



**Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda**

Date: September 20, 2019
Time: 9:00 am
Location: 3800 Constable Henshaw Blvd. (Halton Regional Police Services)

Pages

1. **Declarations of Interest:**
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - 2.1 Approval of minutes from the meeting held June 21, 2019. 1 - 2
3. **Delegation(s):**
 - 3.1 Hanadi Almasri, Director of Social Innovations and Enterprises, HMC Connections (9:30 a.m.)
 - 3.2 Vivian Dobb, Our Community Cares programs and services, Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK) (10:00 a.m.)
4. **Regular Items:**
 - 4.1 Newcomer subcommittee update
 - 4.2 Poverty subcommittee update 3 - 4
5. **Other Business:**
6. **Adjournment:**



Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: June 21, 2019
Time: 9:00 am
Location: 3800 Constable Henshaw Blvd. (Halton Regional Police Services)

1. **Members Present:**

Doug Martin (Chair), Rana Al Semaani (Vice Chair), Jim Young (BSAC), Heba Lamloum, Carrie Overholt, Kumkum Bhandari (BPL), Brent Hughes (Halton Police)

2. **Member Regrets:**

Maroun Naser, Mumba Litana, Jenna Bye, Ron Baliko (BAAC), Kate Dunn, Girish Parekh

3. **Others Present:**

Councillor Bentivegna, Lisa Palermo (Clerk)

4. **Declarations of Interest:**

None.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

5.1 Minutes from meeting held May 17, 2019 were approved.

6. **Delegation(s):**

6.1 Tara Thorpe, to discuss Pride Day flag raising and future Pride Day opportunities.

Tara advised that she participates in a Free Mom Hugs group in Hamilton and organized the recent Proclamation and Pride Flag Raising at Burlington City Hall. Tara indicated that discussions sparked at the flag raising to organize a future Pride event in Burlington and she attended the meeting to gauge BIAC's interest in supporting such an event. Tara

indicated that she is willing to work with PSN and BIAC and the community to pursue a future event.

BIAC members also indicated their willingness to support a future Pride event.

6.2 Sarina and Kelly, representing Positive Space Network

Attended to provide input and answer questions. PSN and ROCK would support a pride event in Burlington. Their Youth Action Committee could be engaged to assist. They indicated that they are open to continuing the conversation and working with the community to pursue an event.

6.3 Hanadi Almasri, Director of Social Innovations & Enterprises, HMC Connections

Rescheduled to a future BIAC meeting.

7. Regular Items:

7.1 Newcomer subcommittee update

Heba provided a subcommittee update:

- the subcommittee suggests focusing on new residents to Burlington
- they discussed the gaps that exist for newcomers (those with language barriers may not understand emergency protocols, how do new residents find out about HMC connections, etc.) Another challenge is finding the new residents that need assistance (cultural organizations? churches? libraries? Ontario Works?)
- the subcommittee is interested in gathering more data via Environics, Community Development Halton, etc.
- subcommittee will meet again over the summer to continue discussions.

7.2 Economically disenfranchised subcommittee update

The subcommittee will meet over the summer for further discussions on this topic.

8. Other Business:

9. Adjournment: 11:00 a.m.

Economically Disenfranchised Youth in Burlington

Vision:

To find ways to improve outcomes for youth (ages 15 – 24) in Burlington who are over represented in poverty. While there are many factors that affect outcomes, we would like to focus on education/training, as higher education/training generally translates to better employment outcomes.

Implications:

Youth are over-represented in poverty in Burlington.

Poverty negatively impacts health, well-being and social inclusion.

Being poor in an affluent community is complicated by the lack of resources/supports. People assume there is no problem.

The following information was taken from a Community Development Halton report entitled “Our Halton 2018 Children and Youth”

- Youth with a higher educational attainment are more likely to be employed than those with less. Those with apprenticeship or trade certificates or diplomas have the highest employment rate.

Learning and Understanding:

What is currently in place in Burlington to support youth living in poverty? (i.e. affordable education/training, access to food and shelter etc.)

Public perception v. reality

Look at contributing factors: lone parent families, blended families, mental health and addiction issues etc.)

Review City of Burlington policies and City specific programs

Review outcomes and available data

Talk to youth

Glean information from guest speakers, specifically:

Community Development Halton

<https://cdhalton.ca/>

Centre for Skills Development

<http://centreforskills.ca/About-Us/Overview>

Our Kids Network

<https://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Home.aspx>

Going Forward:

We understand that no single policy or approach will be enough to reverse poverty; however focused attention by the City on the issue might help, including:

(a) Building relationships/programs with stakeholders including:

- Centre for Skills
- Mohawk College
- Sheridan College
- McMaster University
- Local business owners who employ skilled trade workers or may provide apprenticeships.

(b) Find ways to assist youth acquire Asset-Building skills so they can move out of poverty

(c) Create youth to youth mentoring programs