

NEAN Meeting
December 14, 2006
 NPPD – York

Attendees:

Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District	Cheryl Holcomb	Central NE Community Services
Jan Davis	Aquila	Gwen Kautz	Dawson PPD
Pete Davis	NE Energy Office	Bill Lucke	Aquila
Jerry Deichert	Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO	Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Cory Fuehrer	NPPD	Shirley Niemeyer	UNL Extension
Ardith Hoins	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership	Garry Ruliffson	OPPD

Conference Call:

Mike Kelly	Health and Human Services System	Judi Martin	OPPD
Linda Eidem	NorthWestern Energy		

Meeting Notes:

NEAN Website nebraskaenergyassistancenetwork.com: Gwen Kautz

- Needs contact information from each member (can take some information from NEAN Contact list)
- Requested additional information regarding assistance each organization provides and by whom; did not receive many replies to previous request. Decided information should be more general and offer links to various facilities offering assistance, i.e., Health and Human Services, Red Cross, Health and Human Services, Community Action groups, etc. May post 211 number as a resource.
- 115 people have accessed the website – 70% through Google

Forums/Public Education Information

- 20 Forums – 1 canceled in Lincoln
- What do we want to do with the remainder of kits; Other groups we want to reach? Jerry is going to ask the Grant Committee for recommendations on leftover kits. He suggested that we send a request to him if we have a project we want to do. He will respond to each request.
 - Inventory:
 - 34 kits w/booklets
 - 199 kits w/o booklets
 - 176 booklets only
 - 4 kits w/cleaner instead of expanding foam
 - Sheila took 4 cartons from Bill Lucke and transported them to Omaha (now has 11 cartons; Cory took a box from Gwen and is now storing approx approximately 14 cartons at his York office
 - Possibilities/Problems discussed:
 - What didn't work
 - Bingo and cards provided a conflict of interest
 - Facility administrator not committed
 - What Worked
 - Facility administrator committed to the workshop

- Actions or potential plans (Send proposal to J Deichert for approval)
 - Send Sr. Ctr. Directors a short list of open-ended questions about forums – Sheila has submitted a first draft which Jerry will revise to meet our needs.
 - Target another group in Lincoln thru Lincoln’s Action Programs? Action agencies could organize and we could be available to assist, as needed, possibly LIHEAP recipients
 - Homebuyer Education Program – thru Habitat for Humanity
 - Target specific smaller groups - immigrants – Sudanese; Hispanic
 - Language barrier for those to whom English is a second language

Survey Results: Jerry Deichert – Center for Public Affairs Research

- Two documents – attached: Pre-Survey and Evaluation Initial Results
 - Information is not copywrited; may be used as we see fit
- Follow-up Survey to be sent to people who received Energy Saving Kit (no more than 2 pages) – What are they doing now as a result of receiving kits? Has behavior changed? Jerry will e-mail request for possible follow-up questions from the NEAN group
 - Do we want to have some questions that are specific to a certain area? gas, electric, Omaha metro, rural, etc.
 - Possibility of statewide telephone survey, i.e. 800 statewide – urban and rural; mail?
 - Looking for industry ideas for questions to ask on follow-up survey
- Possible future educational messages to public regarding unsafe energy practices and the use of CFL light bulbs to save energy

2nd Grant

- Next Step: NE Energy Burden Study – using existing resources to obtain information (currently nothing available at state level to show need)
- Research resources data to determine gap
- Possible symposium on the need
 - Share data, get more buy-in
 - Study other states/utilities regarding fund-raising efforts, etc
 - Other organizations operations
- Assistance Message: It is the right thing to do; it is a beneficial thing to do.
- How long does it take to change behaviors?
- Add partners to the NEAN team to provide assistance

NEAN Business

- Next meeting – January 11 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Important to participate in person if we work on Team Building or Strategic Planning
 - Sheila sent a note requesting participation from NEAN team (everyone on contact list)

NEAN Officer Elections

- January 2007 election – as stated in guidelines
- Executive Committee
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Two Board Directors
 - Suggest officers consist of a variety to represent various facets of our state industry and NEAN members: gas and electric; public and investor-owned; rural and metro; utilities, community and state agencies
 - Decide on structure of committee; expectations of roles
- Nominating Procedures

- NEAN Guidelines state that the Executive Committee positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary must come from the general membership. The 2 Director positions may come from founding general members or advisory members.
 - **Anyone interested should notify Sheila of their interest**
 - If we have more than one person interested in an office, the general committee will vote to select the winning candidate.
 - Sheila will send out form to founding members to provide information on potential candidates

Closing Comments

- Action Agencies: More and different resources needed to find help for those in need
 - NEAN is a good start
 - Elderly are cutting medications to save money for energy bills and accessing credit cards
 - Continue to work together
- Utilities:
 - NEAN is a good start
 - Include weatherization
 - Management is interested
- Public Policy:
 - There are alot of applications for weatherization and energy assistance
 - Comment: Target mailing might help with weatherization message; target households with large energy burdens – must be eligible
 - Weatherization of homes provides big payoffs in energy conservation