

Diversity and Inclusion

Advisory Committee –

Notes

Present:

Deputy Chair - Councillor Martin
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
J. Kovach
M. Malik
M. Pyne
E. Szücs

Absent:

Chair – Councillor Rasode
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts
R. Asistio
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36
C. Hong
B. King
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski
S. Sabharwal
S. Scott-Phillips
M. Solorzano
R. Noble

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

QUORUM NOT ATTAINED, therefore the meeting will be recorded as notes only.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting of September 20, 2011 were received.

B. DELEGATION

1. **Punjabi Seniors and Mental Health Promotion**
File No. 4900-01

Deirdre Goudriaan, BC Healthy Communities and Jas Cheema, Fraser Health, presented a recent research report completed in Surrey on Punjabi seniors and mental health promotion.

- Jas Cheema is the leader of FHA Research Services and has done research in Punjabi Seniors Wellness Coalition. . The research was done to determine the mental health supports available and what can done to better present and to promote better mental health in the South Asian community.
- Caregiver supports for the South Asian community include Mental Health *iCare* Project, Fraser Health, and Centre for Healthy Aging. Project partners include Canadian Mental Health Association and BC Healthy Communities.
- Mental health promotion is a proactive way to eliminate or minimize factors that increase distress and loss of well being.

- Two Forums were held to see what was being done in determining mental health and social inclusion, freedom from discrimination and economic participation.
- Next steps –
 - Support service providers in Surrey, working in partnership with other agencies and embrace family in programming.
 - It is estimated that only 5-15% of seniors are engaged in using the available services.

Committee comments:

- Seniors problems are universal. Focusing on one group and integrating would increase funding.
The delegation responded that the focus of the study was to promote mental health in Punjabi seniors. The difficulty sometimes lies in the simple things of not understanding how something works. Understanding how to play bingo, or Indian card games, for example, helps with integration and mental health.
- The Centre for Aging has been doing this research with the Chinese and South Asian communities. They have added services.
- The Centre for Aging is on the list of delegations to be heard in future. The Forums may also be a good venue for the Centre for Aging.

2. **Emese Szücs, Options BC** provided a brief presentation on the programs being offered by Options BC.

- Emese was hired by Options BC to address the issues of a holistic approach to the settlement of newcomers.
- Options BC is in partnership with three other organizations: PICS, SUCCESS, DIVERSEcity, and now with the City of Surrey to create another offshoot of this project.
- Settlement workers go to libraries and recreation centres.
- Connie Hong to provide a more complete presentation to the Committee on January 17, 2012.
- Please connect with Options BC should you have any community connections where they would be receptive to discussing opportunities. Also, if you know of any newcomers who want to volunteer to help in the community, connect with Emese Szücs at Options BC at 604-572-4060 x 1141.
- The upcoming Multicultural Health Fair in June 2012 is in partnership with the above listed organizations and the City of Surrey. Fraser Health is also involved. The location is still to be determined. Invitations will be sent out to participants and exhibitors.

3. **Language Line**

The City of Surrey is seeking additional interpretation services for the public who use our facilities and pay taxes. The Language Line was introduced to expand the City's language flexibility. The Language Line offers interpretation services in over 100 languages with Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi and Vietnamese being the most used languages currently. Uptake to the services is 4-5 calls per month; 43 calls from November 2010 to September 2011.

Nicola Webb asked whether the Committee members could offer any suggestions for improving public awareness of the services provided.

Committee comments:

- Raise public awareness of the services provided and that people can access it by publicizing the Language Line.
 - Play this message on the telephone rather than music; have mobile signs indicating what services are available; flash the information across the website.
 - Use the different ethnic community resources to get the information out.

4. **2012 Diversity Celebrations at City Hall**

- The list of celebrations is a schedule of events at city hall. The schedule goes month by month and events are scheduled for during the lunch break for city staff.
- Events at the City Hall are designed to connect with community members and support City staff learning about the community.
- Program is strongly supported by Mayor and Council.
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Committee comments:

- Kwantlen has a yearly event at its campuses - Violence Against Women December 6, 2011 at lunch hour. It was suggested the City Promote this event on the intranet to build awareness among City Staff about this event.

C. **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

D. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Proposed 2012 DIAC Meeting Schedule**

The proposed 2012 DIAC meeting schedule was received.

E. **ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

F. **CORRESPONDENCE**

G. **INFORMATION ITEM**

1. A small \$8,000 grant was received from Canadian Associate for **Advancement of Women of Sport and Physical Activity**; focused on newcomers, females

ages 9-18. Staff continues to work on this; it will be held at the City Centre area-- specifics need to be determined.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Staff will provide a list of the Committee's 2011 achievements and review the Committee goals and plans for 2012.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Deputy Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee