

Lethbridge Interagency Meeting

April 18

9:30 – 10:30

Theatre Gallery, LPL

Presenter Alana Johnson, Rural Routes

Attendees: Alana Johnson, Lil Radley, I, Marilyn Gloer, Margaret Ney, Amanda Jensen, Connie-Marie Riedlhuber, Vicki Hazelwood, Sherrie Nickel, Charlene Fletcher, Mikey/Michael Ward, Julia Entz, Jenny Bourne, Kathryn Linder, Najib Mangal, Rose Boersma

Minutes

Agenda item: Rural Routes

Presenter: Alana Johnson

Alana Johnson – Alana.Johnson@NorQuest.ca

Alana explained the Rural Routes Program: refers to services provided to support those who provide English language programming in rural and small urban Alberta communities. Alana is one of the regional advisors providing services to the Southern region. Support is provided to adult literacy programs, agencies or others in the community providing adult ESL training.

Support could be mentoring, such as assistance in providing PD needs assessment, and facilitating PD workshops (approximately 40 different workshops are available). New workshops are developed to respond to current needs. There is no cost. Majority of workshop are geared at a CLB 6 level but levels can be adjusted. Other services are also available through online learning and free webinars. Although this support is aimed at supporting those who work with adult learners, some Rural Routes supports could be valuable to others, such as those supporting parents indirectly; e.g. Settlement workers who are working with ESL children in the school systems. If these children have a greater knowledge of English than their parents; they may be helping them with everyday activities. For more information and free resources, including webinars that are available, check out <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/home.aspx> Send Alana –your e-mail, and she will put you on the mailing list for the latest newsletters.

Rose Boersma – Parents as Teachers, (PAT) – rose.boersma@lethsd.ab.ca

PAT is a free program for children (up to age 6) and their parents providing support and information. PAT work with all families, including newcomers. They have helped Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, and others. If needed, Immigrant Services will provide translators when PAT workers visit families. PAT serve families in the Region including Palliser, and some in the Livingstone region.

Najib Mangal – Lethbridge Family Services – Immigrant Services - nmangal@lfsfamily.ca

They provide assistance for GARS – government assisted refugees. Assisted 350 GARS last year, The Community Connections Volunteer Program, which provides supports to those educated in other countries connects newcomers to volunteers in different ways. This could be through networking, mentoring, volunteer support to individual families, and the GIFT Program. The GIFT program provides support for immigrants with foreign credentials. This program is set to expand. The Newcomers Integration Program is supported by the Alberta government.

Kathryn Linder – Lethbridge Legal Guidance – lethbridgelegalguidance@telus.net

Help those in the community who cannot afford a lawyer and need information to manage the court systems. This includes Harbour house. Very busy, ~109 people registered for the free Ask-A-Lawyer event in April. At registration, necessary information is obtained so that lawyers can proceed to assist them.

Jenny Bourne – University of Lethbridge International English Language Institute – jennifer.bourne@uleth.ca

Jenny manages the Institute. She gathers information at these meetings that she can pass on to students who come to her with questions and for advice. Students would like to connect to community members.

Julia Entz – Lethbridge Family Services – Immigrant Services - jents@lfsfamily.ca

As part of Newcomer Settlement Services, Julia provides supports to newcomers, primarily refugees. These supports could be orientation sessions on different aspects of living in Lethbridge, such as information on health, police, education, library services, etc., and everyday concerns. Newcomers are connected to the services they will need.

Mikey (Michael) Ward – Lethbridge Family Services – Immigrant Services - mward@lfsfamily.ca

Mikey is the Youth Settlement Worker, working with Permanent Residents of school age up to the post-secondary level, to help make the transition to education here, easier. Orientation sessions provide information for students and their

parents; support is varied and provided when needed. Big Brothers & Sisters, the Friendship Society, and 5th on 5th are some of the organizations he works with. Was very interested in the ONLINE LINC services that Rural Routes provides. It is possible that some of the resources might assist him working with youth, who help their parents navigate everyday situations, such as going to bank, going to the Doctor, etc. Summer programs will help maintain school levels.

Charlene Fletcher –Chinook Arch Regional Library System - cfletcher@chinookarch.ca

Excited to be attending her first LIN meeting and discuss her new role. This involves Seniors and Intergenerational Programming. She is gathering information for this programming, which will eventually go out to all libraries in the system.

Sherri Nickel – Palliser Schools - sherrie.nickel@pallisersd.ab.ca

Palliser Schools covers a large area. Within Palliser are some alternate schools, Hutterite schools, and 3 full Low German Mennonite (LGM) schools. ESL population is large. A rigorous audit to determine whether this population had been benchmarked properly took place. Determined that LGM has low levels and that some were suffering culturally; these are areas of concern.

Vicki Hazelwood – Coordinator of Lethbridge Early Years Coalition – lethbridgeearlyyears@gmail.com

Coalition builds support and awareness for children's early years. Would like to have the voice of newcomers at their table. Coming up on **May 22nd at Lethbridge Public Library (Theatre Gallery) at 6:30 p.m. is an informative session by Dr. Robin Gibb, titled "Building Brains Together"**. The Play Charter has now been translated into 8 languages.

Connie-Marie Riedlhuber- Coordinator for the County of Lethbridge Early Years Connections –

connie.marie@nedesignnetwork.ca

Coalition supports an awareness of the importance for children's early years. Connie-Marie is interested in finding out more about library programs. She also has been a Life and Family coach for 23 years with her own website at www.lifedesignnetwork.ca

Amanda Jensen – Support Services Coordinator at the City of Lethbridge – amanda.jensen@lethbridge.ca

Gathers information from these meetings that could provide support to city residents. RFP on community projects will be going out in the near future.

Margaret Ney, Marilyn Gloer, and Glenda Light

Facilitate the E-Free Church's Conversation Class and are volunteer tutors in the Read On Program. The Conversation Class is a 7 week, 1.5 hour program meeting Tuesday evenings, at the Lethbridge Seniors Community Organization. Classes are for adults but some bring children. Classes feature different themes, activities, and small group discussions, ending the 7th week with a potluck dinner at one of the facilitators' home. The strength of this class is relationship building which is difficult for many to do in a new city and country. Noted is that class questions may be scripted, but are not church based. Other ways to build community connections for newcomers could be through the monthly potluck dinners and weekly gym nights held at E-Free. Working with the newcomers is a rich, rewarding experience for these facilitators.