



### Settle Steering Group Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	March 18, 2014	<b>Location:</b>	YMCA Immigrant Services- Rm. 9
<b>Time:</b>	9:30-11:30am		
<b>Present:</b>	Ana Luz Martinez (Chair), Cathy Bossenberry, Ann Derry (for Heidi Newton), Gael Gilbert, Lynne Griffiths-Fulton, Kristin Johnson-Perlock, Priscilla Muzira (for June Moyo), Mira Malidzanovic, Sharon Schmidt, Laura Stoutenburg, Eunice Valenzuela		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Liliana Arajulo, Pari Karem, Heidi Newton, Eliseo Martell, Osama Marzouk, June Moyo, Sheri Phillips, Van Vilaysinh		
<b>Absent:</b>	Pauleen Payne, Melissa Paciulan, Leslie Josling		
<b>Staff:</b>	Nicole Francoeur, Daniella McIntosh		

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Ana Luz shared that she was chairing on behalf of Pari who was not able to attend the meeting.
- Cathy Bossenberry is retiring from the Region of Waterloo in April 2014. Ana Luz thanked Cathy for her years of service to the Immigration Partnership.

#### 2. Review of Minutes- Dec 19th, 2013

- The minutes were approved as presented.
- Daniella provided an update that Heidi has been in touch with the Manager of Dental Care in Public Health around dental care for refugees. Next steps are being determined.
- Cathy added that the Region received additional funds for dental services through Discretionary Benefits to come into effect on April 1, 2014. OW caseworkers can refer a client to the dental unit.

#### 3. Conflict of Interest

- Daniella shared that Conflict of Interest will be a standing item on the agenda moving forward for all steering groups. Members are expected to declare any conflict of interest for any agenda item in which they, or an organization/group that they may represent, would have a direct financial or vested interest in a specific outcome. In the event of a declaration of a conflict of interest, the member will not actively take part in the discussion or the final decision for that agenda item and, at the Chair's discretion, may be asked to leave the room for the discussion.



#### 4. Vice Chair

- It was shared that two volunteers have put their name forward for the role of vice-chair so far. Daniella will send an email asking all SSG members to vote soon. Please respond to this email at your earliest convenience.

#### **Actions:**

- **SSG members to vote on role of the vice-chair.**

#### 5. Organizational Updates

##### Mental Health Workshops

- Gael from Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW) shared that she is interested in organizing mental health workshops for newcomer-serving agencies and the housing stability sector as a way of knowledge-building, increasing inclusiveness, building relationships and furthering collaboration in Waterloo Region.
- SHOW (with the support of a consultant) has been working on an application to hold a series of 6-8 workshops covering a range of topics.
- The group suggested that Gael get in touch with the mental health and trauma initiative through Public Health. Daniella to send contact information to Gael.

##### World Refugee Day

- CCORIC has asked the SSG to come together and hold a forum that discusses changes to the Immigration Policy/Citizenship Act for World Refugee Day.
- The group also suggested that it could be interesting for the SSG to do a forum focused on health, along with the changes to IFH and OTHB. Dr. Mike and Sanctuary Clinic could be involved with this. Daniella will gather further information and share with the group.

##### 2014 3rd National Day of Action

- Mira shared that Monday, June 16, 2014 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Day of Action to show continued opposition to the Federal Conservative government's cuts to refugee health care in Waterloo Region. It is hoped that many SSG members can attend.

##### CAP Launch and Recognition

- The CAP Launch and Recognition event is taking place on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:45-1:30 at the Holiday Inn in Kitchener.

##### Strengthening Connections in a Diverse Community Networking Event

- The event is taking place on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3:30 and is hosted by the YMCA and the Immigration Partnership. This event includes lunch and will be a great networking opportunity.

##### Immigration Policy/Citizenship Act Changes

- Daniella sent out a summary of the proposed changes from the CIC website. The group remarked that a more complete version could be found on the CCR website. Daniella to send information additional information on CCR website to SSG.

- At this point, it is not clear when the proposed changes will be implemented, but it is known that the changes will be fast-tracked.
- The group discussed especially problematic changes, including:
  - Extended language requirements and passing of knowledge test
  - CIC Minister to have authority to make decisions
  - Authority is to be established to revoke Canadian Citizenship
  - Need to provide past 6 years of history when a person is applying for Citizenship.
- The group was also interested in possible denial of Citizenship if a family member commits a crime. This was not on the summarized list distributed by Daniella, but was to be further researched.
- It was suggested that research be conducted around what other Immigration Partnerships are going across the province related to the proposed changes.
- Daniella will continue to look into the proposed changes. The group will then consider writing a letter summarizing the changes for Council to go forward at the next meeting on April 16.

#### **Actions:**

- Gael to send proposal re: mental health workshops to SSG for feedback via Daniella.
- Daniella to send contact information for Mental Health and Trauma Initiative to Gael.
- Daniella to gather further information from CCORIC about the SSG's possible involvement in World Refugee Day.
- Daniella to distribute poster for 2014 3rd National Day of Action to SSG.
- Daniella to send information additional information re: proposed changes to Immigration Policy/Citizenship Act and activity taking place with other LIPs.
- Daniella to organize a group process around writing a letter to Council re: proposed changes.

#### **6. Community Action Plan**

- Nicole shared that it was the hope to finalize the SSG draft Implementation Plan by the end of the meeting (sent to the group one week in advance of the meeting for review). The draft plan will be presented by Pari and Daniella at the upcoming Council meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This Plan is intended to be high-level, while the detail around the specific steps involved in each activity would be determined through the action groups.
- It was also shared that there were some outcomes for discussion added to the draft Implementation Plan. Outputs summarize an activity, while outcomes describe what difference the activity makes. The actual change that takes place, often expressed in terms of: an increase in understanding, and improvements in desired behaviors or attitudes of participants (can be short-medium, long-term).
- The group discussed the four prioritized activities as well as two proposed activities to address within the next 6-12 months (1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1). Daniella incorporated changes into the draft Implementation Plan.
- The group add that it would be a good idea to have an evaluation on the CAP as a whole. It was also discussed that quantitative data in order to measure impact is necessary and agencies could provide this information.



- Group discussion around each activity has also been added under “Discussion Notes” in the document.
- The group approved the draft Implementation Plan for presentation to Council.

Next steps:

- Daniella will send out the revised plan to the SSG with feedback incorporated.
- Next steps will be to form the action groups to tackle each activity. It was suggested that there is a Community Supports umbrella group and a Health Supports umbrella group. Sub groups of these larger groups will take on community support-related or health-related activities as identified in the Implementation Plan.
- Daniella will send out a Doodle poll for possible action group meeting dates. At the first meeting of the action groups, the role of the action groups and its members will be discussed (e.g., develop detailed work plan, provide updates to steering group, reciprocal information-sharing, decision-making, resource members) and how it relates to the steering group and Council.

**Actions:**

- Daniella to send out revised implementation plan to the SSG
- Daniella to send out a Doodle poll for possible Community Supports and Health Supports action group meeting dates.

**7. Adjournment:**

- The meeting closed at 11:25am.



### Settle Steering Group Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	June 11, 2014	<b>Location:</b>	Kitchener Public Library (Meeting Room B)
<b>Time:</b>	1:00-3:00pm		
<b>Present:</b>	Gael Gilbert, Lynne Griffiths-Fulton, Kristin Johnson-Perlock, Pari Karem (Chair), Eliseo Martell, Heidi Newton, Sharon Schmidt, Laura Stoutenburg, Matt (Welcome Home Intern), Stephanie (Welcome Home Intern)		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Liliana Araujo, Leslie Josling, Ana Luz Martinez, Mira, Malidzanovic, Sherri Philips, Eunice Valenzuela, Van Vilaysinh		
<b>Absent:</b>	Pauleen Payne, Sam Marzouk, Priscilla Muzira, June Moyo		
<b>Staff:</b>	Daniella McIntosh		

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

#### 2. Review of Minutes- March 18, 2014

- Previous action items were reviewed and the minutes were approved as presented.

#### 3. Conflict of Interest

- No conflict of interest to declare

#### 4. Organizational Updates

##### Central library

- Kristin from KPL gave an overview of the new features at the Central Library now that the renovations are complete
- Renovations started in 2010 and now there is an additional 2500 square feet
- World Refugee Day events will be taking place at the library in the new auditorium (can hold 200)
- 84 public computers available for use
- In the fall of 2014 there will be new literacy courses for newcomers available in the computer lab
- The new multilingual collections feature 15 different languages
- KPL has partnered with the YMCA to offer English Literacy Classes in the fall
- The library is promoting barrier free access to library cards—will try to make arrangements for individuals to get a library card
- Kristin available to do library tours with newcomers or ESL learners (contact her to arrange)

### Building Local Information for Ontario Newcomers (BLISON)

- Daniella shared that the Waterloo Region Settlement Service Directory is now complete and available online—can be accessed through the Social Planning Council Kitchener-Waterloo (SPCKW) Website ([www.waterlooregion.org](http://www.waterlooregion.org)) or on the Immigration Portal ([www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca](http://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca))
- SPCKW held a launch event for the project and received feedback that there is interest in having in-service and client workshops on how to use the directory and links that are available. If anyone is interested in this they are to contact Gillian Veitch or Trudy Beaulne for more information. Daniella to send out the Settlement Services Directory flyer with the contact information.

### Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG)

- Daniella attended the HHUG AGM on June 4<sup>th</sup> and is now a member of the steering committee for 2014-2015
- Daniella also submitted an article for the June HHUG newsletter outlining the housing related items in the CAP that the Settle Pillar is working on
- There is an upcoming Housing Stability System 102 Workshop being offered on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 9-12pm. Daniella asked if there was interest in participating in this workshop in order to learn more about the housing stability system. Interested group members can register on their own or contact Daniella.
- SSG discussed wanting to receive more information around Co-ops and how they can be useful for newcomers seeking housing

### Other:

- Sharon attend a conference for the Coalition of Service Providers and shared that in Hamilton there are Ontario Works Caseworkers that deal specifically with refugees clients
  - Group discussed the importance of having representation from Ontario Works now that Cathy Bossenberry has retired and is no longer on the group
  - Daniella shared that Cathy was working on having a supervisor from the Employment and Income Support department participate on the SSG after she retired

### **Actions:**

- **Daniella**
  - **contact Candace Goudy, Manager of Employment & Income Support to see if she or a supervisor from the department will continue on the SSG**
  - **send SSG materials from the BLISON project**
  - **share information on June 25<sup>th</sup> Housing Stability System workshop for those interested in attending**
- **SSG to explore options for co-op housing; connect with HHUG**

## 5. Immigration Fact Sheets

- Heidi explained that Public Health will be creating updated Immigration Fact Sheets and would like to get input from the SSG
- The fact sheets were initially created because individuals wanted data on immigrants
- The fact sheets include both qualitative and quantitative data
- Now with census and most recent data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada( CIC) Public Health will be working from now until the end of the year to created updated fact sheets
- Feedback shared is that these have been a valuable tool for the community
- Public Health would like this to be a participatory process— and will be asking questions such as what has been helpful? What do you use them for? What may your use them for?
- The process for developing the new fact sheets-- survey will be sent out, a draft a list of what will be on the fact sheets will be developed, sheets will be created and distributed by the end of the year
- One challenge is that Public Health can't make comparisons to previous years because the long form survey is no longer being used
- Feedback from SSG:
  - At YMCA was helpful for comparing their own stats to the data on the fact sheets
  - Trends are changing and clientele are changing
  - Refugee claimants are not represented in the census data (they are not included until they become permanent residents)—Can waterloo region collect this information to be included (suggest asking MCRS for information)
  - Migrant workers, refugee claimants, secondary migrants need to be included
  - Categories do not reflect the refugee population – reflects the overall immigrant population—can there be a separate section specifically for refugees?

### **Actions:**

- All
- Think about data needs
- Look out for a survey from Heidi to come out in the next few weeks. Complete the survey and share it with your networks in order to help with gathering information that will be useful to be included in the fact sheets

## 6. Dental Coverage and IFH

- Lynne and Heidi lead discussion around impacts of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) on families, especially children needing dental care
- Issue came to light with the announcement of the changes to provincial dental programs

- Currently, due to these changes, anyone in receipt of IFH coverage are not eligible for the new amalgamated dental program for low-income families that was implemented to make dental care more accessible
- The impacts do not just affect Government Assisted Refugee's (GARs), it affects anyone covered by IFHP
- If a client is receiving Ontario Works (OW) then they are eligible for dental
- Under the IFHP dental coverage is already very limited
- Most dentists are not accepting IFHP and even for emergency coverage, clients need pre-approval
- SSG asked what will happen to this program with the upcoming provincial election.
- Lynne has a meeting scheduled with manager of dental program in Public Health during the morning of June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Advocacy**

- Daniella led an advocacy exercise and discussion around the Immigration Partnership's advocacy policy as outlined in the Governance Document.
- The SSG went through the process of answering the advocacy protocol questions that would be put forward to Council if the group decides that they would like advocacy support around this issue

### **Actions:**

- Lynne to meet with Manager of Public Health Dental Program and share results of meeting with the SSG
- The SSG to decide on their advocacy request to Council once more information is gathered about the issue

## **8. Community Action Plan**

- Both actions groups held their first meeting and began working to develop their detailed work plan for each activity
- Clarification requested for who is on each action group and whether or not individuals could still join groups. Daniella shared that SSG members are welcome to participate on both groups.
- Both the Health Supports Action Group and the Community Supports Action group are in the process of gathering information related to their action items and have started to form a detailed work plan
- Daniella reviewed the completed Settle Steering Group Quarterly CAP Report for June that Pari will be presenting at the next council meeting. Daniella will share this report with the SSG via email.



**Actions:**

- Daniella to share the Settle Steering Group Quarterly Progress Report (June 2014) with SSG members

**9. Meeting Schedule**

- The SSG will not meet during the summer and have decided to change the regular meeting date for quarterly meetings
- The group decided to plan to meet Wednesday afternoons (1:00-3:00pm) on the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month and will continue with quarterly meetings
- Next meeting will be Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm, location TBD

**Actions:**

- Daniella to send outlook meeting requests for quarterly meetings

**10. Adjournment:**

- The meeting closed at 2:47pm.



<b>Date:</b>	September 3, 2014	<b>Location:</b>	YMCA, Room 9
<b>Time:</b>	1:00-3:30pm		
<b>Present:</b>	Gael Gilbert, Lynne Griffiths-Fulton, Kristin Johnson-Perlock, Pari Karem (Chair), Eliseo Martell, Heidi Newton, Sharon Schmidt, June Moyo, Priscilla Muzira, Mira Malidzanovic, Nicole Francoeur, Jenny (MSW Students, MCRS), Emily (MSW Student, MCRS),		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Liliana Araujo, Leslie Josling		
<b>Absent:</b>	Pauleen Payne, Sam Marzouk, Sherri Philips, Laura Stoutenburg		
<b>Staff:</b>	Daniella McIntosh, Tara Bedard		

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

**2. Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRRP)**

- Guest speaker unable to attend meeting; group had discussion about existing knowledge of the program.
- Sharon and Eunice explained that the AVRRP is a program of the federal government that pays for transportation for individuals to return to their home country, however the individual must sign an agreement stating that they will not reapply to return to Canada as a refugee
- Maximum of \$1500 given to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to organize the resettlement—money not given directly to the individual/family
- Currently the AVRRP is being piloted in Toronto
- More information about AVRRP can be found here, <http://www.canada.iom.int/canada-avrr-pilot-programme>

**3. Review of Minutes- June 11, 2014**

- Previous action items were reviewed and the minutes were approved as presented.
- Update:
  - Survey for Immigrant Facts Sheets has been completed and a sheet on refugees will be developed; fact sheets are expected to be available by January/February 2015
  - Daniella followed up with Candace Goudy, Manager of Employment & Income Support and confirmed that they are looking for a volunteer (likely a supervisor from the department) to continue on the SSG.

**4. Conflict of Interest**

- No conflict of interest to declare

## 5. Bill C-585

- The proposed Bill will restrict social assistance to refugee claimants and is going for second reading to parliament on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>
- This issue is directly related to CAP 1.1—if this bill is implemented, now we aren't looking at finding supports for the first 8 weeks but possibly for years since there would be no social assistance available
- SSG members discussed advocacy as it relates to Bill C-585 and other issues that have come up in the past
  - Group members inquiring about what the IP can do about this issue (i.e. advocacy)
  - Need to look at our responsibility while also recognizing that there are many limitations around advocacy
  - We need to further define how we will advocate on certain issues
  - Group interested in having a guest speaker speak to the group about advocacy (What is it? How do we do it? Etc.)
  - Important to continue to bring issues forward so that the Immigration Partnership can address the issue
  - Group discussed importance of gathering input about the issues that are important and that will require advocacy. Suggested a survey is developed and sent to the group on issues we are interested in looking at or learning more about

### Actions:

- Daniella to organize a meeting with local MPPs and coordinate sending a letter to MPPs using the template available in the action kit (individual organizations on SSG to determine if they will participate)
- Individual organizations on SSG to consider registering as a delegation to speak to Regional Council; raise awareness by connecting with the media; follow suggestions in the action toolkit that has been sent around (contact Daniella if you need this information)
- Daniella to send a Doodle Poll with dates for a meeting in October to discuss advocacy
- Daniella to forward CRA video's about advocacy to the group

## 6. Organizational Updates:

- The Ride for Refugee Event on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and participants include Welcome Home, MCRS and Reception House. Participate in the ride or make donations! More information is available on the Immigration Partnership website
- Immigration Partnership is on Twitter—follow @ImmigrationWR
- The Immigration Partnership Fall Newsletter will be coming out in October, send any community events/updates to Daniella by Sept 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Immigration Partnership website has been updated and there are now separate sections for IP governance documents, meeting minutes, CAP related items/updates and publications are now organized by reports and research, resources, fact sheets.



**Actions:**

- Send any updates, event or new program information to Daniella on an ongoing basis. Updates will be promoted on the Immigration Partnership website, Twitter account and in our quarterly newsletter

**7. Community Action Plan**

- Both the Community Supports Group and Health Supports Group have met once (early spring-April/May) and will need to meet again ASAP to finalize work plans and a regular meeting schedule
- Community Supports Action Group
  - Focus has been on activity 1.1—sharing information on supports available to refugees during their first 8 weeks
- Health Supports Action Group
  - Daniella met with Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) staff during the summer to discuss CAP priority action area 2.2 and will be working on organizing and information/facilitated discussion session for the SSG/Health Supports Action Group

**8. Adjournment:**

- Another conflict has come up with the new regular meeting schedule that was determined at the last meeting in June. Daniella will send out a Doodle Poll to determine a meeting date for December and going forward.
- The meeting closed at 2:29pm



<b>Date:</b>	November 25, 2014
<b>Time:</b>	9:00-11:00am
<b>Location:</b>	Reception House (Board Room)- 101 David St.
<b>Present:</b>	Gael Gilbert, Mira Malidzanovic (Chair), Ana Luz Martinez, Heidi Newton, Sharon Schmidt, Geetha Van den Daele (Guest- O'Halloran Group), Samantha (Guest- Welcome Home), Tajinder (Guest- SHOW), Linda (Guest-SHOW)
<b>Regrets:</b>	Liliana Araujo, Nicole Francoeur, Lynne Griffiths-Fulton, Kristin Johnson-Perlock, Pari Karem, Priscilla Muzira, Sherri Philips, Laura Stoutenburg
<b>Absent:</b>	Eliseo Martell , Sam Marzouk, June Moyo, Pauleen Payne, Eunice Valenzuela
<b>Staff:</b>	Tara Bedard, Daniella McIntosh

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Welcomed guests from Welcome Home and Supportive Housing Waterloo Region and Geetha, an evaluator from the O'Halloran Group

### 2. Review of Minutes- Sept. 3, 2014

- Bill C-585 (Bill C-43)
  - Update: Changes proposed in Bill C-585 have been moved into the Federal omnibus budget bill C-43
  - Over 160 organizations have signed a petition to oppose this bill
  - As a result of the Settle Steering Group request for action from the Immigration Partnership, a position paper (on Bill C-585) was developed and distributed to local MPs and the originator of the Bill. The paper is also available on the Immigration Partnership website (<http://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/immigration-partnership/position-papers.html>)
  - Note: the Bill does not mandate that provinces cannot give social assistance to refugee claimants however; it does give them the option. This shapes attitudes towards newcomers in Canada.

### 3. Conflict of Interest

- No conflict of interest to declare

#### 4. Meeting Guidelines

- New meeting guidelines have been established for the SSG; additional information about governance is outlined in the Immigration Partnership Governance Document

#### 5. Council Update

- Effective Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, John Haddock will step down as Council Chair and Current Vice-Chair Peter Donahue will move into the role of Chair
  - John will remain involved as a member of Council
- Evaluation of Immigration Partnership processes and outcomes is underway. The O'Halloran Group has been selected as the evaluators and members of their team will be attending upcoming partnership meetings to observe.
  - Tara explained that through the evaluation we will reflect on where we have come from and where we are going
  - Daniella asked the group to look out for survey from the evaluation team and to be sure to provide input when it is available.
- Daniella distributed new Immigration Partnership Advocacy Procedures document that has been created to enhance and further clarify Advocacy Protocol outlined in the Governance Document

#### Action(s):

- Review Immigration Partnership Advocacy Procedures and provide feedback to Daniella by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. (ALL)

#### 6. Community Action Plan

- The first year of our three year community action plan is coming to an end. The Quarterly Progress Update will be presented to Council at their December meeting and made available on the Immigration Partnership website.
- Group members discussed a need to review the SSG membership to see if there is anyone or a particular group/organization that should be involved. Group also noted that attendance of steering group members has been low at the last couple meetings and perhaps the change in a regular meeting date has affected attendance.
- Health Supports Action Group
  - Daniella shared that the group has been busy preparing for a meeting with the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) and the group will be meeting with the Director of Health Systems Integration and the staff person responsible for the diversity portfolio
  - The Health Supports Group has worked together to prepare a presentation and a background paper with three recommendations for addressing health care needs of immigrants and refugees locally. The paper was distributed to the SSG for feedback and the group shared a few comments. Group



members were happy with the development of the paper and are looking forward to hearing about the meeting with the WWHLIN.

- Heidi shared that Public Health is looking at access barriers to healthcare for immigrants and refugees for use internally.
- Community Supports Group
  - Daniella explained that this group has been experiencing challenges with attendance therefore progress on activities has been minimal
  - Group discussed that having three very different activities for this group to focus on may be making it difficult to engage action group members and to get the work going. A better option may be to create new action groups.
- Group discussed connecting with the local Universities or CCBR to invite them to do research on various issues related to our community action plan.
  - Tara shared that there has been discussion about doing this with Council members affiliated with the Universities
- Comments were made with regards to the housing activities within the Community Action Plan (CAP) that the SSG should connect with the staff (i.e. management) involved in housing at the Region of Waterloo regarding inclusion and connecting with organizations working specifically with immigrants and refugees
  - Tara shared that she is looking at the internal committees that exist within the Region of Waterloo to see where we can connect and share information
  - Daniella reminded the group about the Housing event that was organized in November 2013 in collaboration with the Housing and Homelessness Umbrella Group (HHUG), Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and shared that this group would like to work with us to plan another event. We should be more intentional about the outcomes we would like to see from organizing another event.
  - Further comments made that we need to look at the housing items in the CAP separately

#### **Action(s):**

- Daniella to follow up with individual steering group members to discuss creating new groups to continue the work of the Community Supports Action Group. Will also look at people outside of the SSG who should be involved in carrying out particular activities.

#### **7. Welcome Home Update**

- Ray of Hope will be the umbrella for Welcome Home until March 2016
- Sharon will officially end with International Teams Canada on January 31, 2015 and will then be employed through Ray of Hope
- Local partners (the Re-Launch Team) are committed to the future of Welcome Home and will direct the next steps



- Last refugees at Welcome Home will be moving out at the end of November and Welcome Home will be looking for a new place to house refugees
- There will be a public re-launch meeting in January and Sharon will send the information to be shared with the group

## 8. Community Updates

- Guests, Linda and Tajinder are students from Conestoga College and are working on a project for SHOW
  - Currently in the research phase and have distributed a survey to gather information on newcomers in the community. Would like everyone to complete the survey by December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre tutoring program started in November and there is now a waiting list for students to get a tutor. Information for an upcoming information session on sponsoring parents and grandparents will be shared via email. The annual KWMC Equity and Inclusion fundraising dinner is on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Health is looking to meet with members of the SSG to discuss how to improve services for immigrants. Will be in touch in Jan/Feb.

### Action(s):

- Daniella to send SSG electronic version of Linda and Tajinders survey. Group members to complete survey and respond to Linda by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. Adjournment

- Daniella will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule a date for the SSG next quarterly meeting in March.