



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 June 24, 2021  
 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Facilitator:	Susan Cervantes, Monica Light		
Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Brett Little, Brianne Robach, Emily Madsen, James Geisen, John Mitchell, Kacey Ramones, Maddie Strom, Monica Light, Sherrie Gillespie, Susan Cervantes, Kymie Spring, Tom Oosterbaan, Rachel Norman <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	2:03	Time Adjourned:	3:05
<b>Introductions</b>			
<b>Review of Minutes</b>		<b>From May 27, 2021</b>	
Discussion	None.		
Amendments	None.		
<b>2020 Utility Assistance Data Draft</b>			
Discussion			
<p>Brianne overviewed the draft of the Utility Assistance Report which was updated based on feedback submitted over the last month. Staff will add a cover page and the flush out last page with additional logos from subcommittee partners who did not provide data. The draft will be provided to DHHS for their Communications team to review and then will be finalized. The final report will be posted on ENTFF's website and social media. KCCA can print copies to share. Data by race and ethnicity was discussed last month, but was not able to be pulled by KCCA. For future reports, staff will look into including disaggregated data.</p>			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Utility Assistance CERA Funds</b>			
Discussion			
<p>Susan shared that there are renters in need of utility assistance, they can access CERA funds. CERA will pay for utility arrearages as well as some future utility payments. Households also may qualify for the \$300 broadband stipend. The funds can be accessed online as well as in person. Locations and local information can be found at: <a href="http://www.kentrenthelp.org/">http://www.kentrenthelp.org/</a> or by calling 877-ERA-KENT. The site also links to the portal at all households in Michigan can use to apply (<a href="https://ceraapp.michigan.gov/">https://ceraapp.michigan.gov/</a>). If households have a court case that is pending, please indicate that in the application as these are being prioritized.</p> <p>Susan shared that there are a few zip codes in Kent County that have more flexible documentation requirements for households.</p> <p><i>The US Treasury introduced to grantees the ability to use a fact-specific proxy along with income eligibility determinations. A Fact Specific proxy is a written attestation from the applicant as to the household income if the grantee also uses any reasonable fact-specific proxy for household income such as reliance on data regarding average incomes in the household's geographic area (zip codes). So, MSHDA evaluated census data and is allowing zip codes in areas where the area median income is less than 70% AMI to self attest if they do not have all of the documentation. The applications will still ask for the information of third party documents but the service agencies are not required to seek out additional information if they are located in the designated zip codes. If there is a household that reports income that is over the 80% AMI, they will be denied assistance even though in the zip code area. Any</i></p>			



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*application outside of the fact-specific zip codes will need to have their income sufficiently documented.*

*Kent County zip codes: 49507, 49503, 49509, 49548, 49504, 49512, 49505*

Third party case managers can assist with applications. They should include their name as a contact list/comment in the application so they can call to see the status. Susan noted that they are improving the turnaround time as the portal for applications is now up and running. MSHDA has indicated that they would be able to pull data from the portal, but no one has heard updates from MSHDA as of yet.

James noted that if someone receives CERA funding and is in need of more assistance, or they are denied for CERA, please encourage them to contact DHHS for SER assistance for utilities.

Susan has heard that more CERA funds will be allocated the community, but notice of this has not been provided in writing yet. CERA will be providing a security deposit and a few months of rent for those coming out of hotels in Kent County.

**Weatherization Process Update**

Discussion

Susan shared that there is not much of an update around this process. KCCA is working to get the paperwork ready and has released an RFP for contractors which closes on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The RFP is available on the [Kent County Purchasing website](#). Qualifications are similar or the same as past rounds and agencies will have a certain number of days to complete the required trainings.

**Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Updates**

Discussion

- There are \$258 million in LIHEAP funds through the American Rescue Plan Act that the state legislature needs to approve before they can be allocated.
- SER expenditures for the fiscal year (October – May) are \$55million. This is down from last year because of CERA and other emergency funds. There is a 57% approval rate for SER application. This is also going down, perhaps due to second requests being denied.
- Statewide CERA spend thus far: \$33.7M on rent and \$3.2M on utilities (\$470k on water, \$849k on heat, and \$16k on sewer)
- May state revenues are higher than anticipated which may be helpful in getting the state budget approved.
- MPSC is working on a long-term data strategy through their Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative (EAAC). That group will also be discussing the Energy Affordability Standard.
- They are encouraging use reduction between peak times (2pm – 7pm) and there is a rate increase during those times.

**MEAP Updates**

Discussion

- North Kent Connect: still have funds available and they have seen an uptick in folks accessing these funds
- KCCA: they are out of MEAP funds
- The Salvation Army: they have funds available and accepting phone and walk-in appointments, and are recommending folks that call before coming in. Numbers are increasing for their team as well
- SER: no changes



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Community Partner Updates	
Discussion	
ENTF - Upcoming ENTF Introduction to People Powered Advocacy with Michigan League for Public Policy	
- Thursday, July 15th, 9:00-11:00: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693</a>	
Lunch & Learn: Workforce Development Service Analysis	
- Thursday, July 29, 12:00-1:00: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91912345678">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91912345678</a>	
- Tuesday, August 24, 12:00-1:00: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91912345678">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91912345678</a>	
North Kent Connect – they hired another case manager who is starting on Monday!	
KCCA – TEFAP distribution on July 8 <sup>th</sup> at their location. They will be partnering with SEEL to have Consumers available to share their Helping Neighbor Program and Kent County Health Department will have vaccine information. They may also have pet supplies available	
DHHS – SER increase for water and sewer – a shortfall determination is not required and income eligibility increased to 150% FPL. Some staff will be returning to the office starting on July 12 <sup>th</sup> . They are planning to have lobbies re-opening at this point, and are unsure of what to anticipate for volume.	
Green Homes Institute – Bloc Power from Brooklyn is a program that is scaling up nationally. The program brings resources to middle and low income cities to do advanced low/no carbon heating systems. They have some lease programs available and have an intake form. They are hoping to get some pilots up and running locally: <a href="https://www.blocpower.io/">https://www.blocpower.io/</a> ; <a href="https://www.blocpower.io/partnership-investor">https://www.blocpower.io/partnership-investor</a>	
Pet food – FROM has had the Pit Bull Alliance providing pet food during their distributions. Humane Society has a kibble program as well.	
ENTF will be keeping these subcommittee meetings virtual through the end of the calendar year. Will reassess towards the end of the year. Staff have not considered hosting a meeting in a park, but this is an option as well.	