



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
 October 23, 2018
 1:00 – 2:30pm

Meeting Attendees:	Tom Oosterbaan (Senior Neighbors), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Susan Cervantes (late) (KCCA), Kendrick Heinlein (AAAWM), Nicole Rodriguez (North Kent Connect), Niki Perkins (Access), Marissa Boerman (True North Empower), Donata Kidd (DHHS) Staff: Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	1:00	Time Adjourned:	2:15

Introductions		
Discussion		
No Tara, No James, No Marissa, No Donata. Add Grand Rapids Green Homes gentleman.		
Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates		
Discussion		
No one present was on the call. Wende will check website to make sure nothing urgent was shared.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Check Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm website	Wende	
MEAP 2019 Updates		
Discussion		
<p>SER applications increased, so there are lots of additional staff helping people. First week, KCCA had over 700 energy related applications. They have not started making payments yet but are able to go through the mitigation process with participants. Eventually they will have about \$259,000 in funding. North Kent Connect has an upcoming webinar to find out more about the funds available. Right now, they are getting a lot of co-pay requests. Access is also getting a lot of phone calls, but there is nothing they can do unless the participant first goes to a church and then is referred to Access. In addition, they are finding that case workers are sharing misinformation about the process, and misunderstandings are popping up as everyone is getting used to the new policy. True North has funding to help with co-pays. They are navigators as well. If clients call, they will walk through process of applying for a SER and with self-sufficiency services. They cannot help with asset copays – DHS considers the assets that household has - \$50 is the limit. If household has cash assets over \$50, then that is the copay amount. It has been difficult to tell if people will be eligible based on assets. Essentially, if they have funds available to cover their emergency, they must use those funds. In addition, everyone in the household is part of the SER group, and all need to be in compliance with child support. All info can be found in ERM for SEI 301. It can be accessed at Michigan.gov under online resources. Donata will send this information out to the group and bring asset copay policy to the next meeting.</p> <p>There is \$10 million for the entire State of Michigan. After participants get a DHS assist, they must pick an organization to do self-sufficiency with, and then they can get another assist. Residents can only get assist 1 time per year per utility, up to \$850 per utility. There is a \$2000 cap with the agency, but this does not include the \$850; it does include LSP and Care and deliverable fuel. Right now, only option for supplemental funds is True North. Senior Neighbors has a fund that can be tapped into if participants are over 60. True North's clients are not used to having phone interview or something supplemental to application process. They are also finding that once CPID is assigned to worker, only</p>		



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that worker can see it and managers cannot access cases. Senior Neighbors is finding the portal works well. In UCL (Universal Case Load) anyone can see the case, but no one has a specific case load. There is not usually direct contact with worker unless they are in the process of approving a request. This can take hours to a few days.

Wende asked if it would be helpful to have some people in the room who can answer flow questions and speak to what to expect from the process. True North met with state before the grant started, but there were more questions than answers after the meeting. Instead, they are figuring the process out as they go along. Tom brought up the Navigator term as confusing. There is different type of navigators and not everyone is tied to MEAP. It may be beneficial to check how each navigator is listed in 211's navigators' portal. Navigator training was for everyone, MEAP providers were not given any special training. True North and Senior Neighbors became navigators to help clients apply for SER. Self-sufficiency is a requirement of the of the MEAP grant, but navigators are just for SER, but self-sufficiency is different. This allows DHS to partner with navigators, so everyone should be able to see clients within different organization and the result.

KCCA is most likely changing to a reimbursement system for multiple reasons: if a customer is enrolled in Care LSP, that is deducted from \$259,000 throughout the state. And if participants are on a payment plan and there is an increase, then that automatically comes out of the system. Deliverable fuel payments will also be made from their allotted \$259,000. This is going to make it difficult to manage accounts unless they use reimbursement. There has been a lot of denials in the beginning because of the asset requirement. Most are denied because did not make payments for the past 6 months. DHS is denying assist because there are past payments due but there is not a shutoff notice. This is possibly because DHS needs to most recent bill that shows past due. If income exceeds the need, that also leads to automatic denial. This leads to lots of people calling churches because they have nondiscretionary spending. Each church makes the decision whether they will assist, and then Access provides the funds.

The state is working towards encouraging 3 major providers to align their programs. SEMCO has an excellent program. In addition, Salvation Army got \$11 million for the State of Michigan.

Conclusions

Lots of clarification is needed. Almost need a county wide user guide.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send in ERM for SEI 301 out to the group	Donata	
Bring Asset Copay Policy to next meeting	Donata	

Trello Training **Wende Randall**

Discussion

Trello is a project management and communication tool. It can be a central repository for meeting info, announcements, policy links. Users can create check lists and give items due dates and can add specific people to specific cards or tasks. Trello is a place to store resources, so they are still accessible and not buried in your inbox. The link to Energy Efficiency's Trello board is:

<https://trello.com/b/U8Zju7qs>

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send Trello Invite Link to Energy Efficiency members	Brianne	



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Thinking Forward		Wende Randall	
Discussion			
Wende requests this conversation is deferred until next month.			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Agency Updates			
Discussion			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Neighbors has money available, they can provide up to \$450 for Kent County residents age 60 or older. - There was an email sent out regarding the change to Public Charge Rule update. This is one of the rules used for calculating immigrant/refugee access to the US; it determines monetary risk for them to become part of US. In the past, it was limited in what was calculated. New rule really expands the requirements. The worry is that people will not apply for government resources because they fear not being able to apply for legal status in the future. The proposed change was released for public comment on October 10. The federal government is required to respond to every comment submitted before they can implement the rule. Here is the link to the new rule where you are able to submit comments: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/10/2018-21106/inadmissibility-on-public-charge-grounds#addresses. In addition, there is multiple analyses on the Michigan League for Public Policy website: https://mlpp.org/immigration/ 			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	