



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
 January 26, 2021
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes		
Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Brett Little, Brianne Robach, Emily Madsen, Erin Donnelly, James Geisen, Jessica Thelen, John Mitchell, Kacey Ramones, Kymie Spring, Maddie Strom, Monica Light, Samarhia Giffel, Sherrie Gillespie, Susan Cervantes, Wende Randall <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:	2:35

Introductions	
Review of Minutes	From November 24, 2020
Discussion	
Amendments	None
Theory of Change	
Discussion	
<p>The theory of change (TOC) conversation arose out of ENTF’s recent strategic planning process. Staff shared a draft TOC which includes at activities of agencies, the conditions needed for these activities to be successful, and how the subcommittee plays a role in ensuring those conditions are met. The document shows a flow through the system but recognize that the process is often not linear. Ultimately, this TOC will fit into ENTF as a whole and our work to bring about equitable access to essential needs for all community members.</p> <p>The TOC mentions that ENTF will “address myths that create stigma” multiple times. ENTF can build awareness and work to ensure messaging in judgement-free throughout systems of essential need. Kymie shared that there is an opportunity with COVID to breakdown the stigma around need. Stigma also exists around customer service and accessibility of services – important to message that folks should be proactive in reaching out if they are concerned or have questions.</p> <p>Many activities address advocacy as this action area was highlighted in strategic planning. ENTF is working to build out the plan for advocacy. ENTF also involved with state and national advocacy groups and bring opportunities back to the group.</p> <p>Subcommittee members should review the TOC following the meeting and share any feedback with staff. After the theory of change is finalized, the subcommittee will discuss how to operationalize and prioritize the activities of the subcommittee as well as a shared data system to track outcomes.</p>	
Messaging and Outreach	
Discussion	
<p>Over the past few months, the group has discussed how to increase outreach to folks and encourage proactivity. MPSC has toolkit of materials available for posting. The GR Water Department can add information to water bills. Reach out to Sam if you would like something included (sgiffel@grcity.us or 616-456-4531). Group can discuss messaging schedule and timing.</p> <p>Jessica shared that Consumers has been working to advocate through community agencies to communicate to the customers. They have an upcoming webinar, (information in the community partner updates section).</p>	



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There have also been conversations around creating a process flow for eligibility of services to help guide folks through the system. It could also help prioritize funding sources based on deadlines.

Dropbox with different orgs/resources in Kent County:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eihlww125tchnpu/AAA-WnOLDBF3BO2-1sAFWQxNa?dl=0>

2020 Utility Assistance Data Collection

Discussion

Similar to previous years, ENTF is hoping to collect data on the number and amount of utility assists each agency provided in 2020. This year, we will also be collecting information on weatherization and other energy efficiency services.

A spreadsheet will be shared for all organizations to complete as applicable. The hope is that all agencies will complete this spreadsheet to collect as much data and information to get a robust view.

Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates

Discussion

LIHEAP Action Day on February 24th. There will be opportunities for conversations with federal officials throughout that day. On February 23rd there is a policy update call from NEAUC.

COVID Relief for rental assistance and utilities has been appropriated from Congress. MSHDA will be primary state agency that is managing rental and utility assistance dollars. Planning efforts are ongoing, information will be shared once partner agencies are finalized. There will be work to ensure that there is connection between folks receiving funds and weatherization agencies who can work to mitigate future issues.

Weatherization eligibility requirements are changing on July 1. The lookback period will be a rolling 15 years window. In addition, KCCA has heard that there will be a large amount of weatherization funding coming through and is working to prepare for these funds.

MEAP Updates

Discussion

NKC: funds are available

SER: steady

KCCA: small amount of funds available. CSBG also available (eligibility has increased to 200% FPL).

Staff will share the income guidelines chart that compares the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines and the Area Median Income guidelines for Kent County.

Future Meeting Schedule

Discussion

Want to look into changing the recurring time of future meetings. A survey will be sent out with the minutes to gauge everyone's availability.

Agency Updates

Discussion

Consumers Helping Neighbors webinar: 2/9, registration link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2003703122791093517>. Feel free to share!

2-1-1: If you have updates or changes to your services, contact John jmitchell@hwmuw.org or 616-752-8648



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DHHS:

- they are using text messages to increase access to SNAP benefits.
- MiBridges has been expanded with WIC application, and they are looking to cross-refer for community programs.
- Pandemic-EBT cards will be issues in March retroactive to September.
- Adults over 60, people with a disability, and people experiencing homelessness can use EBT cards to purchase meals
- State of MI distributing masks at local DHHS, AAAMM, KCHD offices. Agencies in need of masks can email Susan (susan.cervantes@kentcountymi.gov) or James to get masks.
- They are looking to advertise direct support, if folks need support please refer them to DHHS.