

MINUTES

Syria - Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE) Steering Committee
Thursday, July 20, 2023, 1200-2:30PM
Appleseed Court Community Room, 29 Appleseed Dr

Present: Maria, Mike, Jack, Sheila, Anuj, Harry, Mark (chair), Karen (minutes)
Regrets: Eric,

NOTE: Noreen Verberg (STFX) presentation at 1230, subject: newcomer adult learning requesting SAFE participation.

1. Minutes and Business arising from Special Meeting June 22, 2023
Anuj moved; Jack second
2. Financial Report for June (Sheila)
Next year donors will be thanked through Facebook rather than Saltwire
 - Sheila moved; Harry 2nd
Donor who gave \$10,000 before will do matching donation up to \$20,000 wants to go to SAFE expense, BVOR family, contingency (Sheila) Letter campaign, deliver directly or mail, can give tax receipt because not going to individual families. Have to do Sept/Oct. event at Candid. Make campaign focused (BVOR file, we'll submit, before) Have to give money by Dec 31
Agreed SAFE to broker EMPP candidates through the Shapiro Foundation
1. SAFE Sponsorship Applications/Updates (Harry): Lots of banter from SAH's across the country. 2500 files with errors. Becca has been trying to manage through surge of applications.
2. SAFE SAH Spaces for 2023: (Harry)
We should have 20 spaces:
CARE is requesting 4 spaces for a potential BVOR family.
Pictou County Safe Harbour is requesting 9 spaces:
 - A family of 3 in Egypt;
 - A family of 4 in Lebanon;
 - 2 single adult brothers the UAE
 - 1 OAS space for CARE (3000 OAS spaces nationally allotted, nil avail, IRCC advzd July 14)CAiRN Pictou requested 4 spaces (email June 2023)
3. SAH Workshops and Meetings Attendance/Report out
Anuj completed SAH training. 25-30 hours. 8 sections and 8 quizzes and test at the end. Responsibilities of SAH's are enormous. SAH's have to start investing in their administrative capacity
Roundtable with NS Labour, Skills & Immigration in NG. (Mark, Jack attended). Gave rosy picture of people moving to NS. Refugees were not on the radar. They don't have

a refugee portfolio. Looking at a narrow range of people. Skills, money.
Said they'd have another and invite Minister Lore (housing) for next meeting.
We do not have back-up housing in Antigonish-Guysborough
Karen talking to organizations. Jack thinks to keep this separate from Council.
County could require Mt Cameron to make 1/10 townhouses affordable.
Municipalities are not doing housing inspections for "rooming" houses, and houses that are grandfathered in.

4. Family Check-ins - Status (Mark) Reviewed check-ins required. See spread sheet maintained by Sue Adams.

3. Year-end Celebration – support (All)

Qasim Azaiza & Najwa Alhussein Family (arrived March 2, 2022)

Walaa Hadhad & Ghassan Darbi family (arrived March 18, 2022)

Abdul Razak Al Hariri & Yosra Al Hroub family (arrived March 31, 2022)

Bronwen suggested planning in St Andrew's community hall in late September. She will initiate.

5. Events

New in Town play participation. Handed out 60 certificate to people who have received their citizenship in the past 10 years.

Harry will attend SAH meeting in Calgary in November. One paid attendee from each SAH

Kids First and Women's resource Centre are collaborating on Syrian mother/children gathering (Kids First) and all newcomer children (Women's Centre). Library getting involved. Hard to coordinate organizing. SAFE volunteer has been going. 5 families have been going. Idea is that they will be ready September regular programming. Organized for Syrian children to attend Keppoch event.

6. REQUEST: Anuj would like protocol for who gets cc'd on what topics. Maria and Eric will look at this in September policy group

Noreen Verberg. Asked if SAFE interested in participating in her exploratory, qualitative study about refugee newcomer students who are dealing with pre- and post-migration issues related to academic success.

Will involve interviews with students, school personnel and sponsor groups. Looking at factors affecting success.

In the literature no academic work on impact of volunteer support groups on refugee student success in rural areas. What are schools and sponsor groups. SAFE can request something in return.

Jack participated in the past and will be our representative this time.

350 communities; 24 urban centres. Start in spring.

Adam Perry: Rural Settlement Policy development. (Noreen will send document)

Would like SAFE to participated in symposium. Credit for prior learning. Summer 2024.

Could look at Rural Revitalization Network to support work for rural SAHs. Looking for funding for SAHs. (see description sheet) LIPs SURF (sp?)

Decision

Move exploratory study on the integration of older newcomer youth resettling in rural

NS.. Jack, Mike (2nd)

7. Syrian children are in summer school now, with Jack administering. (\$4600 from Strait Regional

8. Next Meeting –