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**EO Collaborative  
Low-Income Workgroup Agenda  
November 12, 2010  
Minutes**

1. Douglas Jester and David Poulson: MichEEN Presentation (Michigan Energy Efficiency Network) [www.micheen.org](http://www.micheen.org)
  - An innovative project to create an on-line community of practitioners. While it is open to all to participate, the target audience is the people actually doing the work.
  - Status of the project: in the soft launch phase where much of the site's usability/function is available; need for people to participate. Estimated user population of 5-10,000 in Michigan. People will only use the site if it makes their lives easier.
  - Demonstrated various functions: groups, blogs, forums, posts, calendars, materials to be shared. Privacy levels for groups can be set at open (recommended), semi-private (public can read information, but not post) to private (only invited members may view materials and comment).
  - *FAQ page – to start a group: Group tab, list, find group name (i.e. low-income collaborative). Better to email request to join to people you want as part of your group. Lori will start a group, send out invites for purposes of exploring the site to see if this is something of interest to collaborative members.*
  
2. Member updates
  - Deb Harmon (CMS) next week Consumers and other utilities will host an energy assistance forum in Pontiac. There will be opportunities to enroll in the winter protection plan, learn about energy bill assistance programs and pick up educational materials.
  - Constance Costner (MSUE): MSU Extension is undergoing exciting times with reorganization! Green Michigan Institute will be holding workgroups with local staff on financial and affordable housing topics. Goal is to have 1 person in each county working on affordable housing issues with constituents.
  - Sharon Theroux (MCAAA): Computer software in the works to link all CAPs and ultimately coordinating with DHS's weatherization piece. Busy working with 41 utilities to meet goals by the end of the year. In a partnership with MPSC, DTE, THAW in a pilot project looking at percent of income utility payment programs. Began work with multi-family units. Moved MCAAA offices to Okemos – more space and close to CLEAResults.
  - Art Thayer (MECA): EO goals have been met - programs are oversubscribed and no longer accepting new rebate claims. Ongoing struggle to spend the full budgeted amount, but not to overspend. Difficulties in gauging program popularity and the inability to

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carry over EO credits. (Signed up two large self-direct customers with large kWh savings and EO contractor has already designed programs to achieve the full target savings.)

- Stephen Matthews (CMS): Kalamazoo Building Blocks is a grass roots effort including Kalamazoo College, WMU, local stores, neighborhood action groups, with some funding by Consumers Energy in its second year. Education and walk-through audits are performed on 60-80 homes. KBB will be holding a planning meeting to review the progress made to date and plan for future efforts.
  - David Henderson (DTE): close to their low-income targets without having spent all the money. Neighborhood Energy Savings Outreach (NESO) has had outstanding results – a pilot project that has touched 36,000 customers. (Churches were the contact point – works well in Detroit.) This includes 5,000 energy consultations/direct installations (level 1 audits), with 10,000 expected to be completed by the end of the year. 22 crews wear orange shirts and khakis, drive HHR cars (branding) and averaging 150 homes a day. Program is 3,000 over target and oversubscribed, still maintaining program with the understanding that much useful information will come of it. Education is a major focus, 2 people visit each home for 60-90 minutes. One person does direct install (shower heads, pipe wrap, CFLs, etc) the other person educates the home owner. Question is how to translate education into EO savings in the MEMD. (Comment made that ACEEE does a lot of work on behavior and may be a good resource.)
3. Next meeting discussion topic: getting utility bill information to low-income renters prior to signing lease.
- Comment was made that MSHDA has training for their housing counselors twice a year – once in October, once in April (coordinated with the Affordable Housing Conference). If we could get word out to this group, it would have impact. Perhaps even pursue a link off the MSHDA home locator website. (Check notes for contact we worked with to include a new link on the website – 2009?)
  - Email will be sent to members asking for input prior to December's meeting, consolidated and handed out.
4. Next meeting date: December 10, 2010