



**LOW INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2015**

The Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force convened in a regular meeting at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, Room 100, in Austin, Texas. Chairperson, Carol Biedrzycki called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. There was a quorum of the members present at 10:13 a.m.

Task Force Members in Attendance: Carol Biedrzycki, Lanetta Cooper, Richard Halpin, Dan Pruett, Cyrus Reed, and Chris Strand. Members Tim Arndt, Karen Hadden, and Kelly Weiss were not in attendance.

Staff in Attendance: Austin Energy staff included Liz Jambor, Denise Kuehn, Scott Jarman, Danielle Murray, and Ronnie Mendoza.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approve minutes from the March 27, 2015 meeting- Clarification and additional information were proposed under CITIZEN COMMUNICATION and OLD BUSINESS by the Chair, Carol Biedrzycki. The members discussed the proposed changes. Richard Halpin motioned to approve the amended minutes. Lanetta seconded and all approved.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

There was no citizen communications.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Austin Energy staff provided a presentation and distributed handouts to members regarding the following agenda items. Questions and discussion followed.

a. Discussion and possible action on energy efficiency and solar financing options. –Danielle Murray, Manager of Solar Energy Services, shared that Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) would be a viable option for solar financing once implemented and another option was the idea of virtual metering to enable low income multifamily property owners to install solar at their own site and power individual metered units. They are looking into the virtual billing solution but needed to do more research on how it would affect the current billing system.

b. Discussion and possible action on low and low moderate income energy efficiency programs-Denise Kuehn, Director of Energy Efficiency Services shared what Austin Energy (AE) has done in 2014-2015 in regards to the weatherization program and where they were headed in 2015-2016, taking into consideration some of the member's preliminary recommendations.

c. Discussion and possible action on Velocity loan options and alternatives as related to energy efficiency programs-Scott Jarman, Consulting Engineer, provided a presentation regarding AE's current approach with Velocity Credit Union regarding loan options. He shared loan approaches under consideration such as expanding the loan loss reserve usage and Warehouse for Energy Efficiency Loans (WHEEL). PACE was also discussed as a financing option in process.

5. BRIEFINGS & REPORTS

a. Austin Energy staff update on the weatherization program job status-Denise gave an update on homes weatherized since April 8, 2015. Her update included a progress report on efforts to enroll additional customers.

b. Status of data requests –Staff distributed answers to questions from the February 27th meeting.

c. Committee Reports – possible reports from the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, Low- Moderate Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, and/or Affordable Rental Property Committee- There were no sub-committee reports.

d. Presentation of marketing communications for low income customers-Susan Kimmel-Lines, Senior Manager of Marketing Services, presented information on marketing that targeted low income customers. She provided examples of work with the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) and educational outreach in schools. The brochures targeted low income zip codes with outreach and marketing. Marketing brochures samples were shared with the members.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Discussion regarding future agenda items including a schedule of topics and issues and topics raised during briefings and citizen communications- For next meeting agenda on April 17th, there would be discussions regarding financing options, preliminary report discussion, and final conclusions on weatherization. The following topics would be included on future meeting agendas:

- presentation and discussion regarding credit scores
- targeted income groups for loans
- recommendations for multiple year plan
- extra incentives for air conditioning as part of PACE
- feasibility of virtual billing in regards to the current billing system
- targeted markets for financing programs and best candidates
- HUD requirement for incentives
- On- bill repayment

ADJOURNMENT- Carol adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p. m. without objection.