

NEAN Executive Board Meeting May 24, 2010

Attendees – Judi Martin, Jeremy Coffey, Cory Fuehrer, Rick Cheloha, DeVonne Ksiazkiewicz and Mike Kelly.

- Quarterly NEAN membership meeting will be held July 8, 2010 from 9 AM to Noon.
 1. Energy Office is willing to do a 15-minute presentation (not sure on what or if they would address issues important to NEAN). Judi will contact Laura Demman to arrange
 2. Do we want any other presenters?
 3. Roger and Shirley may take up a good portion of time discussing the webinars that will have just started.
- The NEAN checking account is set up.
 1. Rick and Mike need to provide Cory with birth dates and social security numbers
 2. NEAN will require one signature on the check but may request to have two signatures under certain situations (an example would be of a check in excess of a certain amount).
 3. Cory has debit/credit statements for current information and past year on NEAN.
 4. A total of 250 checks need to be ordered. Cory does not foresee more than 25 or so checks being written in a year.
 5. Cory is ready to instruct Red Cross to cut a check to transfer NEAN's funds to NEAN and they will be deposited in the new NEAN account.
 6. Cory will provide donuts to Red Cross in appreciation for all the Red Cross has done for NEAN. We will have a plaque made for a presentation to the Red Cross at a future NEAN meeting.
- The 501(c)3 is almost done and at that time NEAN will be a full non-profit organization. The process may take 2-6 months before status is granted. NEAN will arrange for services to file income tax returns and other corporate filings that will be required.
- The NEAN budget is approved through the remainder of 2010.
- Energy Education Committee report – the “Trainer the Trainer” webinar/teleconference will be held four consecutive weeks in July and August. The presentation will include an overview of the program, all modules of the NEAN/Head Start program including the training and evaluation process. There will be a mass mailing from several e-mail lists (Judi Martin, Shirley Niemeyer, and Charles Coley) to at least 140 agencies asking them to participate in the webinar/teleconference. NEAN will take advantage of the webinars to recruit new members. Discussion also was held about NEAN using some of its funds on a yearly basis to fund grants to buy energy kits using the GHSE program. A figure of \$3,000 was thrown out with maybe a maximum of \$500 per agency (does not have to have a maximum if there would be a minimum number of agencies interested in this process). Would we want these agencies to provide some matching funds so they can maximize their purchases? Judi will form a committee to draft proposal.
- Energy Assistance Committee report – Gathering data from the CoCs, CAAs, and NEAN members on funding sources of utility assistance. Data will be used with NEAN information for shutoffs and arrearages to identify gaps. This information would be shared with NEAN members and would not be shared publicly without consent from all involved. Several members concerned about possible impact on funding sources and would not want anyone to select a particular utility company or agency. NEAN may work with Charles Coley as a neutral third party to gather and document this information.
- ACCESSNebraska outreach – Judi participated in an outreach meeting to create a publishing or marketing plan to reach as many people as possible.
- Mike is waiting for permission to share arrearage/shutoff information as a NEAN member. There is concern that Mike may be recognized as a DHHS employee and it needs to be made sure that any NEAN information Mike shares does not affect DHHS. At this time it may be best to have all requests from the public/media go through the PSC and Laura Demman. Mike still would need this information to share with groups such as the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) for purposes of LIHEAP funding.

Submitted by Mike Kelly