



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 May 28, 2019  
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes		
Meeting Attendees:	Susan Cervantes, Sherrie Gillespie, Kendrick Heinlein, James Geisen, Monica Light, Nicole Rodriguez, Sherri Vainavicz, Tom Oosterbaan, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	1:00	Time Adjourned:	2:02

**Introductions**

**Review of Minutes** **From April 23, 2019**

Discussion	None
Amendments	None
Conclusion	Motion Passed

**Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates**

Discussion  
 No one was able to be on the call this past month.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**MEAP 2019 Update**

Discussion

Susan Cervantes shared that last month, the state had asked for \$200,000 of KCCA’s funds to be returned. This amount was amended to \$120,000. Is DTE responsible for any of these funds lost due to their incorrect projections (242% over-projections)? After agencies met obligation for the Affordable Payment Plans, anything over that amount, DTE is required to pay. It is the amount over the bills that was under projected. DTE will take a hit at the end once each agency meets their obligation as state in the contract. DTE will likely pull this from their charitable funds. There was uncertainty around how this will play out. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Michigan Community Action Association has a meeting with state leadership about next year’s plans. DTE is submitting a proposal to the legislators as discussed last month. If this proposal goes through, some agencies may bow out to focus on case management and sustainability services because the direct assistance is too susceptible to liabilities.

At this point, KCCA is not able to enroll anyone in Affordable Payment Plans (APPs). They are still able to make second payments for anyone already approved. They are able to use Walk for Warmth funds if a client is in dire need. Salvation Army has closed their energy intake center. DHHS still has SER funds available. DHHS will have SER funds available all summer. This is a change from the previous years when the crisis season was in place. KCCA’s waitlist is closed, but they are working their way through it. It is likely that the waitlist will be open again soon. True North is not currently providing any assistance. DHHS has limited county funds for extreme cases on a case-by-case basis. FROM’s funds are through Salvation Army and are mostly expended. FROM has some other funds available. North Kent Connect also has some funds available.

Clients are calling from outside of service areas saying different agencies are referring them. Perhaps this is because clients think this will help them get resources. Needhelppayingbills.com website lists



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information on agencies that provide assistance, though the information may not be correct. As the summer begins, this will likely increase.

Weatherizations through KCCA are going well. They have funds available, and on July 1 they will receive about \$120,000 for weatherizations next year. They are anticipating serving about 120 units with their combination of funds. They have approved another position to help expend the funds. However, they are struggling to find enough contractors, specifically HVAC contractors. They have asked the state for help with a potential statewide campaign. Dan Schoonmaker from West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum would like to do some type of information sharing event in the fall with this group as a way to identify private contractors who may be interested in doing weatherization work. Michigan is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest state to receive weatherizations funds, Department of Energy just released additional funds for weatherizations.

Conclusions

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Data Reporting Update**

Discussion

The final draft was shared with group members and with DHHS for review. Please contact Brianne if you have any concerns or revisions.

Wende recently talked with Allison Rudi at CSR. They may have some capacity to do data analysis using this report, population data, and data from Consumers. An analysis would allow ENTIF to look at next steps.

Members noted the decrease in funding year over year and noted that eligibility guidelines have lowered as well. There were concerns that funds decreased, thus people who need it are not receiving assistance. These people may be enrolled in APPs and not receiving MEAP funds. The APPs data is hard to get because the payment is based on arrears and usage. This is the reason that DTE under-projected. In addition, clients who were in the APPs last year who were automatically enrolled. There is a total amount that will be available after the season is over.

After AHAR funds we over in 2012, the assumption was that the economy had recovered enough that households would be able to afford payments. However, the wages have not increased. In fact, some have decreased. In addition, the eligibility changed from 200% of poverty to 150% of poverty. Plus, 2014 was the year that the crisis season was implemented. There may be people receiving additional funding through churches or other places not tracked. There has been an increase in people on waitlists.

Do we know what percentage of those receiving assistance are renters versus homeowners? KCCA would have this data, DHHS does not. When thinking about weatherization, are private businesses more skeptical to get involved with rental properties. In addition, homeowners may have more leverage. For rental facilities, KCCA can only do buildings with 1 to 4 units. Anything larger will need to



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go through the State of Michigan. The Department of Energy (DOE) waived the landlord contribution, so now they only need approval from the landlords. A few years ago, KCCA did a report and found that their recidivism rate is around 11%. DHHS’s number would likely be much high.

Deliverable fuels are not eligible for MEAP dollars. There are several smaller power companies around the state who would not be eligible for MEAP. Often, these companies do their own small funds, but this information is not tracked. Would THAW have helped some people who are not helped through MEAP? Perhaps, but they have not been very active in the past year.

Consumer has stopped shutoffs when it is extremely cold or extremely hot. DTE does not do this. No company is required to abide by the medically fragile requirement; a doctor’s notice may delay the shutoff but does not stop the shutoff. There was a press release that was out a few years ago, likely the language in this was tricky.

In May, Winter Protection Plans stop so there will likely be a spike in households who need assistance.

More Data Needed:

- Are we helping who we need to be helping? How would we know? Who are we missing?
- Why has funding decreased?
- How does this tie in with the changing climate?

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Agency Updates</b>		
Discussion		
<p><u>DHHS</u> – they still do not have a schedule for universal case load. The state is still making changes to the counties that are up and running. It is unlikely that they will have a rollout date in the near future.</p> <p><u>Senior Neighbors</u> – has expended about \$3000 more then expected to date.</p> <p><u>KCCA</u> – put an application in for \$10,000 of deliverable fuel assistance for the summer fuel months. They will be competing with the rural counties but have helped a lot of households with these funds in the past. They still have money to assist with Grand Rapids Water Department bills. Their Community Needs Assessment will begin soon.</p>		
Conclusions		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Everyone bring a positive idea of what the group could be working towards to next month’s meeting.	All	