



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2020  
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Wende Randall		
Meeting Attendees:	Monica Light, James Geisen, Maddie Strom, Erin Donnelly, Rachel Norman, Jonathan Wilson, Brett Little, Tom Oosterbaan, Dana Williams-Howard, Sherrie Gillespie (late), Wende Randall, Emily Madsen, Dilan Hoskins, Brianne Robach <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	1:03	Time Adjourned:	2:18

<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	<b>From June, 2020</b>
Discussion	On page 2 re: CARES ACT funds, correct: clients receiving SNAP, SSI <i>and FIP cash assistance...</i>
Amendments	None
<b>Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPSC working on a toolkit for encouraging community members connected to utility assistance</li> <li>- Collective advocacy is planned for August focused on providing a information to state-wide officials. If there is anything you would like to be included in the packet, connect with <a href="#">Wende</a>. CTKWM will also provide talking points to engage with local officials</li> <li>- CTKWM has been discussing a system navigation pamphlet for community members. Once it is available, this group can consider whether we want to create and/or distribute locally.</li> </ul>	
<b>MEAP Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KCCA – assistance list is closed except for Grand Rapids water. Additional water assistance funds may be available for those who are past due because of COVID. MEAP funds are still available.</li> <li>- North Kent Connect – providing MEAP, seeing increased need for rental assistance</li> <li>- FROM – they are providing assists without shutoff notices</li> <li>- Senior Neighbors – has non-MEAP funds to help with utility assistance for seniors (60+) in Kent County who are behind in utility bills.</li> </ul> <p><u>Shutoff assistance</u> DTE will resume service interruptions for past due payments with understanding that 80% of clients who receive a shutoff notice will reach out. Programs available to customers include SER navigation, arrears forgiveness, and more. A toolkit is available to help spread the word for customers to connect with utilities. They are hosting a listening session to talk in detail around collections process and how to engage with community members. If you are interested in the listening session, please connect with Jonathan (<a href="mailto:jonathan.wilson@dteenergy.com">jonathan.wilson@dteenergy.com</a>) Currently, DTE has 611 customers at-risk of a service interruption in 49507 (have not self-identified as low income and/or seniors) and over 1000 at risk in all Grand Rapids zip codes. They are hoping to drill down to neighborhoods/streets to identify areas for targeted outreach.</p> <p><u>Energy Efficiency</u> These programs could reduce need. DTE has energy efficiency audit program that is free to customers. There is an opportunity to explore partnerships or shared requests/referrals for agencies able to conduct audits sooner to meet demand.</p>	



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2020  
1:00pm – 2:30pm

KCCA inspections are ongoing, but they are not going to households with high-risk of complications due to COVID. Consumers relaunched energy efficiency programs and virtual assessments on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Informational roundtable on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Connect with Erin ([edonnelly@seelllc.com](mailto:edonnelly@seelllc.com)) if you are interested.

**COVID-19 Updates**

Discussion

**DHHS:**

- MSHDA Eviction Diversion funding is available through the HARA (Salvation Army), they are working to finalize processes. Clients can call 211 or Salvation Army for an assessment. Funds only require a notice to quit
- Lobbies open by appointment only; paper applications are available on first floor of lobby.
- Migrant staff returned to outreach in July and are working to deliver PPE to families of farm workers.
- The waiver for in-person interviews for cash assistance has been extended
- FAP (SNAP) – starting in August DHHS will accept self-attestation for shelter expenses
- Renewal page on MI Bridges site will look different starting in August.

Deliverable Fuels

Conversation around how to notify community members that resources and assistance are available before they have an empty tank. Direct mailings for customers would be helpful to help spread the word. Notification at 20% would give agencies time to provide assistance. There is a gauge that isn't very expensive, it would be helpful to have collective funding sources to support this. **Continue conversation around what funds may be available to provide tank meters.**

North Kent Connect is looking to have a community conversation for fuel providers to speak to community members to encourage them to reach out if they are in need of assistance. **Maddie, Monica, and Wende can discuss further.**

**Agency Updates**

Discussion

**La Lucha Fund** – is re-opening, they are asking direct service providers to make referrals <https://www.givegr.org/FAQLaLuchaFund>

**United Way** – Kent County has allocated dollars for nonprofits that can be accessed through [an application at Heart of West Michigan United Way](#). Grants from \$5000-\$150,000 are available on a rolling application period. Funds should not be used for housing services, but can be for other services due to increased need due to the pandemic/

**ENTF Newsletter** – send updates to share with other agencies or community members to [Brienne](#)

**Green Homes Institute** –

- Homeowner Energy Awareness webinar on September 22nd.
- [Low income resources toolkit is available](#), feel free to add updates.
- Creston Neighborhood Association is moving forward with home energy improvements, connect with Brett ([brett.little@greenhomeinstitute.org](mailto:brett.little@greenhomeinstitute.org)) if you have community engagement suggestions.
- Seeds of Promise right-sized modular homes construction underway