

Municipal Government Representatives Community of Practice (MGR – CoP)

Meeting Notes for June 11, 2019

Attendees

1. Aleisha Cherrie Apang, Peel
 2. Craig Orrell, Peel
 3. Diane Tan
 4. Dianne Gillespie, City of St. Albert
 5. Elaine Capes, Dufferin
 6. Erin McKeown, Spruce Grove
 7. Jacquie Dover, Peel
 8. Jill Zacharias, City of Revelstoke
 9. Sarah Tanners, Northumberland
 10. Sean McIntyre, City of Toronto
 11. Sharida Csillag, Town of Stony Plain
 12. Stephanie Cooper
 13. Chris Blain, London
 14. Dear Bhokanandh, Vancouver
 15. Franco Savoia, Calgary
 16. Alison Homer, Vibrant Communities
 17. Elle Richards, Vibrant Communities
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1. Welcome & Introductions – Name, role, community and experience engaging LE
 - **Diane** - preliminary steps of PRS - Top 100 exercise including engaging LE
 - **Dianne - St. Albert** - New CRP member as of 2018. Laying groundwork for a colleague to take over her role.
 - **Jill - Revelstoke** - Released strategy in 2012 including engagement of LE – Just hosted Top 100 event to kick off Collective Impact initiative – created a safe space. One of their chairs has LE - she personally engaged people with LE to attend the event – had 15-20% of participants with LE plus many more with affordability challenges.
 - **Sarah - Northumberland** - Community Services manager. Working with a local social advocacy organisation, developing an action plan for involving people with lived or living experience in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and services. Prioritizing how we can include a wide variety of voices to our work.
 - **Sharida – Stony Plain FCSS** – Community development coordinator for poverty reduction. Started work on PRS in 2014 via community consultations, focus groups etc.
 - **Craig Orrell – Peel (Also Jacquie and Aleisha)** - Engaging perspectives of LE in food security

- **Erin – Spruce Grove** – New department Community and Social Development – she is first position under that – poverty and homelessness there and for tri-cities. Prev worked with engagement of LE in Edmonton in public consultations and education in diversity and inclusion
- **Sean – Toronto** – today’s speaker

2. **Presentation – Sean McIntyre, Policy Development Officer, PRSO – Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy – Establishing and Supporting the Lived Experience Advisory Group**

- 20 year strategy was adopted in 2015 – 17 recommendations divided into 5 core areas
 - Under systemic change - Engage City Staff and residents on PR efforts – provides City Council direction to establish a LE advisory body
 - Shared accountability – ensures the City’s efforts are responsive to community needs – emphasis on engagement of people with LE
- TEN guide and case study – share about development of LEAG
- Practices used to develop LEAG
 - Community co-design – City with community organizations engaged hundreds of community members to gather input on how the LEAG should work (e.g. key functions, how group selected, where and how to meet, how to interact with others, supports needed)
 - Design day – residents decided on LEAG model/ToR
 - Selection – equity-based recruitment process to encourage residents with LE to apply
 - Meetings – LEAG meets with PRSO monthly
 - Term – extended from 2-3 years to align with PRS reporting
 - Role – priority areas – Education and awareness, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation
 - Internal involvement - PRS 2019-2022 action plan development process and Toronto Employment and Social Services Service Modernization Project
 - External involvement – CRP conferences, National Housing Consultations
 - Sustainability – LEAG is embedded in the PRS’s core accountability structure with resources allocated annually (e.g. for honoraria, childcare, food and transport)
 - PRSO exploring models to meaningfully connect with the current LEAG cohort as their term expires in Jan 2020
- Contact
 - Sean McIntyre, Policy Development Officer, PRSO – (416) 392-6488, sean.mcintyre3@toronto.ca
 - Hanifa Kassam, Community Development Officer, PRSO, (416)397-5232, hanifa.kassam@toronto.ca
- Resources

- [Ten Guide](#)
- [Toronto's Case Study](#)

3. Questions and discussion

How can individuals with lived/living experience be empowered to lead on poverty reduction? What is working? What is not working? New insights? What might you change as a result of what you have learned today?

- Dianne – St. Albert - How do we talk about engagement of LE respectfully?
 - Sean – have to be careful not to place value solely on their experience in poverty but also on their experience in the work/with other organizations. Focus on broader contributions. They had the same fear but it did not materialize. Treat everyone as experts and as part of the team
- Sharida, Stony Plain – What were recruitment strategies?
 - Sean – traditional (media release, social media campaign, posters, flyers, direct communication with local orgs, snowballing) but also several years of engagement with residents with LE so already had quite a few contacts – reached out directly
- Sarah, Northumberland - How is LEAG compensated and how did you determine the amount?
 - Sean – City has honorarium policy for a range of groups – roughly \$50 for up to ½ day meeting and \$100 for full day or for participating in a leadership role (e.g. facilitating community conversations). All supports provided – transportation, food and childcare when needed – not just for meetings but also for external opportunities. Have frequent and frank conversations on whether the dollar value represents the work (e.g. preparing for meetings/presentations). Exploring whether LEAG members could be put on payroll. Overall a fair amount but could be beefed up.
- Aleisha, Peel – What other supports (e.g. mental health)? Any major lessons learned to share?
 - Sean – Nothing external, just what is required to participate. Have not received other requests. Lessons learned – breadth – use every network you have in recruiting – particularly those most difficult to access via usual methods (e.g. intentional conversations with indigenous service providers; accessibility community – needed to use the right tools to get there; newcomers – has been a gap). Broadly, utilizing every tool you have at your disposal to reach as many residents as possible
- Erin, Spruce Grove – Comment – consider how to bring people into leadership positions – folks are such amazing assets – beyond voices being heard, leadership is important.

4. Closing –

- Next call: August 13, 1:00– 2:00 pm ET - How are municipalities evaluating their impact and communicating this with stakeholders?
- Schedule for 2019 meeting dates
 - April 16, 1:00 -2:00 pm E
 - June 11, 1:00 –2:00 pm ET
 - August 13, 1:00– 2:00 pm ET
 - October 15, 1:00– 2:00 pm ET
 - December 17, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET