

Energy Assistance Committee Meeting Minutes

(Conference Call)

August 6, 2009

Attendees: Judi Martin, Laura Denman, Roger Hunt; DeVonne Ksiazkiewicz, Ardi Hoins, Jeremy Coffee and Mike Kelly.

1. Minutes were accepted with a change of one date.
2. Discussed the agreement of energy providers to provide shutoff and arrearage information. Suggestions or changes can be provided to Laura Denman.
3. NEAN will keep two different lists of utility providers, agencies, etc. that will have funds available. These lists would be kept on the NEAN website.
 1. One list will be a list for individuals who are looking for assistance. The other list will be a list for NEAN members of programs that are available to help individuals.
 2. The first list will have very general information – contact information; applicable location; restrictions on types of utilities; and financial need (yes, no or call). The second list for NEAN members may have a little more in-depth information – may be a different contact or other information.
 3. The suggestion was to update these lists on a quarterly basis. There was some discussion as to the need to hire someone to keep the webpage, these lists, etc. up to date. There also was talk that the lists or other information can be kept in different documents, and when these documents were updated, to ship them to the webmaster (Mari Matulka at this time) and all that would need to be done is replace the old document with a new document.
4. Roger and Laura talked about the Energy Education Committee phone call. The Energy Assistance Committee should target an audience and develop education methods to be used (scope of activity – NEAN has done seniors at senior centers and will work with Head Start). Is there another audience that we would like to reach out to at this time?
5. ARRA funds are going to be divided among seven continuum centers in the state over a three-year period. The total amount may look huge, however it will have to be used over a 36-month period. There also may be some funds available through various cities (Omaha for sure). Case management will be a part of the process of working with households eligible for ARRA payments. NEAN would like to try to be involved with the education process and Charles Coley thinks this is a great idea. He will not only forward me a list of the seven continuum centers but of the contacts. He also is going to keep Pete Davis and me involved with the information to be shared with the seven centers.
6. We still are looking for a chair or co-chairs of the Energy Assistance Committee.

The next conference call is September 3, 2009. Please put it on your calendars.

Thanks.