



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 August 27, 2019  
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes		
Meeting Attendees:	Sherrie Gillespie, Susan Cervantes, Monica Light, Kendrick Heinlein, Neil Carlson, Brett Little, John Mitchell, Wende Randall, James Geisen		
Time Convened:		Time Adjourned:	

**Introductions**

**Review of Minutes**

Discussion	None
Amendments	None
Conclusion	Motion Passed

**Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates**

Discussion

Rebates are not even available at the 78% level at this point -- does the policy recommendation go high enough to really be efficient? There needs to be a higher energy savings for it to pay for itself For water heaters there should not be an age test, there should be a combustion test to determine if there is a need for replacement. Could a rebate amount cover the copay required for the homeowner to contribute?

Weatherization funds for LIHEAP dollars - Oct 2018 there was an increase to the eligibility (from 150% to 200%). KCCA is looking at ways to build awareness and get more households involved in the program (there are plenty of LIHEAP and DOE funds currently available) Extra DOE funds this year through 6/30/2020. One fund requires landlord contribution and one does not. Modify funds so no contribution is over 50% of labor. Perhaps postcards and doorknockers for areas where there are high volumes of shut-offs; flyers to hand out during food distribution; prep a summer campaign for next year (the impact on weatherization for cooling a house down). October is national weatherization month, there is a toolkit for promotion during that month. Can the funds be brought in with city leverage dollars? (partners with lead grant, 6 projects going now; will address weatherization partnership when lead is done) Cannot do any addresses that have been weatherized since September of 1994. Could we advocate for this date to move (Federal level advocacy needed) in 1994 average cost put in was \$900; average lifespan for weatherization treatments are 10-20 years, so now the timeline needs to change.

Neil received call from Tom Stanton, National Regulatory Research Institute, putting on webinar in September. They are interested in knowing what we are doing with the information; are we using it to target activities and advocacy efforts? This could encourage that kind of use of data in Kent County and statewide. Mentioned that there are utility funds to spend up to \$25k to upgrade a home? The webinar is being sponsored by a coalition of utilities -- this could lead to attention by the utilities.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**MEAP Updates**

Discussion



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MI Community Action Association has decided not to apply for any funds - the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity is applying on behalf of the CAAs. There is opposition to bills that have been proposed, so there is no idea whether funds will be provided for KCCA next year. There is the potential of doing some of the assistance payments but not any of the enrollments. There may be other organizations that are also choosing not to apply due to the challenges that occurred last year with APP eligibility and drop-off/compliance (the program is difficult to administer). Ann Cusack (head of MPSC) is looking to gather local input to better understand what is happening around policy implementation and how to possibly revise the policies in the future.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Presentation to West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum**

Discussion

Green Home Initiative is looking at planning a full-day green home summit. They would like to add to this event and include:

- Getting into the non-profit weatherization programming (opportunities and challenges)
- Discussion of those doing low-income new construction
- Renewable energy options
- Show up with take-aways
- Better understanding of level of eligibility (up to 200% of poverty) based on family size. (150% poverty is close to 30% AMI; 200% is 60% AMI for family of 4, but it is closer to 80-100% AMI for larger family sizes)

Additional ideas:

- Could include water as a utility theme (connected to sustainability and health) (for example, talking about the “Rainy Day Fund”, flooding impact on healthy drinking water, septic tank issues, etc.)
- Could utilize the CU “Bunker Center” or “Prince Center” for hosting an event (at Calvin cost) -- technically, Kent County has access to DeVos Place; Community Foundation may be another option
- Tammy Baird - simplified version of how the utility assistance works (visualize the process, including the community navigation - help with applying for supports, etc.)

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Agency Updates**

Discussion

**FROM:** does not currently have a TSA rep on-site  
**DHHS:** still has SER funds; 800-900 net registrations per month; Universal caseload still on hold while they work on network fixes and other modifications; no new roll-out date proposed. Direct Support Services Funds (receiving FAP or Medicaid) can go toward car repair and purchase (for a household that is working); it is not a specific program to check on the application, but something that they can ask about  
**AAA:** The senior millage process is coming up



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**ENTF:** upcoming strategic planning

**Calvin University Center for Social Research:** may have some unofficial opportunities around community-wide housing data

**211:** is coming off a slow season and prepping for the busy utility season; hired a new person to focus on cybersecurity;

**Green Home Initiative:** Seeds Housing is doing neighborhood surveys around health of the home, right-sized homes, low income and costly rentals, so how to help with financing to get into home ownership

**HB4778 (Dem in District 41):** Green Home Tax Credit of \$5000 or \$2500 for new or remodeled home; currently in Lynn Affendoulis' hands to consider for a hearing

**KCCA:** needs weatherization applicants