

Energy Assistance Committee Meeting – June 3, 2010

In attendance – Judi Martin, Laura Demman, Jeremy Coffey, Mary Beth Rathe, Ardi Hoins and Mike Kelly

1. Minutes from the May 6, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. Old Business – Funding from any source other than LIHEAP – Mary Beth received five surveys from the nine areas that received the survey. There is concern on how to break down information because there is funding received for rent only, utilities only, both rent and utilities and food (I believe). The funds are being mingled.

Data is being entered, sorted by county, at this time, however it may be able to be sorted in other ways. There also is concern about whether data being requested is historical or projections. If you go back to 2009 you are doing historical data, and if you're projecting ahead it would be to determine what funds will be available and how many households would receive the funds (funding and application projections). Historic data is better and more accurate especially when you try to use those figures against shutoff and arrearage information being captured by NEAN.

Judi asked if we need the figures to be to the exact dollars and cents?

There is a need to respond to the survey takers — what the survey represents, can it impact future funding and could it potentially cause more requests. The Committee feels the information will be shared within NEAN and the survey takers and will not be made public. We are hoping there would be no negative impacts. There was a question as to the inclusion of ARRA and HPRP funds. Mary Beth will talk to her members next week about the information collected and who will receive the information.

A 12-month snapshot should be used for this information – calendar year vs. fiscal year or some other 12-month period. Mary Beth will come up with an agreement between survey takers on the time period to be used.

3. Mike made a short presentation about the Program Measurement. He sent a copy of the two-step process for the Program Measurement. He will share with the EA Committee as he learns more about what will be required by states and how the data will be collected. Once a process is determined as to what states can collect and report, the information will be shared with NEAN. It is hoped that NEAN may be able to collect the same type of information on non-LIHEAP households.
4. Mike made another presentation about the teleconference tLaura, Jan Davis, Judi, Cory Fuehrer and Mike sat in on with the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) on Energy Assistance Initiatives: How to Create a Successful Program in Your State. There were three presenters and a moderator who talked about non-LIHEAP programs that can be created in states to serve additional people. Mike shared two things learned in the teleconference.

A. There is at least one utility (hopefully more) that has an arrearage forgiveness program. Household would sign up for this program and as long as the household kept the current bills paid in full, 1/24 of the arrearage would be forgiven by the utility. If the household kept their account paid in full for two years, the entire arrearage would be forgiven. The thought there was that utilities would not be shutoff; there would be a constant income stream on the bill paying process and that over a two-year period, the household would learn how to control their bills.

B. There is a thought out there that LIHEAP funding will be reduced for FY2011, and funding could return to the FY2008 level. This would enable more funding to be used to help people make their homes

more green and energy efficient. That would mean that Nebraska would need to lower income and payment guidelines.

5. Judi made a presentation about NEAN sponsoring groups, agencies, etc. that would like to do a Get A Head Start presentation with the energy kits. NEAN purchase up to \$3,000 of these kits (cost somewhere between \$13.50 and \$16). We could allow these groups, agencies, etc. to buy more kits with their own funds. This would increase the purchasing power and allow more kits to be bought because as more kits are purchased, the lower the cost.

M.U.D. and OPPD tracked some households for a training session a few years ago, and were able to track that these households had increased their efficiency and reduced their monthly utility costs. Mary Beth expressed an interest in doing something like this, however it would take utilities willing to track households and release the information.

6. Quarterly meetings will be held July 8 and October 14. Laura is trying to get someone from the Energy Office to make a presentation in July. Any other ideas should be forwarded to Judi.

Any corrections or additions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks.

Minutes taken by Mike Kelly.