

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace
Steering Committee Meeting

December 14, 2022
8:00-9:45 pm
25 Appleseed Dr. Community Room

Present: Mark Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Peter Wade

Regrets: Alaa Hadhad, Maria vanVonderan

Minutes

Agenda Item: Alqass Matte Family Secondary Migration Process

Discussion:

Alqass Matte family is sponsored by Westville group, Fair HEART. Family is considering secondary migration. Arrived in Westville this past summer. They have family that lives in Hamilton who they would like to be closer to.

One of 2 scenarios are possible:

1. Ask a group in Hamilton to be the SAH and find 2 sponsors that have been suggested by the PA
2. SAFE remains the SAH, find 2 sponsors in Hamilton

We will use contingency funds to pay for the increase in RAP according to Ontario rates.

Actions:

Plan:

1. Fair HEART remains the sponsor
 2. Identify 2 representatives in Hamilton; complete the New Representatives form
 3. SAFE remains the SAH; Fair HEART will remain responsible for checkins.
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Agenda Item: Bilal Abdulkader PSR Submission

Discussion:

The money needed for a sponsorship can be very onerous on family requesting the sponsorship. The committee brainstormed some ways to help raise funds.

A GoFundMe page has been suggested to Bilal.

It was suggested that Bilal approach his Union for a donation. Support can be given to Bilal to facilitate this.

Actions:

Lucille will send out a request to SAFE membership for support.

Pete moved that once a family raises 50% of the total sponsorship costs (not including contingency fund), SAFE will contribute 10% of the total settlement cost for a family's first request, when funds permit.

Seconded by Sheila.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Interpreter Services Policy

Actions:

All approved the final draft of the Interpreter Services Policy.

Agenda Item: Service Learning Students

Discussion:

Students can start in January through Service Learning.

Actions:

Please let Marla know if you have any ideas for Service Learning students.

Agenda Item: SAFE Board Development Session

Discussion:

Next meeting is January 10, 6:30 to 8:30, Appleseed Dr. Please do your homework!

Agenda Item: New Funding Announcements

Discussion:

The NS government has recently announced 3 financial supports for families this year: a cost of housing supplement, a family dental program and a heating rebate program.

Marla will help families to apply for these programs.

Agenda Item: Milage Policy

Actions:

Sheila will draft a policy.
