

Diversity Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Councillor Martin - Chair
Councillor Starchuk - CoChair
A. David
C. Iweh
J. Kovach
K. Polubinski
M. Fallon
M. Malik
M. Pyne
P. Aylward
S. Altokhais
S. El-Nashar
S. Marcinkowska
S. Sabharwal
T. Ghuman
T. Oleman

Absent:

Dr. B. Gurm
B. King
J. Thind
K. Thiara

Non-Voting Representatives:

L. Larsen

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
R. Takhar, RCMP Crime Reduction &
Community Services Manager
D. Gill-Badesha, Healthy Communities
Manager
E. Desautels, Community Services Coordinator
J. Monk, Community Services Coordinator
O. Shcherbyna, Local Immigration Partnership
Coordinator
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting of December 8, 2015 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by M. Malik

Seconded by S. El-Nashar

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory

Committee, held December 8, 2015, be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **Wraparound Program (Safe Schools)**
Jonathan Ross, District Social Worker

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide an overview of the Wrap program mandate and strategy to reduce youth violence and criminality.

The following comments were made:

- Jonathan Ross is a social worker and a supervisor of the Surrey Wraparound Program (Wrap). The Wraparound Program is a partnership between the Surrey School District, RCMP and the City of Surrey. Wrap's mandate is to work with youth who are criminally entrenched. Many children are on probation or are part of low-level gangs. The children who participate in the Program are usually referred by probation officers.
- Wrap received a twenty-thousand dollar (\$20,000) funding grant from BC Civil Forfeiture which is targeted towards clinical counselling of youth and caregivers. In April 2015, the Program received two-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Provincial Government to support additional staffing to reduce the waitlist for participants. Also, in May 2015, Wrap received 3.5 million over 5 years from Public Safety Canada. These funds allowed the Program to hire more staff, taking on 30 students since September. Wrap previously serviced 65 youth and is now servicing 85 youth.
- Many successful youth graduate high school and come back as leaders to the community.
- The Wraparound Program has four domains of case management:
 1. Individual
 - Wrap investigates to understand the historical trauma and how it relates to the participant's present behavior.
 2. Family
 - Wrap has diverse staff who make trusting bonds with the participants and their family members. There is a thorough understanding of relevant family history. The initial interview takes place in the home where staff are able to identify who can be a positive influence and seek which family members can be relied upon for the individual.
 3. School
 - Wrap supports youth's strengths and interests and articulates those to school staff in order for the participants to be successful in the classroom. They also support conflict resolution and interventions post-suspension.
 4. Community
 - Wrap offers a Partnership Mentorship Employment Program through the local Community where youth work with a positive role model to help guide them in a constructive direction.

The Wraparound Program's objective is to positively attach youth to school, their community, and the home by building a trusting and positive relationship. One of the successful outcomes of the program is keeping youth in the school system. The youth's guardians are included in goal setting and assisting the program's objective in building a positive lifestyle and self-worth for the youth participant.

2. **Syrian Refugees in Surrey**
Olga Shcherbyna, Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Coordinator, Social Planning

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide information on the current situation in Surrey regarding the arrival of the recent and anticipated refugees from Syria.

The following comments were made:

- 2,600 applications have been finalized in preparation to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of February 2016.
- All Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) are required to re-pay the GAR Transportation Loan, which covers the cost of pre-entry medical exams, transportation documents and transportation costs. Although, the Government of Canada recently announced that refugees will not be required to cover these transportation loans.
- In January, the Government Assisted Refugees were taken to the Welcome House, a multi-service hub dedicated to supporting immigrants and refugees, located in Vancouver. Refugees who can already speak English, who are educated, and who can be integrated easily, will be placed around the lower mainland, including Surrey. The refugees receive around the same amount as Canadian's who are on income assistance (Welfare). Approximately 150 - 180 refugee families require housing.
- Pamphlets were created for Arabic speaking refugees which outline all the services offered by government-funded settlement agencies and other community organizations providing services in the City of Surrey. The pamphlets can be used by all new refugees entering Canada and one pamphlet was designed for the general public on how they can help.
- An internal group of City staff was formed to strategize how the City of Surrey can welcome Syrian refugees.

The Syrian refugee crisis is a unique situation where Canada is responding to a demographic crisis. It is a national project where approximately 18,000 refugees have arrived to Canada and very few are privately sponsored. Canada's policy is to select the most vulnerable refugees and Citizenship and Immigration Canada hopes refugees will integrate immediately after they are settled in their new homes.

3. Inclusive Volunteer Opportunities
James Monk, Community Services Coordinator

This item was deferred to the next Diversity Advisory meeting.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

1. Sustainability Charter Update

File: 0512-02

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 2016 in 1E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by S. El-Nashar
Seconded by M. Malik
That the Diversity Advisory Committee

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee