



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 February 25, 2021  
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	Wende Randall		
Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Brett Little, Brianne Robach, Daniel Guarizo, Emily Madsen, Erin Donnelly, Hyejoo Pyun, Jessica Thelen, John Mitchell, Kacey Ramones, Maddie Strom, Sherrie Gillespie, Wende Randall, Jenna, Robyn, Daniel Guarizo, Joe Unlee, Kymie Spring, <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

<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	<b>From January 26, 2021</b>
Discussion	Motion by John Mitchell to approve the minutes as presented, second by Monica Light. All in favor, motion passes.
Amendments	None
<b>Theory of Change</b>	
Discussion	
<p>The Theory of Change (TOC) identifies the desired outcomes of the group, the activities of subcommittee partners, and the roles and responsibilities of the ENTF subcommittee in ensuring the conditions necessary for success exist for each activity. Wende asked the committee for feedback on the document and whether we are at a point to affirm this document. In affirming the document, subcommittee members would agree that the subcommittee will focus on the roles identified in the TOC.</p> <p><u>Feedback</u></p> <p>It would be helpful to have a system scan of all services and agencies and the activities they are responsible for that is updated regularly (each quarter/year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indicate that MEAP is included in the payment assistance portion</li> <li>- Include a link to a flow chart that shows next steps after an acceptance or denial</li> </ul> <p>Suggestion to create a diagram of how the system operates and ENTF's role to help orient folks who new. Perhaps TOCs for all ENTF subcommittees should include a link to a flow chart or similar for their system.</p> <p>John moved to affirm the Theory of Change with the changes and recommendations above, Brett second. All in favor, motion passes.</p> <p><u>Next Steps:</u></p> <p>Staff will pull out ENTF subcommittee responsibilities, identify which ones are shared across ENTF and which are specific to this subcommittees. The committee can plot specific responsibilities on an effort/impact matrix to determine where to prioritize energy. From there, the group can develop desired timeframes and identify and assign action steps. Suggestion to prioritize advocacy for flexibility in eligibility for propane customers.</p> <p>Connect with Brett (<a href="mailto:brett.little@greenhomeinstitute.org">brett.little@greenhomeinstitute.org</a>) to discuss new technologies that are more cost effective than propane. At an upcoming meeting, Brett and Erin will share about cold climate heat pumps and Consumers' program for households to have these installed.</p>	



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Action Steps: During March meeting, plot activities on and effort/impact matrix; begin to discuss action steps.	
<b>Home Heating Credit</b>	
Discussion	
Will be shifted to a future meeting.	
<b>Weatherization Process Update</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Small group has been discussing the weatherization processes and workflow as well as ways to braid funding for remediation to make houses safe for weatherization work to be done. In addition, they are discussing data sharing agreements and a warm hand-off/transfer process is in place. Once a process is finalized, it will be shared with this group.</p> <p>Increased weatherization funding for Community Action Agencies is in the federal legislature. Locally, KCCA is beginning to prepare for increased fund. Brett suggested that organization involved examine their practices to ensure they are not creating barriers. Creston Neighborhood Association is able to help with navigation, but additional resources to meet barriers to weatherization would be helpful.</p> <p>The subcommittee can discuss navigator gatherings for folks who provide navigation in the utility system. The Workforce Development subcommittee hosts these and they are popular.</p>	
<b>2020 Utility Assistance Data Collection Update</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Brianne shared an overview of the draft 2020 utility assistance numbers. There was an increase in dollars going out and number of assists going out. These increases are likely due to increase funds for COVID-relief and the expansion of eligibility requirement. A final draft of the report will be shared in the next few months.</p>	
<b>Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<p>The last CTKMW meeting focused on planning for LIHEAP Action Day which was February 24. State legislators across the country heard from advocates around the important of utility assistance funding.</p> <p>MSU is doing a study on community engagement and clean energy programs, they are focusing on census tracts in the South Lansing area and will bring any recommendations to the state-level.</p>	
<b>MEAP Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<p>North Kent Connect: MEAP is steady, they are in the 'propane season' and seeing high need. Staff are in the office and have been helping with SER applications.</p> <p>Salvation Army: still providing assistance virtually. They are seeing more folks in need.</p> <p>KCCA: they have around \$30,000 left in MEAP and are mainly using CSBG CARES funds to help with utilities.</p>	
<b>Subcommittee Leadership (Co-Chair role)</b>	
Discussion	
<p>In the past, the subcommittee has had a co-chair in addition to a chair. The co-chair often serves as a back-up for facilitation if the chair is unable to attend a meeting and helps set meeting agendas and</p>	



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priorities for the group. The co-chair will also attend ENTF Leadership meeting and help guide the implementation of ENTF's strategic plan. If you have questions about the role, please connect with Wende or Brianne.

Nominations for a co-chair will be open between meetings [via an online form](#). Nominees will be listed at the March meeting, and staff will ask for additional nominations. The subcommittee will vote electronically during the meeting.

After a co-chair is in place for this year, the group can discuss a process for regular elections for chair and co-chair roles moving forward.

### Community Partner Updates

#### Discussion

#### MDHHS:

- SER assistance is available ongoing through MiBridges or paper applications
- MDHHS staff will remain working from home until at least 5/1/21.
- SNAP Online Purchasing: online options are available at Aldi, Amazon, and Walmart
  - o Aldi Info: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/01/04/aldi-michigan-snap-instacart/4126902001/>; <https://www.aldi.us/en/about-aldi/faqs/grocery-delivery-pickup/>
  - o Walmart info: <https://www.walmart.com/ideas/discover-grocery-pickup-delivery/walmart-grocery-pickup-accepts-snap-ebt-payments/355540>; <https://corporate.walmart.com/newsroom/2020/04/13/customers-using-snap-benefits-have-more-ways-to-shop>
  - o Amazon will deliver for free if the order is more than \$35 <https://www.amazon.com/snap-ebt/b?ie=UTF8&node=19097785011>
- In response to the COVID-19 Emergency, a new 2021 Federally Facilitated Exchange (FFE) Special Enrollment Period (SEP) is scheduled to begin on February 15th and be open through 05/15/2021, for Medicaid and CHIP programs: [2021 Special Enrollment Period in response to the COVID-19 Emergency | CMS](#)
- 15% increase in maximum SNAP benefits for January -June 2021. This 15% increase will be issued as supplemental FAP benefits with staggered availability dates based on recipient ID.
- Pandemic EBT for School Year 20/21: Families will receive an estimated \$127.53 monthly for each eligible child who has no in-person classes and attends a school that is fully virtual and about \$77.06 for each eligible child who attends a school with a hybrid schedule of in-person and remote learning. Benefits are retroactive to September and will be paid through June. Payments will be paid automatically, so families do not need to apply to receive the assistance. Households that already receive food assistance will receive the Pandemic-EBT payments on their Bridge Cards. Families that do not already receive food assistance will receive Pandemic-EBT cards in the mail that they can use to purchase food. Payments are expected to begin in late March. Press Release: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-551552--,00.html>
- Food Assistance Emergency Allotment – February 2021: Active FAP groups who are not currently receiving the maximum benefit amount for their group size will receive a supplement to bring their benefit amount up to the maximum amount allowed for their group size.