

GTA LEGAL CLINICS' TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY JUNE 23, 2014
 6:00PM-9:00PM
 NORTH YORK CIVIC CENTRE
 COMMITTEE ROOM 1

PRESENT:

Elaine Francis (SECLS); Charinee De Silva (DCLS); Vinay Jain (Unison); Steven McCahon (RCLC); Mayo Hawco (NPDCLS); Dennis Bailey (CLCYR); Dennis Robideau (Unison); Leslie Anderson (WTCLS), Yodit Edemariam (RCLC); Ann McRae (RCLC); Vanessa Emery (WSCLS); Sean Rehaag (PCLS); Stewart Cruickshank (ETCLS); Luis Mayorga (ETCLS); Isabella Meltz (KBCLS); Kevin Lee (KBCLS); Chrisite McQuarrie (WSCLS); Marjorie Hiley (FCLS); Pam Courtot (CLCYR); Liz Klassen (SCLS); Nancy Henderson (PCLS); Brook Physick (FCLS); Joe Myers (WCLS); Elena Jara (DCLS); Jack de Klerk (NLS); Sean Meagher (PI); Leila Sarangi (PI)

REGRETS:

Matt Benson (ETCLS); Jack Fleming (NPDCLS); Haris Blentic (NLS); Julius Mlynarski (SECLS)

AGENDA

Agenda Items		Discussion/ Information	Outcome	Action/Discussion Points
1	6:00	Welcome/introductions		Received
2	6:05	Review of meeting materials	Information	Received
3	6:10	Review of minutes from June 10 Feedback from Clinics	Discussion	Approval Deferred
4	6:15	Working Group Report	Information	Received
5	7:30	Model Alternatives	Discussion	Approval
6	6:30	Decision Point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource Allocation 	Discussion	Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SC re-affirmed their decision that a transformed system has been developed through this process but cannot be implemented without additional funding. The SC decided that the data will be updated to 2011, which is the most current available data. The SC decided that we will project to 2015, and indicate in the report that resource distribution must be according to the most accurate available data (which could potentially be from the 2016 census).
7	8:00	Communications Strategy	Discussion	
8	8:45	Information on Recent Issues Regarding Transformation	Information	

9	9:00	Adjournment and next meeting	Discussion	Approval	Next meeting in fall 2014
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MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were received.

2. Review of Meeting Materials

Meeting materials were received and reviewed. Items #5 and #6 were reversed for order of discussion.

3. Review of Minutes from June 10th Meeting; Feedback from Clinics

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Approval was deferred until members had a chance to review them.

ETCLS held a town hall in conjunction with their AGM. Sean presented and it was well received. Town halls need lots of time for questions from the floor.

4. Working Group Report

Working Group co-chairs provided an update. They are continuing to meet with various stakeholders including LAO. The WG co-chairs continue to participate in the regional transformation committee, which has not yet resolved the issues of ACLCO's participation and hiring of a coordinator.

5. Model Alternatives

Sean presented on Model Alternatives (see ppt. emailed June 25). The presentation looked at alternate staffing sizes for clinics, alternate numbers of clinics and alternate methods of arriving at clinic boundaries. Smaller clinics can be created but since the larger clinics were devised to reflect the transformation objectives, every reduction requires a tradeoff of those objectives, for example, less outreach or fewer areas of law. Boundaries could be developed by simply merging existing clinics, but many old boundaries don't reflect the current locations of low income households. On reviewing alternatives in more detail, the Steering Committee reaffirmed its earlier positions regarding boundaries and clinic size.

It was also suggested that a model similar to a community council model could be considered, where a city-wide clinic manages overall scope of governance with community clinics or satellites still being preserved. This type of model would not realize many of the transformative elements that this process aspires to achieve.

There was also discussion about the importance of managing change and integrating the various cultures of current clinics into what will be the new entities. This is seen as a challenge, not a barrier. It cannot be under-estimated and requires effective change management.

The Vision Report will note the alternatives to the model clinic and discuss the scope of trade-offs for the other models.

The Vision Report also needs to be cautious of wording recommendations. This model is specific to the needs of the GTA, and in particular Toronto. The report will stress that this model was developed for a very urban area with a particular set of needs and demands.

6. Decision Point: Resource Allocation

The decision point, Resourcing of Clinics, was discussed. CLCYR proposed that the formula include that staff be distributed equitably, and that added staff be provided to address some outer suburban issues:

- a. York Region argues that staff are needed to accommodate an infrastructure deficit in that region. This would see additional resources going to York region to account for what York Region describes as the lack of services in that region, which makes legal work more intensive. CLCYR felt this request should be seen as similar to the precedent that LAO has set by allocating extra resources to rural areas in the province in an attempt to offset the specific challenges staff face in delivering services. There were questions as to how to calculate the number of staff this would account for.
- b. There was also discussion of assigning more staff to areas with high growth rates, ensuring that the recommendations put forward in this report will be relevant not only when it is time to implement them, but also that the model is forward looking.

There was no consensus established in the Steering Committee to approve these suggestions. However, the SC decided that the data will be updated to 2011, which is the most current available data.

The SC decided that we will project to 2015, and indicate in the report that resource distribution must be according to the most accurate available data (which could potentially be from the 2016 census).

The SC re-affirmed their decision regarding the plan for a transformed system developed through this process. However, our recommendation will clearly state that this plan cannot be implemented without additional funding.

The SC is to review the discussion guide (emailed June 25) for the report and will send comments to Jack D by the end of the week.

The Working Group co-chairs and Public Interest are available throughout the summer to attend board and public meetings.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The SC will not be meeting over the summer. The next meeting will be in the fall.

Meeting adjourned 9:20pm.