

Minutes from Conference Call July 1, 2010

Present on call – Judi Martin, Mary Beth Rathe, Kate Ellrich, Carol Fritzler and April Gross

1. Grant Program for GHSE Program

Judi shared concerns from the Executive Board of agency commitment if no matching funds come from the applicant. After much discussion, the committee developed the following recommendation and will present it to members at the July member meeting:

- NEAN would develop a energy kit grant program
- An application process is developed that would require: implementation plans, number served, timeline, plans for utilization of kits, in-kind contribution, reporting and measurement process.
- Applicants would be required to include at least module 1 and 2 in their proposed plan
- NEAN members would receive priority
- Non-NEAN members could apply, must purchase NEAN curriculum or join NEAN
- Applicants could apply for up to 30 kits
- There would be no matching of funds required if applicant is facilitating the program using their own staff and facilities (this is their in-kind contribution)
- NEAN would purchase the kits and supply to grantees
- NEAN would award up to six grants per year (or up to 180 kits) per year, subject to available funding
- Grants would be awarded equally throughout the state — 2 west, 2 central and 2 eastern

2. Utility Assistance funding source gathering — Mary Beth

- CAAs agreed to follow Omaha's lead and participate in reporting utility assistance funding sources
- The report will be ready in September and cover a full year.
- Omaha report (MAACH) will be available in September also.

3. Disconnect and arrearage information

Jan Davis reported at the Executive Board meeting, she had not heard back from United Way as to whether they will have the first quarter report available for July meeting. The second quarter request for information was sent.

4. LIHEAP

Judi will ask Mike to report at meeting on funding levels for 2010-2011 and latest actions. Judi reported that due to the cancelation of the annual LIHEAP action day this winter, a summer LIHEAP action day is planned July 28.

5. National Energy Utility Affordability Conference

Judi will submit report at meeting. Two key take-a-ways from conference: Heat Response plans and State of Washington's conferences on utility industry. Discussion on whether to pursue additional input and whether there is interest to pursue. Mary Beth said there may be possible interest in CAAs involvement. Kate mentioned this might be something for area COAD.

Carol discussed a workshop the rural electricians held on wind/renewable which was very well received. Kate questioned the necessity of having a workshop on the utility industry in Nebraska since agencies have a close working relationship with utilities. Various hot topics could be developed and put into webinar form, such as what the CAAs are using. Committee wants to gain input from members after the GHSE webinars are held before pursuing.

Mary Beth said their experience with webinars has been positive. Agencies have technology; it is inexpensive and you can measure your response/impact.

6. Week of November 8 is Money Smart Week sponsored by Financial Education Coalition, statewide. Mary said they are looking for local presentations asked us to spread the word. Judi mentioned OPPD is planning a workshop using GHSE curriculum. Mary Beth provided the following contact information for those interested:

Nebraska Financial Education Coalition (<http://www.moneysmartnebraska.org>): Jennifer Clark, Coalition President, at the Federal Reserve Bank in Omaha, Nebraska by phone (402-221-5500) or via email (jennifer.clark@kc.frb.org).

7. November 15 is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Mary Beth provided the following contact information if you are interested in getting involved: **Ronni Lanham, Community Action of Nebraska (402-471-3714) or rfickle@canhelp.org**