

## **United Way Hubs Convening Project**

### **Draft! Monthly Learning Report**

Prepared by: Hubs Support Team

Date: January 2016

#### **Introduction**

This learning report is the third of several that will be prepared monthly as the United Way Halifax's hubs convening project progresses. It will include generalized learning from relevant literature as seems fitting, and learnings from the convening project itself. By proceeding in this way, the hubs project support team hopes these 'integrated' reports will help with the creation of an overall long-term strategy for hub development in Halifax.

#### **Goals for the Project**

1. Build Relationships / Learning Network
2. Increase knowledge about hubs and role in community building
3. Build stronger neighbourhoods

#### **Action Priorities**

As part of the third meeting of the Halifax Hubs Convening project, participants were again invited to brainstorm ideas for action. Again, there were several new people on hand. The current list of interested participants is about 54, though only about 32 were able to make it to the January meeting. It is a challenge to continue to incorporate new people, but the value of the different perspectives and new energy continues to make it worthwhile.

The following is a short summary of actions identified for the upcoming month of January to February 2016. Only actions with names attached are mentioned here, but a variety of other ideas are also included in the Action Priorities List, Appendix A – Version 3.0. Each month whoever shows up is invited to review all actions identified and prioritize which ones should be carried over, and new ones added, into the next month.

#### ***Under Community Engagement...***

- Continue to learn more about Calgary and Toronto hubs by checking out reports on new project website at: <http://hubsproject.wix.com/unitedway>
- Continue to collect info on best practices by posting question in NS Hubs Working Group on facebook.

- Identify different approaches for different group (ie. Seniors, youth, cultural groups, low income, rural, urban)
- Articulate the role Halifax libraries can play as hubs (accidental and intentional)
- In relation to mapping, reach out to 211
- Talk to student groups to find out how to engage them in project
- Develop a video on ECHO Hub (as an example of how to share knowledge)
- Articulate how Halifax Public Libraries and Community Health Boards can support the community hub concept

### ***Partnerships...***

- Communicate; email our contacts to report on today
- Reach out to Halifax Regional Schoolboard (HRSB)
- Reach out to city of Halifax
- Invite more partners
- Define the roles in partnership

### ***Sustainability...***

- Insurance; explore what the barriers are & possible solutions
- Governance; look into how hubs 'run'
- Look at funding diversification
- Explore cost efficiencies
- Post resources on social enterprise

### ***Accessibility...***

- Identify strong partnerships / variety of services that could be partnered with
- Map existing hubs; explore how that could be done
- Determine how to choose location of hubs
- New people join NS Hubs Working Group on facebook
- Explore how to make hubs welcoming

### **Communication**

There was also some discussion on internal and external communication related to the project. At this session, participants asked for:

- more information about the social labs approach for the project,

- notification when new additions to the new project website are added,

They also talked about building a list of people that still need to be invited to the group (ie. isans, 211, funders). There was also discussion around whether a conference bringing in people from Calgary and Toronto would be useful.

There was a suggestion that the group talk with people working on the centre plan for Halifax to see if they are aware of new info regarding the importance of neighbourhood hubs, and keep them informed.

Some other ideas included engaging with community at large to see what they think hubs are / should be, are they of value, what might one look like for their community.

It was noted by Ryan Gibson, geography professor at St. Mary's University that there are students who would like to be involved in a project of this nature, and could help with mapping hubs.

It was determined that the group does NOT want to open up external communication (public website, media, call people) until they feel they have a better grasp on the material (ie. at end of project in May).

The concept of Humans of New York was discussed, and maybe a Hubs of Halifax group could be created to explore the range of hubs in Halifax and share stories / information. It was suggested that eventually, these videos be integrated into an interactive online hubs map, using the mapping of the Geo students, to illustrate the success stories and the human element of hubs in relation to where they are located.

Finally, there was a suggestion to use UW website to trickle out information (when ready) to mobilize time to rebuild / strengthen / mobilize change in neighbourhoods.

## **In Conclusion**

This concludes the 'learnings' processed to date. Next group meeting is February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.