



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 June 25, 2019
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes		
Meeting Attendees:	Sherrie Gillespie, Nick Grinwis, Kendrick Heinlein, Dan Schoonmaker, Brett Little, Donata Kidd, Brett Little, James Geisen, Carissa Patrone, Nicole Rodriguez, Susan Cervantes, Jon Wilson, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	1:05	Time Adjourned:	2:30

Introductions	
Review of Minutes	From May 28, 2019
Discussion	None
Amendments	None
Conclusion	Motion Passed
West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Presentation	Dan Schoonmaker
Discussion	
<p>West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (WMSBF) considers themselves a boundary organization that is interested in meaningful and mutually beneficial opportunities to engage around the development of sustainable business, circular economy, and social equity. Recently, they undertook an adaptation assessment and developed a toolkit and vulnerability survey that they walk through with organizations.</p> <p>WMSBF is hoping to engage ENTf in discussions around ways to mitigate climate impacts. When looking at weather crisis situations, participants experience extreme heat and extreme cold and this impacts everyday health. There is a strong connection with the energy subcommittee. This subcommittee has focused on heating and cooling, food storage, medical concerns, etc. Increased instability in the climate can lead to increased instability for participants. One way this can be tracked is in terms of health outcomes.</p> <p>WMSBF has a membership of approximately 250 organizations, many who are engaged in the energy space. They are hoping to bring together ENTf EE with WMSBF members and other thought leaders in West Michigan area to have a facilitated discussion around ways to forward project ideas to use a proactive approach to reduce energy assistance. From an ENTf standpoint, partnership is important, but networks can be limited. WMSBF can help bring in networks in the business sector and ENTf can bring the voice of community members. This would talk more about energy as compared to climate change. This type of event would be a great way to get utility companies around the table in this conversation. WMSBF companies are engaged in this topic and would be interested in connecting with what is best for the community. Wende can follow up with providers around engaging affordable housing companies or the Permanent Housing Coordinating Council.</p> <p>In the past, WMSBF has used a similar approach in talking about how to reduce waste at ArtPrize. The event itself would have a presentation around why utility assistance is a growing issue, and then discussions around ways to mitigate climate change. Different groups would take on different ideas,</p>	



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and then report out. This could lead to a group of interested parties who take on these issues and move them forward. Typically, events happen on the second Monday of each month as a luncheon. November may be good from a timing perspective because it will allow for enough time to plan but will be before the busy holiday season. KCCA is willing to host. This will bring people into the zip code that is most impacted by the utility crisis.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

MEAP 2019 Updates

Discussion

KCCA has about \$35,000 of MEAP funding left. Salvation Army still has limited funding available. DHHS has SER money available. DTE and Consumers are the largest participants in this program. In order to be eligible for these funds, clients must have a provider that participates with MEAP. In Kent County, deliverable fuels do not participate in MEAP. MEAP dollars program is through MI Public Service Commission. There is legislation that is about to sunset in September, but they haven't announced the next steps yet. There was legislation proposed by Senator MacGregor in conjunction with DTE. If this bill doesn't go forward, the program may be extended or may just end. The proposed bill has requirements that every client is enrolled in affordable payment plans (APPs). Agencies throughout the state have had issues with APPs because of requirements for clients. In some situations, affordable payment plans are not sustainable for a household. If a household misses a payment, arrearages are due immediately. Michigan Community Action Association are going to try to work with bill writers to make a few changes. Differences in APPs was paid by MEAP dollars. Last year, the amount payed by MEAP was under projected so agencies were asked to return funds. The new law and proposal will take effect October 1. The RFP for MEAP will likely be out soon, the new law will likely affect the RFP.

DTE offers a basic needs grant, the application is due in July.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Positive, Actionable Ideas

Discussion

Last month, the group talked about how to generate ideas for innovation. For next meeting, continue to think about possibilities for making connections and exploring the preventative side of things. These may feed into the MEAP RFP.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agency Updates

Discussion

DHHS Policy Change – The cash asset limitation has increased from \$50 to \$500. The first \$500 of a household's assets will not be used towards a co-pay. There is not a crisis season this year, so SER is available throughout the summer.

Kent County Community Action is conducting a community needs assessment. Susan has shared a provider survey as well as a client survey. They will be presenting results in September. There will be a



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public forum on August 20th to discuss the results. KCCA is looking to providers to identify the needs of the community so they are able to meet these needs.

Green Homes Institute has been refunded for their green housing project through Wege Foundation. The goal is to create supportive housing to serve residents up to 100% of AMI. They do energy assessments and develop plans to improve households. They also work to connect agencies to utility companies to boost low income rebates. They can be creative in finding funding if necessary. The goal is to work with agencies so they can easily identify residents who are eligible.

A question was asked regarding the differences in KCCA's weatherizations and Green Homes' weatherizations. KCCA goes through Housing Quality Standards for rehabilitation of existing homes. They work with DTE and Consumers for weatherizations. Is there a way to share/streamline referrals so that households can access services at either place if there are limitations in funding or requirements? This would help ensure that

DTE also provides home energy consultations.

Area Agency of Agency has air conditioning funds available for seniors.

DTE – Jon will bring information around their Integrated Resource Plan to an upcoming meeting.

WMSBF is hosting tours at the Kent County Waste and Energy Facility and Wastewater Treatment Plant on July 15th.

There will not be a July Energy Efficiency Subcommittee meeting.