

NEAN Energy Assistance Committee Meeting

April 19, 2010

Participants were: Judi Martin, Jeremy Coffey, Mary Beth Rathe, Cheryl Holcomb, Ardi Hoins and Roger Hunt.

- Discussed upcoming Energy Assistance Committee agenda for next NEAN meeting. DHSS will provide update on ACCESS Nebraska process and brainstorm join outreach initiative possibly with NEAN. Group suggested a short presentation with more time for brainstorming. Mike Kelly will be informed
- Discussed an Omaha metro report being compiled by a MAACH (continuum) task for on Homeless Prevention to list funding sources for utility assistance (and rental, if available) at the end of 2009.
- Mary Beth Rathe offered to pull together funding from the CAAs for this need. This will be great information to have and be able to update annually. Goal is for a statewide listing of these funding sources.
- Jerry Deichert will present the updated Energy Burden Study (2009) at the April NEAN meeting.
- Informed the committee of the pending LR 324 that State Senator Tanya Cook is sponsoring. This study is to examine the need for public utility ratepayer assistance programs in the state.
- Roger did not have updated information on the Get A Head Start webinars planned for later this year.
- Discussed use of the Head Start educational program. All videos are on line. Judi shared how easy it was to schedule a workshop with Juan Diego now that we have Spanish materials... they wanted the Budgeting and Weatherization module to be presented.
- Roger and Shirley will present the Get a Head Start Educational program to Salvation Army for possible use in their transitional housing program April 30 in Grand Island.
- The Executive Board asked each committee for their opinions on use of data collection reports on disconnections. Here are some of the comments from EA:
 1. NEAN should control the message
 2. Don't post on website... we need to control the release
 3. Can the report be by areas of the state? It would be good to evaluate need by area and funding available.
 4. Are there other uses such as combine with other reports... such as energy burden, funds available etc.
 5. How do we combine and evaluate the Data Gathering disconnection info, the Energy Burden Study and the available funding sources? What is the next step?
 6. Would like to see what the report would look like. (Laura Demman is preparing)
 7. What will be method to compare reporting period to reporting period... will want to compare apples to apples.
 8. Committee felt this information is valuable to NEAN members

Submitted by Judi Martin