



Kent County Essential Needs Task Force * Energy Efficiency Subcommittee Meeting
Kent County Health and Human Services Building * 121 Franklin SE * Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Suite 110 * MI Works Suite Classroom A

January 23, 2018 Minutes

ENTF Energy Efficiency Subcommittee Members Present:

James Geisen (DHHS), John Mitchell (United Way), Ken Ford (Flat River Outreach), Kendrick Heinlein (AAAWM), Sherri Vainavicz (United Way), Sherrie Gillespie (Kent County), Susan Cervantes (KCCA), Tom Oosterbaan (Senior Neighbors), Wende Randall (ENTF), Tara Robinson (the Salvation Army),

Susan Cervantes, presided.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions around the room, state your name and organization.

II. Review notes from last meeting

Minutes provided from last ENTFF EE Subcommittee Meeting, held on November 28, 2017

Motion: Kendrick

Second: Tom

Motion Approved

III. Updates

Data from 2017 has been submitted from True North.

The Salvation Army: Received crisis intervention funds to ensure there was no break in assistance given. The amount they can give to assist has reduced compared to the beginning of the funding cycle. It is currently at \$850 for gas and wood, \$850 for electric, and \$1200 for other deliverables. They no longer have prevention funds. Prevention funding was granted first. Therefore, just when intervention funding was granted, prevention funding ran out.

Flat River Outreach: Received their intervention funds, they have had a very busy year, but they still have some prevention funding left.

Senior Neighbors: Received a little of the 24 thousand awarded for the Kent Millage and 10 thousand from American House. Senior Neighbors doesn't have limitations in income, so they can help above the 150% poverty line. Assistance is for adults age 60 and over.

ASCET: 20 thousand received as match for the “Walk for Warmth Fund”. It will help and still needs to be approved and set up. ACSET will be receiving LIHEAP fuel assistance. It may still be on hold since it is under FY 2018, and no status update is currently known.

MyBridge: Holding community partner training available in February. It turns benefits into one stop shopping for organizations. Training will show how it works and how it relates to your organization. Training will provide access to DHHS online services. If you agree to be a partner, you will receive an email notice of individuals who are searching for services and once accepted it’s your responsibility to aid. The state will track if you have complied and provided solutions. The 211 database is connected to the MyBridge portal; therefore, it is imperative that the database is kept very accurate, and the state will be monitoring it. The application for state assistance was cut from 80 to 15 pages and individuals only have to apply to the section that pertains to them. Clients will start calling a 1-800 number now and only specific caseworker issues will be handed to the caseworker, this system should help with case load for caseworkers. There will no longer be caseloads but task ques with one task assigned at a time. The new MyBridge is supposed to have new easier to read information resulting in less confusion and questions for customers. This is currently in the planning phases with a start-up date in September. DHHS has hired staff to do community partner training as communities go live. For a copy of the MyBridge flyer and for registration information, please contact Bree.

211: is getting a whole new data base system, it will be able to integrate with the state system. The new system is supposed to go live Feb 27th. March 31st the old system will go away regardless if the new system is up or not. February 16th is the freeze date when new data can not be put into old the system.

IV. Advocacy

a. Client Story or Quotes

Terra found the data that was given during the October CoC meeting interesting. MEAP went from 100 to 800, this includes APP households as well. MEAP funding is overseen by MAE and it will change to be under MPSC, which is where it was originally. There was some progress made regarding medical holds and energy related issues for medical needs. Stories still need to be collected for annual report.

Data has been collected from almost everyone. After the 1st of February, ENTF staff will work on putting data into a compiled report. It is hoped that the first draft of 2017 data will be presented at the next meeting and be reviewed and ready to distribute in March.

b. Reminder: Walk for Warmth – February 24th - Hosted out of Human Services

No fundraising this year, only taking donations. Battle of the Bowls is Feb 8th. There is a packet as well that still needs to be reviewed but once it is Bree can send out.

c. Reminder: LIHEAP Days – March 12 & 13 – Wende to check in with the CoC to find out more details. If there isn’t anyone going to Washington during that time, we can still put together an information sheet that brings to light important issues for our community. This will be discussed during Feb meeting. Susan offered to check-in with a marketing person.

V. Success Measures and Indicators – Basic Needs Index

a. Please Review Attached Measures

This discussion is continued from November meeting. Each ENTF subcommittee will give a

success measure/indicator which will be used for KConnect's index. Members will review the success measures/indicators today and have a discussion around which one represents the work for the committee or the direction the committee is moving in the most appropriately. The hope is that this can underscore that the ENTF serves as basic needs workgroups for KConnect.

b. Make Recommendation for Index

It was suggested that indicators E1.2 and E1.3 are interesting but where would the math come from? Due to this discrepancy, these two were not chosen. It was noted that the indicators and measures ebb and flow. Therefore, it is important to note that there aren't any negative consequences from choosing a measure and the benefit is having the measure keep us on track. Once data is shown annually, trends related to energy can be looked at. E.1 was pointed out, it's broad but we can have the data for it and it can be negotiated to have a contract with Calvin to have regular access to data. Calvin is still engaging in conversation with DTE currently, so there is still consistent feedback from consumers. Measure E.1 can help us differ from information that may show racial and other disparities. It would enable us to step back and have a broader conversation about poverty.

All in favor of choosing Success Measure E.1
Passed

Success Measure E.1
Percent of Kent County electric utility accounts located in ZIP+2 codes with a 12-month average shut-off rate below 1%

VI. Adjournment

1:53pm

Next Meeting will be in Multipurpose Room A

Date/Time: February 27th, 1:00 -2:30pm
Location: ACSET Community Action Agency
121 Franklin St SE Suite 110
Multipurpose Room A

Meeting Location:

ACSET Community Action Agency,
121 Franklin SE Suite 110

2018 Meeting Schedule

February 27th - March 27th - April 24th - May 22nd
June 26th - July 24th - August 28th - September 25th - October 21st - November 27th

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 10:30 AM.