

Income Qualified EE Advisory Committee North

Monday, October 1, 2018

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Webinar Conference Call

Attendees (By Phone)

Annette Beitel, Facilitation Team
Celia Johnson, Facilitation Team
Theodora Okiro, Facilitation Team
Tassany Campbell, ComEd
Molly Lunn, ComEd
David Baker, Energy Resources Center, UIC
Marsha Belcher, Community Action Partnership Lake County
Mike Butkus, ComEd
James Carlton, People for Community Recovery
Larry Dawson, IACA
Aimee English, Citizens Utility Board
Stefano Galiasso, UIC
Omayra Garcia, Peoples Gas
Laura Goldberg, NRDC
Mary Ellen Guest, Chicago Bungalow Association
Jasmine Gunn, Claretian Associates
Jim Heffron, Franklin Energy
Nick Horras, Resource Innovations
Connor Jansen, Seventhwave
Malika Jayaraman, Navigant
Cheryl Johnson, People for Community Recovery
Mike King, Nicor Gas
Emily Klein, East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
Chelsea Lamar, Navigant
Terri Lawrence, Tri-County Opportunities Council
Eya Louis, Elevate Energy
Ashley Lucier, SEEL
Karen Lusson, Attorney General Office
Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayor Caucus
Travers McNeice, Rising Sun Energy Center
Lisa Miranda, Rebuilding Together
Jennifer Morris, ICC Staff
Jackie Nagel, Nicor Gas
Jerry Nellessen, Village of Beach Park
Rob Neumann, Navigant
Antonia Ornelas, Elevate Energy
Beulah Orogun, Resource Innovations
Jeanine Otte, Elevate Energy
Christina Pagnusat, Peoples Gas

Ashley Palladino, Resource Innovations
Stacey Paradis, MEEA
Michelle Pulce- Flynn, IACA
Wanda Ramirez, Rebuilding Together
Anthony Santarelli, SEDA U of I
Elena Savona, Elevate Energy
Stella Schneekloth, Project Now
Ingrid Schwingler, Grid Alternatives
Kelly Shelton, Shelton Solutions
Veronica Soto, Emerald Cities
Gina Strafford-Ahmed, Dupage County Human Services
Dalitso Sulamoyo, CCRPC
Erika Symmonds, Grid Alternatives
Mark Szczygiel, Nicor Gas
C. Tenorio, ComEd
Wayne Thompson, Tri-County Opportunities Council
Bryan Tillman, Organization Not Known
Brian Yeung, Seventhwave
Angie Ziech-Malek, CLEAResult
Donna Carpenter, Organization Not Known
John Pady, Cedar
Christopher Vaughn, Nicor Gas
Michael Isitoro, McHenry County Housing
Mary Johnson, Resource Innovations
Dantawn Nicholson, ComEd
Jacob Stoll, ComEd
Mick Prince, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Holly Spears, SEEL, LLC
Pastor Booker Vance, Elevate Energy

Introduction (Annette Beitel, Facilitator)

- Overview of agenda and presentations

Facilitator Presentation

Best Practices Review of Workforce Development Programs (Theo Okiro, Facilitation Team)

- **Question from Omayra Garcia, Peoples Gas- North Shore Gas**
 - Did you review similar programs in Florida and Texas?
 - Response- These programs were found in states that are nationally perceived as “energy-driven states”- Florida and Texas were not included in the research breadth. However, we will consider reviewing additional states in the future.
- **Question from Community Action Partnership of Lake County**
 - What were the retention rates for the programs?

- Response- EnergyWorks KC of Missouri was the only program that explicitly stated the efforts they made to improve program retention. Kansas City Kansas Community College instituted a training stipend for trainees to resolve certain barriers to employment and improve their accountability. The program eventually exceeded their training goal by nearly 100 individuals.
- **Question from Brianna Parker, Elevate Energy**
 - How do the communities feel about these programs?
 - Response- During the research phase, select program administrators were contacted for interviews. For example, Veronica Soto of Emerald Cities and Travers McNeice of Rising Sun Energy Center were interviewed. Veronica acknowledged that the program was developed through input from community stakeholders and the continued success of their program is due to the continued support of the community. Travers noted something similar. The community is an important partnership to the implementation of the program. Communities play a pivotal role in the program.
- **Question from Christopher Vaughn, Nicor Gas**
 - Were job placements from the programs actually in energy efficiency positions? Or industry-wide?
 - Response- The programs that reported job placements and numbers noted that the trainees were placed in energy efficiency or clean energy industry roles.

Workforce Development Program Administrator Presentations

Solar Workforce Development Overview (Erika Symmonds, Grid Alternatives)

- Please note that Erika had to leave the webinar early due to another obligation and was unavailable to answer questions.

Elevate Energy Solar Training Program Overview (Jeanine Otte, Elevate Energy)

- **Question about the future of the program**
 - Response- The contractor training program is currently developing a partnership with ComEd's trade ally network to engage small- business and minority contractors.

E-Contractor Academy Overview (Veronica Soto, Emerald Cities)

- **Question from Annette Beitel, Facilitation Team**
 - What is your experience working with high school students and creating a pipeline for them in the STEM or energy efficiency workforce?
 - Response- There are unique opportunities and challenges for working with high school and college aged disadvantaged youth. At Emerald Cities, there is an ACES program where any student that completes a certain amount of coursework at school is guaranteed a paid internship in the subsequent summer. The coursework could also be completed in 4 years. After which they receive a certification in some of the energy

efficiency certification provided by the organization. There has been a great industry response to this pipeline.

Green Energy Training Services - GETS Overview (Travis McNeice, Rising Sun Energy Center)

- **Question from Annette Beitel, Facilitation Team**
 - What is your experience working with formerly incarcerated citizens?
 - Response- The benefits of training and participating in the program is taken seriously by formerly incarcerated citizens. But challenges persist that the case management component of the program helps to address these. Some challenges include finding supportive housing for them or ensuring that they pass a drug test.
- **Question from Laura Goldberg, NRDC**
 - What is your experience working with utilities in the program?
 - Response- There is a summer job component of their program geared towards students. They learn free energy upgrades training. The students also get to work with different utilities after graduation.

Feedback from Pastor Booker Vance, Elevate Energy

- These are impressive programs from around the country. But we must not lose sight of how important it is to have the industry support for programs once they get off the ground.
- We need to get energy companies to provide opportunities and support for these types of programs. There needs to be a cultural change to successfully push people through workforce programs.

Closing and Next Steps (Annette Beitel, Facilitation Team)

Key Next Steps

1. Are you aware of additional workforce development programs that should be reviewed? Please let us know by emailing Theo at Theo.Okiro@futee.biz by Friday, November 2.
2. The date of the next IQ North meeting is December 11th, 2018. This meeting will be in person. The invite and agenda will be circulated soon.
3. There is interest in a smaller committee or working group to discuss workforce development. The Facilitation Team anticipates launching this in early 2019 and is currently working on a draft working group plan.