



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

August 23, 2016 Minutes

ENTF Energy Efficiency Subcommittee Members and Guests Present:

Susan Cervantes (ACSET CAA), Darcy Cunningham (The Salvation Army), James Geisen (DHS-Family Independence Agency), Sarah Miller (ACSET CAA), John Mitchell (Heart of West Michigan United Way), Sherri Vainavicz (The Salvation Army)

Guests: Allison Rudi (Calvin College Center for Social Research), B. Marshall (Calvin College Center for Social Research), Charlotte Reynolds (Calvin College Center for Social Research), Neil Carlson (Calvin College Center for Social Research)

Susan Cervantes (ACSET CAA), Co-Chair presided.

1. Welcome/Introductions
Introductions around the room.
2. Review notes from last meeting
Minutes provided from last ENTIF EE Subcommittee Meeting, held on July 26, 2016.
Motion to approve: John Mitchell
Second: Darcy Cunningham
Motion Passed
3. Update: Summer Fuel Program - Susan Cervantes (ACSET CAA)
Ms. Cervantes reported the Summer Fuel Program has almost reached the \$50,000 goal. On the average clients received \$1100 in assistance which in most cases was enough for 2 propane tank fills. In addition, clients were locked into the lower rates with their vendors. The success of this program will help keep clients warm through the winter.
4. Update: MEAP RFP - Susan Cervantes (ACSET CAA) / Darcy Cunningham (The Salvation Army)
Ms. Cervantes informed that from ACSET CAA's point of view the DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) BCAEO (Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity) did not put in a grant request as they had for a few previous years. As a result, ASCET CAA is receiving Deliverable Fuels through a direct Federal LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance) account. The LIHEAP Program will start October 1, 2016. The MCAA (Michigan Community Action) put in a significantly higher proposal for the MEAP RFP (Michigan Energy Assistance Program Request for Proposal) which would benefit Kent County greatly due to the usage of any fuel type for the program.

Ms. Cunningham reported that The Salvation Army will be getting more funding this year. Recommendations will be made in the next week which will help plan out the programs.

5. Update: Calvin College Center for Social Research – Dr. Neil Carlson, Ph.D. /Allison Rudi (Calvin College Center for Social Research)

Dr. Carlson reported that preliminary data has been received from Consumers Energy. Dr. Carlson presented the data on the projection screen. A graph that indicated separate zip codes displayed how the information could be filtered to exhibit different variables as Dr. Carlson presented examples. There are some obstacles to overcome with the data project such as disconnected month's not showing up on the next month's data and homes that are occupied but powerless. Ms. Cervantes suggested that the collected data could be used in conjunction with the Attendance Project she is currently working on with DHHS.

Ms. Rudi updated the conversations that she has had with DTE Energy and Consumers Energy. DTE Energy has now agreed to the same specifications as Consumers Energy which is positive. Ms. Rudi has found out the both companies will be using the same software as of April 2017, which will be very beneficial for tracking data in the study.

Dr. Carlson ended with a reminder that DTE Energy and Consumers Electric have many regulatory levels to go through before shut off. According to most agency program guidelines, a late payment or shut-off notice is the starting point of the most beneficial data of this project. Dr. Carlson added that positive feedback should be given to Consumers Energy and DTE Energy and also recommended that they be invited to a future ENTF Subcommittee meeting.

6. Next Meeting

Date/Time: September 27, 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:

September 27, 2016

October 25, 2016

November 22, 2016

December 27, 2016