

Immigrant Advancement Committee of CDICR

Minutes of April 18, 2021 meeting

In attendance: Ihssane Leckey, Bishnu Tamang, Rezaul Haque, Joan Lancourt, Jessica Chicco, Lloyd Gellineau (ODICR)

Introductions

We surveyed committee members to identify language capacity.

Ihssane: Moroccan, standard Arabic, French, English

Bishnu: Nepali, Tamang, Hindi, English

Rezaul: Bengali, understand Urdu & Hindi, English

Joan: some French, English

Jessica: Italian, Spanish, French, some Portuguese, English

Review of SMART goals

Reviewed goals: community study and review town's language access policy. Lloyd confirmed Brookline does not have a language access policy. Jessica suggested drafting one and offered to invite the language access attorney from MLRI, Iris Colona-Gomez to present at a future meeting.

Review of interview protocol

Members generally agreed the draft protocol was too long and that we would create a core group of questions for all interviews and include additional questions as optional conversation starters for interviewers to draw from as appropriate. Jessica offered to edit the questions into these two groups. We also discussed the best way to ask the questions, whether it could be a google form, but ultimately decided that an interview protocol would be best, to keep it as natural and conversational as possible. The importance of building trust through showing personal connection to the work was stressed. We identified some gaps in our language capacity, especially Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Japanese. Bishnu offered that students in her ESL class may be able to be interviewers.

Next steps:

- all committee members would start making list of possible interviewees and share with the group the characteristics (age group, gender, primary language)
- Joan to share list of organizations pulled together by community engagement committee
- Start spreading the news in own network
- Jessica to circulate version of edited-down questions

Next meeting: Sunday, April 25 at 7pm