Notes from OECA meeting 2/13-2/15/23

Day 1

De escalation training w/ Christopher Wilson

Mr. Wilson went over the science behind brain trauma and how trauma fuels escalation. He stated that we should know the science behind the why, so we can be more intentional with how we serve our clients. He shared a lot of valuable information, but in a nut shell it boils down to, our approach should be that we should be capable of being compassionate with our clients and be understanding of their situation. For more information Mr. Wilson can be reached @ chris@beingti.com or check out his website @ Beingti.com

Day 2

Discussions lead by Rogelio Cortes

Member introductions were made, lots of new faces from various locations and group was encouraged to network. Some people mentioned if it is possible to setup a platform were new auditors/inspectors, staff members could reach out and ask questions, discuss any concerns, or just reach out to someone with experience with out having to send emails or make phone calls.

Group was asked to share barriers/challenges: No TPO roofing available in a few locations, not enough staff or people interested in applying for WX jobs. Maybe hiring processes need to be adjusted so it is not so cumbersome. New hires don’t last very long especially after going on the field and realizing that their work is to difficult, so maybe job descriptions need to be more realistic or have a bit more clarity on what the job entails? A few new auditors feel there was no one to reach out to or anybody available to be able to shadow and gain experience. No one to proctor new employees, or other agencies available for peer exchange. Drew had asked if any agencies conduct exit interviews so that perhaps we can figure out why employees are quitting.

There was a couple new employees who stated they are enjoying their job, having job security, benefits, and flexibility. Agency leadership should allow new employees to reach out to experienced people and be mentored.

Also discussed was the possibility of having third party audits completed by contractors, seems like this has been done in the past. What would that process look like.

Multifamily projects – Gary Walworth

Multnomah County did a presentation on how they handle multifamily units, Gary shared what processes are in place in order to have projects run smoothly.

A few items that he shared: Have a dedicated person to manage only multifamily projects, have multiple partners/collaboration, written process, tracking sheets, strategy for completing client applications, and escape plan. If anyone is in need of assistance with multifamily projects contact Gary, he has a lot of experience.

OTI updates – Drew Sizemore

Drew shared that OTI has acquired the OWWDEP grant. He talked about what the scope of this grant will look like and will be utilized in the community. The grant will help satisfy comprehensive training needed for contractors, develop new auditors, better curriculums, more flexibility on training locations, attract new contractor, retain existing contractors, develop internships, have hands on training and develop better online training. Year 1 will consist of information and feedback, content and curriculum shifts, building pathways of communication and internships, data collection, demographics, language needs. Stay tuned more to come from OTI.

Spec committee – Jose Ruiz

New no business since last meeting, if you have questions or concerns reach out to Jose Ruiz.

OHCS – Kurt Pugh and Danielle Safford

New talk, Kurt discussed agencies monitoring reports and collected data that recently went out to all agencies and how to use that data as a resource. If you’d like to have more data, contact OHCS. Danielle mentioned that OHCS will start their first BIL production visits, WRF will be brought during their visits, also new income guidelines are out.

ETO – Marshall Johnson and Cierra

Marshall went over some ETO updates, and projects that are in motion.

There will also be HPWH training on 3/24/23 contact Marshall for more information.

TT&A updates – Michael Figueredo

Michael shared the HSPF2 work around spreadsheet, TAG will be updating their membership, and OHCS working on an MOU w/ OTI for a new training location.

Day 3 general discussions 2/15/23

Discussion took place on a presentation by OTI (Drew and Laura) about revamping their online training. Questions were asked to the group and feedback was given, mostly positive.

Laura went over the changes to guidelines WPN 17-7 vs. 22-7.

BIL workgroup – Benedikt Springer

No new updates with the BIL workgroup. Benedikt had some questions for the group on the current situation with WX across the state. Not much feedback was provided back.