportunity**
Housing Worker/Settlement Worker Resource
- 5. Other Business**
- 6. Adjournment**

Participants: Diane Dyson, WoodGreen Community Services; Elmira Galiyeva, Toronto North LIP; Mani Mahadeva, Toronto East Quadrant LIP; Yasmeen Tian, Toronto West LIP; Tim Maxwell, Kensington-Bellwoods CLS; Muna Gaye, TNO; Behi Shafiei, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI); Gem Lee-Herder, University Health Network, Toronto Western Hospital; Sharifa Sharif, University Settlement; Carina Carvallo; Skills for Change; Grace E. McDonald; Hospitality Workers Training Centre; Sarah Watson, North York Harvest Food Bank

Regrets: Jeanie Son, Yonge Street Mission; Ruth Lee, CARE; Glory Ressler, Mothercraft

Staff: Sandra Guerra, Toronto South LIP; Laura Buccioni, Toronto South LIP

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Participants were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Review of survey results

Sandra reviewed the survey results (see attached). The 2 areas of focus with the highest interest are: a) Newcomer access to career accreditation/ licensing and b) Access to mental health supports for newcomers.

3. Identifying Policy Issues Worksheet

The worksheet was distributed to the committee. Members were asked to indicate what they thought we (as the SISC) could do to address the issues, who we should involve and make a personal commitment to the issue they wish to work on.

Please see attached for summary of Policy Issues Worksheet.

It was agreed that a sub-committee would meet to begin discussing the Newcomer access to Accreditation/ Licensing issues and further discuss how we can proceed.

4. New Research Opportunity / Housing Worker & Settlement Worker Resource

New Research Opportunity

Sandra discussed our involvement in a new research opportunity working with University of Toronto and York University.

The project is the Citizenship and Employment Precarity project. We will be part of a community workgroup - Knowledge Alliance Working Group - whose members include: Access Alliance, Women's

Health in Women's Hands, Metro Chinese and South Asian Legal Clinic, OCASI and possibly (still under negotiations) FCJ Refugee Centre, the Workers Action Centre and The 519.

The purpose of this group will be to participate in collaborate research design and data analysis. The project is currently developing a survey focusing on legal status and employment and how it affects financial debt, health and well-being. The survey results and personal interviews will be the basis of the research project.

The project also includes a documentary film highlighting 3 case studies. Currently the plan is to address the following themes 1. Precarious status 2. Precarious employment and/or 3. Access to social services with a youth, a woman and a senior.

The documentary filmmaker is Min Sook Lee who produced the film Migrant Workers (a documentary film about migrant workers and the Temporary Foreign Worker program www.migrantdreams.ca)

Housing Worker & Settlement Worker Resource

No update on this resource yet – Alex is working on it, hope to have a draft at the next meeting.

5. Other Business

Meeting dates

The next two meeting dates are January 18, and March 15

SISC page on website

There is a page set up on the Toronto South LIP website for each of working groups. All the agendas, minutes, presentations and relevant documents are posted. Go to www.torontolip.com > Council and Committees > Systemic Issues and Social Change to find all information about this committee

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12noon