

Social Services Division
Bridges out of Poverty Community Network Meeting
Terms of Reference 2017

Purpose of the Group:

To provide community partner champions for Bridges out of Poverty a forum to share implementation strategies and ideas in order to improve our collaborative service delivery and the over-all well-being of our community.

Objectives

Through regularly scheduled meetings the working group will:

- Champion a culture of improving relationships with our mutual clients and peers
- Share ideas and strategies that improve relationships at the front line level, improve outcomes at the organizational level and improve systems at the community level.
- Help employers, organizations, agencies and individuals understand, address and reduce poverty together in a comprehensive and collaborative way.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide our work:

- Focus on service delivery strategies that support Bridges Implementation Strategies
- Recognize the complexity and many causes of poverty
- Support a culture of continuous learning and improvement
- Everyone has an equal voice at the table
- Support and encourage innovation

Membership

To support the working group the members are expected to have attended the Bridges out of Poverty individual lens workshop as a pre-requisite. To promote broad community representation efforts will be taken to engage a range of community stakeholders in this required training.

Chair

The Social Services Division hosts this initiative and the certified Bridges out of Poverty trainer will serve as chair for this group.

Working Group Size

With the exception of one time guests, there will be one representative per community agency. As the number of Bridges out of Poverty Community Champions grows consideration will be given to the merit of establishing a term of membership.

Term of Membership

- Membership will be reviewed bi-yearly in January to determine those interested in continuing and to accommodate newly trained community partners.

- When a member wishes to discontinue serving as a member of the working group, they will email the chair to discuss- the reason for discontinuation and to indicate if an agency replacement is expected.

Decision Making

This community group focuses solely on sharing ideas and strategies to implement Bridges constructs. Representatives will share discussions with their own individual managers for implementation strategies to be approved as appropriate within their own agency.

Meetings

Bi-annual meetings in May and November for 3 hours each will be hosted by the Social Services Division. Members who miss two consecutive meetings without informing the chair will be contacted by the chair to determine their continued interest. .

Agendas/Minutes

- Social Services will establish the agenda and share previous minutes one week prior to the meetings
- Round table agency updates specifically regarding Bridges Implementation will be a standing item
- Training updates will be provided by the chair at the beginning of each meeting
- Additional items can be added by any member no later than two weeks prior to the agenda being sent out