

Energy Waste Reduction Low Income Workgroup

March 2, 2023





Welcome and Introductions

Brad Banks
MPSC



Building a Better World

Mark Lee
Better World Builders



Low Income Policy Board Information/ Energy Affordability and Accessibility Collaborative Update

Anne Armstrong
Mary Wilkins
Michigan Public Service Commission



Wrap Up and Adjourn

Brad Banks
MPSC



Building a Better World

One Kalamazoo Team is on a mission to help homeowners take control of their energy losses & be in a healthier more resilient home

Better World Builders

- Established in 2008
- 18 Full Time Employees
- Completed over 100 retrofits in 2022
- Educate on home performance and weatherization
- Completed complex jobs
 - Eliminate K&T
 - Abating Asbestos
 - Remediating Mold
- Invest in Employee Safety Training & Equipment



Kalamazoo the Most Sustainable Place in MI

Community Involvement

- SOM – Bureau of Construction Code Commission – co-Chairperson
- Kalamazoo Earth Day – Planning Committee
- KRESA – Architecture & Construction Advisory Committee
- MCTI – Construction Occupational Advisory Committee
- Governors Energy Excellence Award 2017 – Contractor of the Year
- Kalamazoo County Building Authority (member 2018 – 2022)
- Sustainable Business Forum (board member 2017-2021)
- MEECA – Founding Member

Better World Builders – Special Accomplishments

- Weatherization Contractor since 2008 to present
- Consumers Energy – Trade Ally Gold Contractor HPwES since 2012
- Consumers Energy – Contractor of the Year 2022
- PEARL Certification – 1st Contractor in SOM (builds equity)
- Healthy Homes – Pilot Program: Home Energy & Health Improvements
- K-County Grant Recipient – City of Galesburg
- City of Kalamazoo – Water Survey & Energy Assessment
- Dedicated Home Training Facility in the Edison Neighborhood

Building Healthy Homes – Remove The Trash













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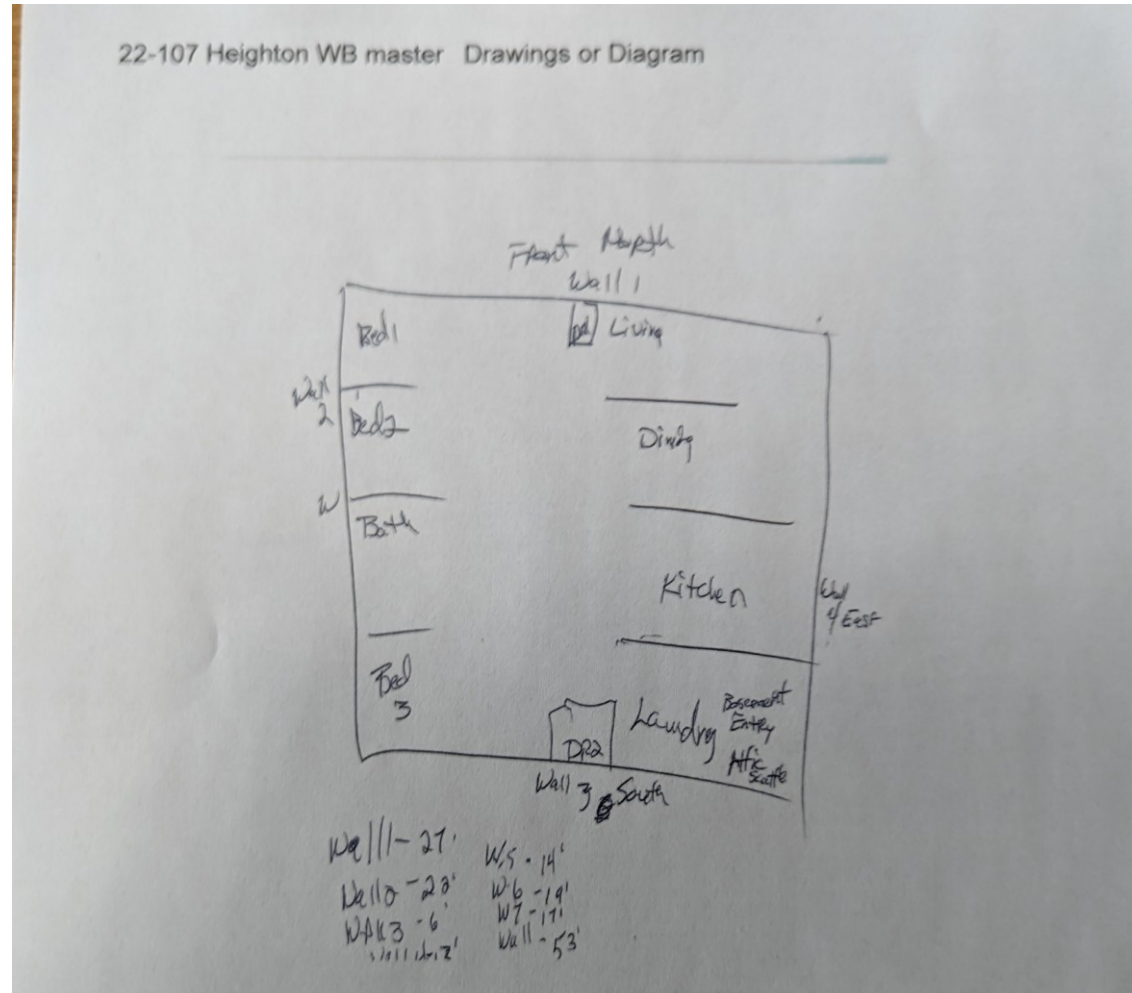
KEY LEARNINGS

- Healthy Homes & Home Performance can change lives
- Weatherization & Income Qualified Programs
 - fall short of adding value & Client Equity
- Lack of homeowner involvement can have negative impact for the Clients
- Finding Interested and able-bodied Labor continues to be a challenge
- Semco Healthy Homes Pilot Project 2021

Concerns with Community Action Agencies & Other Low-Income Non-Profits

- Developing In House Weatherization Crews
- Diverting Funds to Capital Expenditures – Equipment, Warehouses
- Competing for Labor in a tight labor market
- “We Have So Much Money – We have to spend it somewhere”
- Limitations with NEAT – wastes administrative times
- Because of Limitations of their charter – they cannot model more innovative programs like the – Semco/CE Flint Healthy Homes project
- Piece Meal Fixes - Are Part of the Problem (Wx & CE – Helping Neighbors)
- Higher Value on Quantity of homes and Per Unit Cost as success
- Poor initial home energy audit assessments – Add more costs

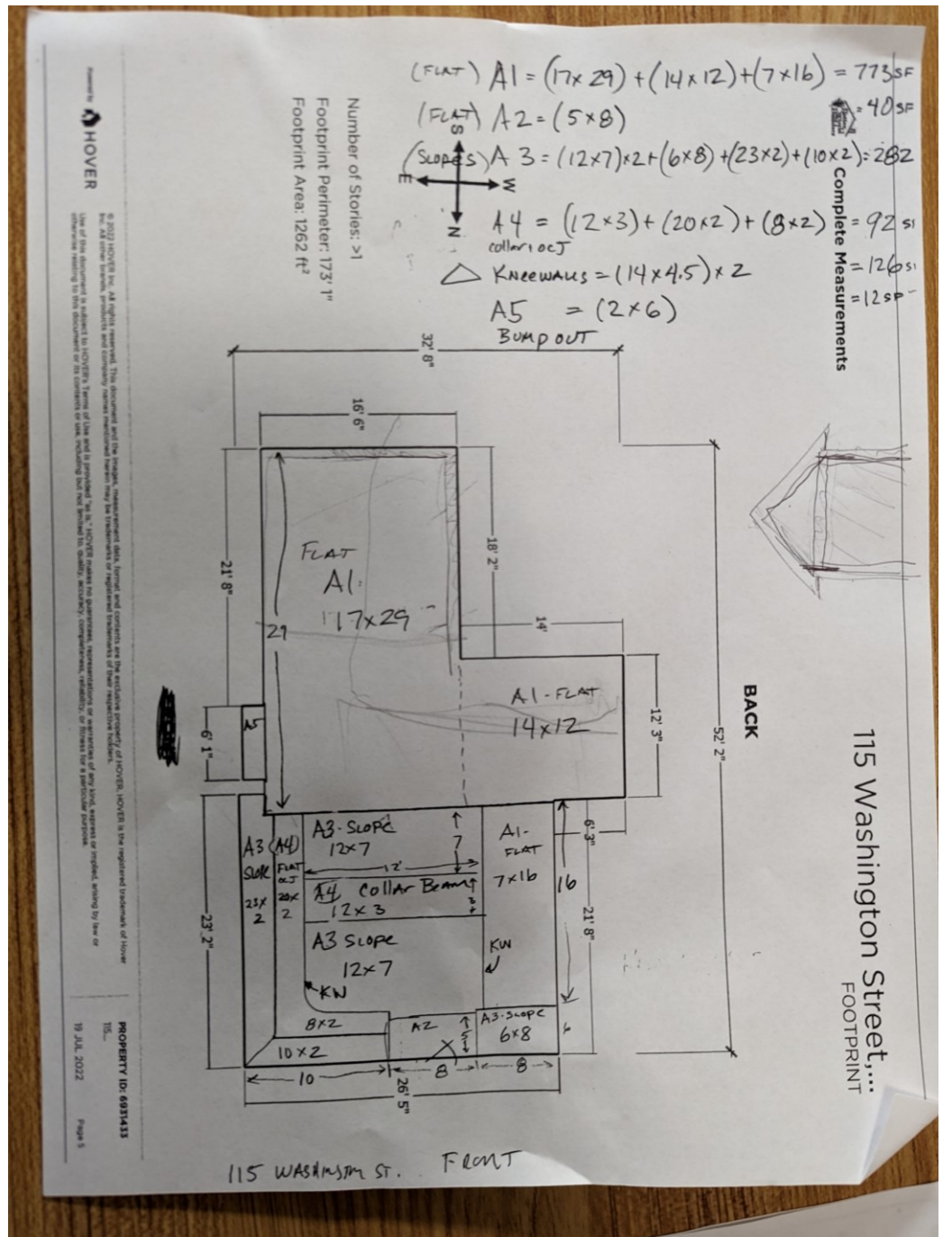
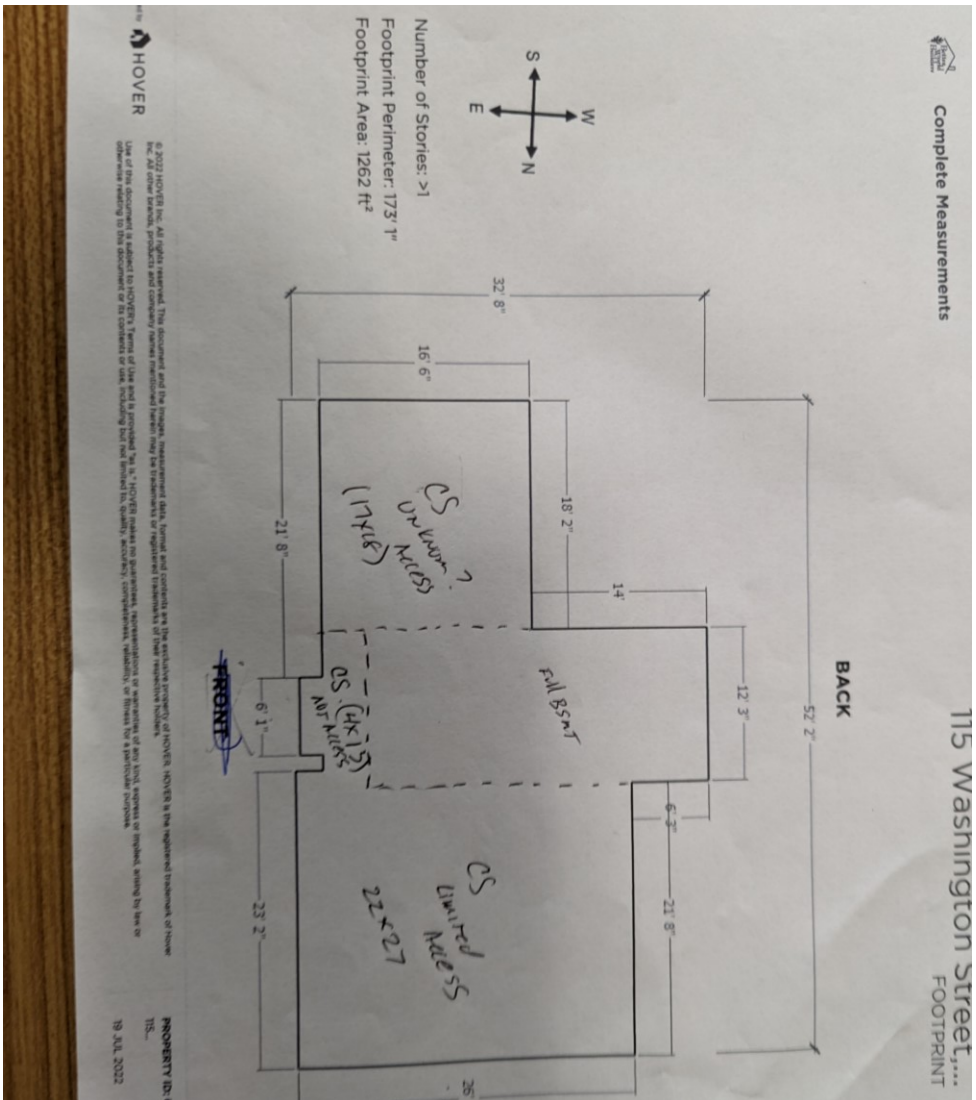
Actual Work Order Drawing From CAASCM



Actual House



Actual Layout



What to Model for successful programs

- Use Michigan Saves to help administer Low Income projects
- Allow the Clients to choose who does the work on their home
- Allow Clients opportunity to use Mi Saves to participate in their HOME PERFORMANCE project
- Contractor Driven home assessments
- CAA – Quality Control Inspectors
- Rely on Performance Based Metrics
 - Actual Decrease in energy bills
 - Physical & Mental Health
 - Certified Efficiency that Increases Home Value, Improve Equity and Create Generational Wealth

How To Develop A Work Force

- Develop a Trusted Contractor Network
- Help Working Contractors grow with Ethics & Management Classes
- Help Recruit Labor through High Schools, KRESA, Trade Programs
- Educate & Outreach the Low Income Community on Creating Generational Wealth with Healthy, Maintained, Home Performance House
- Use Performance Metrics
 - Award Work to Higher Quality Contractors doing great work



Use Better World Builders as a PILOT Program

- Over 15 Years Experience
- Passion to Build a Better World and Build a Better Community
- Proven Track Record
- Invested in a Quality Training Program
- Set up new benchmark for Weatherized Homes
- Need a Grant for
 - Certified BPI Training Facility
 - Funds to Enhance the BWB training institute



Thank-you

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Low Income Energy Policy Board/ EAAC Update

Anne Armstrong,
Mary Wilkins,
Michigan Public Service Commission

Close & Adjourn

Thank You!