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**EO Collaborative
Low-Income Workgroup Minutes
January 21, 2010, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

Michigan Energy Efficiency Baseline Study

Karen Gould, MPSC, gave an update on the MPSC Request for Proposal (RFP) that is in process:

- Currently contractors have been hired by Consumers Energy, DTE/MichCon to perform an energy efficiency baseline study of their customer territories.
- The information will provide an assessment of the building and equipment stock in those Michigan areas. This covers 90% of the state.
- This study will be a comprehensive analysis of all forms of energy use, i.e., lighting, appliances, HVAC, and building shell.
- A baseline study of this nature has never been performed in Michigan. In 2015, the Commission will be providing a report to the legislation with direction for the continuation of the Energy Optimization program. The findings from these types of studies could guide their decisions.
- Where does low income fit in? As long as there are Energy Optimization programs in place, low income programs will continue to be funded.

Michigan Benefits Access Initiative (MBAI)

Nancy Lindman, United Way of Michigan, called in to give her update on the MBAI:

- Kellogg Foundation funding is moving the launch of this one-stop shopping initiative forward.
- Will include the Bridges program (Family Independence Agency), food stamps, Department of Human Services benefits, Mi Child, Medicaid, utility bill assistance – incrementally adding modules as they become available.
- At this time, tax credits such as Earned Income Credit are not available outside filing with the IRS. Michigan Department of Education programs such as school meals are not part of MBAI.

DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

- It was recommended at the January Collaborative Steering Committee meeting to refer exploring the possibility of obtaining LIEEF support for utility EO and weatherization program modules to the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm (CTKMW). The CTKMW will report to the Low-Income Workgroup, who will in turn keep the Steering Committee updated on progress made.

Michigan Retrofit Ramp-Up Initiative (MRR)

Pat Hudson, Energy Office, DELEG, provided a handout detailing the MRR and a list of Partners and those providing letters of support for the DELEG application.

- DELEG has applied for \$70.1 Million of this competitive federal grant to fund residential neighborhood programs in the City of Detroit and in Southeast and Central Michigan suburbs.
- A focus of the project will test the impact on residential and small commercial customers of various outreach/marketing and financing incentives to increase the uptake of Energy Efficiency measures.
- DELEG will know by March of this year if they will receive an award, with an expected May program rollout.

Sub-workgroup Discussion & Sign-up

- The first two meetings of the Low-Income Workgroup focused on educational presentations to bring group members up to speed on low-income issues that could be addressed.
- The top three concerns in the categories of “general issues” and “utility-related issues”, as prioritized by members in the [on-line survey](#) of November 6, 2009 are presented below and assigned to sub-workgroups.
- Three of the Low-Income Task Force Workgroups have been brought back in order to better focus us on these issues:
 1. **Data Collection** (As needed)
 - Locate and acquire data requested by sub-workgroups
 2. **Low-Income Assistance**
 - LIHEAP funding of Home Heating Credit
 - Emergency Bill Assistance
 - Reducing Utility Costs of Shutoff and Restoration

3. Process Issues

- Weatherization
- Energy Efficiency
- Low-Income Program Coordination

The group split up into sub-workgroups with the following people signing up for these sub-workgroups:

Process Issues:

Sandra Philpott-Burke, MPSC
Pamela Webb, Michigan Offices of Services to the Aging
Mike Buda, MECA
Whitney Schraw, Salvation Army
Jim Phillippo, Integrys Energy
Michele Martinez, Sierra Club
David Henderson, DTE
Sharon Theroux, MCAAA
Jim Ault, MEGA
Antonette Noakes, CMS
Derek Dalling, Kindsvatter Associates

Low-Income Assistance

Scott Darragh, Michigan Dept of Treasury
Dave Forsberg, Integrys Energy
Dave Tyler, MGU
Michele Gupshes, SEMCO
Deb Harmon, CMS
Pamela Webb, Michigan Offices of Services to the Aging

Data Collection (as needed)

Jim Ault, MEGA
Drew Walker, Michigan Offices of Services to the Aging

The sub-workgroups will meet every other month, with the main Low-Income workgroup meeting during the in-between months.

Members asked for more guidance on mission and goals for these sub-workgroups, which Staff will work on and distribute prior to the next meeting on February 12, 2010.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00