



Kent County Essential Needs Task Force * Energy Efficiency Subcommittee Meeting
Kent County Health and Human Services Building * 121 Franklin SE * Grand Rapids, MI 49507
ACSET Suite 110 * Conference Rooms C and D

July 26, 2016 Minutes

ENTF Energy Efficiency Subcommittee Members and Guests Present: Susan Cervantes (ACSET), Tracie Coffman (Kent County ENTFF), Darcy Cunningham (The Salvation Army), John Mitchell (Heart of West Michigan United Way), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Sheena Threatt (True North Community Services), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Community Services), Nicolas Grinwis (The Salvation Army), Sarah Miller (ACSET)

Guests: Allison Rudi (Calvin CSR), Charlotte Reynolds (Calvin CSR), Neil Carlson (Calvin CSR)

Darcy Cunningham (The Salvation Army), Co-Chair presided.

1. Welcome/Introductions
Introductions around the room.
2. Review notes from last meeting
Minutes provided from last ENTFF EE Subcommittee Meeting, held on June 28, 2016.
Motion to approve: Emily Schichtel
Second: John Mitchell
Motion Passed
3. Update: Summer Fuel Program - Susan Cervantes (ACSET)
Ms. Cervantes reported that a summer fuel program will begin to all clients who use propane as a main heating source. The program will allow clients to pre-buy their propane and also will help lock them into a lower rate. The maximum fill is 850 gallons or \$1200.00. Eligibility for the program consists of Kent County residency and being under the 150% Federal Poverty Level. ACSET will begin taking applications for the program as soon as the propane companies are contacted for their agreements. The process deadline for the program is August 31, so it is crucial to establish intake for the clients within the next two weeks. ACSET has compiled a current list of propane clients and Ms. Cervantes asked other agencies to provide additional clients that may be in need of propane, especially to those in more rural neighborhoods. Several discussions followed including referral sources and if potentially eligible clients will actually utilize the program.
4. Update: Darcy Cunningham (The Salvation Army)
Ms. Cunningham reported that The Coalition to Keep Michigan warm had a meeting on 7/22/2016. The agency is very enthusiastic about the Calvin Center for Social Research and is interested in a partnership to share data.

5. Update: Calvin College Center for Social Research – Dr. Neil Carlson, Ph.D. (Calvin College CSR)
Dr. Carlson asked Allison Rudy (Calvin College CSR) to review notes from the meetings they have had with utility companies about the research project. Ms. Rudy noted that DTE Energy has been less cooperative with information than Consumers Electric. DTE Energy has some reservations about the providing the valuable data for the success measure including; exclusivity of Kent County and hesitation to share customer “shut-off data” unless it is required by a regulatory body. DTE may consent to a “one time pull” to meet the data request. Consumer Electric has been very cooperative in the research study and there have been two productive phone calls. Consumer Electric has invested significant time troubleshooting and providing excellent useable data. The latest contribution from Consumer Electric is data with a “zip code + 4” format with various dunning levels. Calvin College CSR will keep client confidentiality by aggregating information into groups, as the information is not account level information. The next step is get the entire county going back 18 months into the database.

Dr. Carlson began to breakdown the research. Dr. Carlson explained the advantages of having the finished data to share with other agencies and counties. Dr. Carlson also explained some problem areas of the data, such as when an account is shut off it is unable to receive a query. Dr. Carlson projected both preliminary data and a better definition of the success measure for the next ENTF Sub-Committee Meeting. September 30, 2016 is the deadline for the Calvin College Center for Social Research Project.

Dr. Carlson referred to a sample data graph that was passed out in the meeting. Using the information gained from the Calvin College Center for Social Research he showed how we could track the number of days a specific program is available to clients, even comparing multiple agencies.

6. Next Meeting

Date/Time: August 23, 2016 10:30 AM

Location: ACSET Suite 110, Conference Rooms C & D at 121 Franklin SE.

7. Adjournment 12:00 PM

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 10:30 AM.

Meeting Location:

ACSET, 121 Franklin SE, Suite 110, Conference Rooms C/D

2016 Meeting Date Schedule:

August 23, 2016

September 27, 2016

October 25, 2016

November 22, 2016

December 27, 2016