



**Energy Efficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
 June 23, 2020  
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes		
Meeting Attendees:	Susan Cervantes, John Mitchell, Monica Light, James Geisen, Maddie Strom, Carolyn Breidenbach, Erin Donnelly, Rachel Norman, Yvonne Lewis, Jonathan Wilson, Brett Little, Sherrie Gillespie, Kristen Goodman, Sarah Perhach, Tim Novak, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	1:01	Time Adjourned:	2:34

<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	<b>From May 26, 2020</b>
Discussion	None
Amendments	None
<b>ENTF Open Statement Against Racism and Systems of Oppression</b>	
Discussion	
<p>The ENTF Leadership team developed <a href="#">statement</a> to respond to killings of black Americans. Attendees reviewed the open statement and had opportunity to reflect and respond.</p>	
<b>Consumers Energy Programs and ENTF Needs</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Erin Donnelly overviewed the Home Energy Analysis Program and Helping Neighbors Program available through Consumers. Both programs are free to any customer who lives in a single-family home or apartment with 4 or less units. Home Energy Analysis provides a 1-hour free assessment and walkthrough. Helping Neighbors provides the same assessment, and also provides the opportunity to purchase some updated appliances. Participants must meet the 2020 200% FPL guidelines.</p> <p>There are a few different ways to help neighbors connect with these programs. One is to share materials with neighbor. Consumers will share marketing materials, brochures, and flyers with the group. Consumers also works with organizations to sign neighbors up to access the programs. In addition to connecting neighbors to services, Consumers would like to hear from organizations if there are other opportunities happy to collaborate to best meet needs of clients. To connect, reach out to Erin, Sarah, or Yvonne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erin Donnelly, 810-429-0627, <a href="mailto:edonnelly@seillc.com">edonnelly@seillc.com</a></li> <li>- Sarah Perhach, <a href="mailto:sarah.perhach@clearesult.com">sarah.perhach@clearesult.com</a> (for customers who are gas/electric combo)</li> <li>- Yvonne Lewis, <a href="mailto:Yvonne.Lewis@cmsenergy.com">Yvonne.Lewis@cmsenergy.com</a></li> </ul> <p>Conversation around how direct service providers have braided services to ensure the combination of services best meets the needs of customers. It seems that there are a few different options available for households. This is an opportunity for agencies to ensure that they are connecting neighbors to be best combinations of services – like a "no wrong door" type of approach where agencies ensure that neighbors have immediate needs met, but also help them tap into programs to provide efficiencies to decrease the need for assistance in the future.</p> <p>In addition, ENTF hoping to work with utilities to discuss updating data around areas of high shut-off risk in hopes of developing a plan for targeted outreach.</p>	
<b>MEAP Updates</b>	
Discussion	



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**KCCA:** MEAP still operating, but they have not seen a lot of second requests. In addition, they are providing assistance through CSBG CARES Act funds to households with utility need related to COVID.

**Consumers:** they are seeing agencies across the state receiving additional MEAP funding. United Way of SE MI has a statewide program for a one-time assistance payment available (application online)

**DHHS:** the state received CARES Act funds to do direct payments for clients receiving SNAP and SSI with past due notices. Clients do not need to file an application to receive direct assistance. If clients do not qualify for this program, they can still receive SER. In addition, simplified policies are still in place and have been helpful in aiding more households.

**North Kent Connect:** they still doing MEAP and have additional funds available for those denied SER. They are starting to see an increase in demand

**COVID-19 Updates**

Discussion

**KCCA:** received CARES Act funds, much of which will go to utilities and homelessness prevention. They will also be funding some economic development and special needs responses.

**DHHS:** providers have agreed to waive 25% bills for households; got approval to increase food assistance allotment to maximum in June

**Agency Updates**

Discussion

**KCCA:** TEFAP food distribution on July 9 at 9:00am at 121 Franklin (drive up only). Recently, they have been seeing that food needs are being met in the community, especially with increase in SNAP benefits

**2-1-1:** they have not seen a large uptick (yet) in utility calls but are seeing an uptick in tax calls. There are only 2 sites doing virtual tax preparation and they are only taking names of those with previous appointments

**Green Homes Institute:** they are planning an interactive home energy awareness session targeted at resources available in Kent County/West Michigan with have training and education on how community members can identify issue areas within their homes. Hope to talk about resources and funding available to community members.

**Weatherizations:** KCCA have been given the go ahead to resume weatherization services for non-vulnerable populations. Because the program was postponed, they will have a two-year grant period to complete as many units as possible. Currently, 83 households are waiting for the pre-inspection to determine eligibility.

**DHHS:** anticipating an uptick in requests after the expiration of pandemic unemployment and an increase in utility following the end of the eviction moratorium. Some organizations are providing information and encouraging neighbors to plan for next steps once the moratoriums are lifted.