

# **DRAFT**

## **Agenda**

### **Low-Income Energy Advisory Board**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**

**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Berlin System Headquarters  
107 Selden St.  
Berlin, CT  
East dining room in the cafe**

- I. Welcome
  
- II. Approve Minutes of the April 2011 Meeting
  
- III. CEAP Update
  
- IV. Matching Payment Program Update
  
- V. Operation Fuel Update
  
- VI. 2011- 2012 CEAP Recommendations

Next meeting - June 1, 2011 CRT/Hartford

**Draft**  
 Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
 1:30 p.m.  
 Community Renewal Team

**Members:** Ray Wilson, Pamela Giannini, Tom O’Brien, Laura Gonzalez, Joy Hollister, Joanne Balaschak Shirley Bergert, Deb Polun, Brenda Watson, Ben Daigle, Lindsay Parke, Lance Johnson, Dave Thomas, Kate Quigley, Kerri Kemp, James McNally, and Emy Skene.

**Others:** Caty Patton-OPM, Anne Foley-OPM

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome	Chair Ray Wilson convened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.
Approval of March 2011 Minutes	Deb Polun moved approval of the March 2011 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Lance Johnson. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.
LIHEAP/CEAP Update	<p>DSS reported on the status of the CEAP. As of April 1st, 2010-2011 CEAP funds were fully obligated. DSS implemented a temporarily eligibility suspension for applications taken after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Under the suspension, agencies were instructed to process all pending and incomplete applications taken prior to April 1. Any will accept new applications received after April 1<sup>st</sup> but will not begin the approval process.</p> <p>The board discussed in detail the temporarily eligibility suspension of applications taken after April 1<sup>st</sup> due to fully obligated CEAP funding. The board’s concern was the 7,000-8,000 pending utility applications. The eligibility suspension and without additional funds pending utility applications may not be approved. As a result, these utility customers will not be eligible to participate in the Matching Payment Program, making it more difficult to avoid shut off notices. The board discussed the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the utility companies to agree on an acceptable below payment plan amount for all pending eligible utility customers ( i.e. \$100 mo)</li> </ul>

- Estimate the total amount of additional fund needed to serve the 7,000-8,000 utility customers
- Request funds from the legislature
- Identify available utility refunds returned to the community action agencies
- Use utility refunds to offset cost to process pending utility applications

The utility companies and the community action agencies will provide information to DSS on the utility refunds returned to the community action agencies. The community action agencies will also report on the status of the utility refunds received.

Shirley Bergert made a motion to request funding from the legislature to allow the program to process pending utility applications with the understanding that any federal or other type of funding received will be used to replace state funding allocated for this purpose. David Thomas seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion- Ben Daigle, CAFA asked that the motion be amended to allow time for the community action agencies to respond to the discussion regarding available utility refunds returned to the agencies. The motion was approved with the amendment on a voice vote with two abstentions –OPM and DSS.

Shirley Bergert offered to prepare correspondence to legislators regarding the lack of 2011 CEAP funding and request state funds to help sustain the program until the end of the fiscal year.

DSS reported on the CEAP/CHAP Obligated Funds as of April 4 2011:

Amount Approved -\$99,809,025

Amount Set Aside-\$ 10,350,000

Estimated Approvals \$3,022,672

Obligated Amount - \$113,118,697

DSS reported on Application Data for CEAP, SAFA, and CHAP through April 4, 2011:

	<p>Applications - 126,537  Eligible Applicants - 105,982  Denied Applicants-18,218</p> <p>Pending Applications -2,337  Crisis Assistance-38,715  Safety Net -15,027</p> <p>DSS reviewed the Caseload/Eligible Caseload Comparison charts thru April 4, 2011. The caseload comparison chart showed a 3.2% change in the caseload from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011. The Eligible Caseload Comparison chart showed a 4.4% change from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011.</p>
<p>Operation Fuel Update</p>	<p>Brenda Watson updated the board on activities of Operation Fuel. The summer program will begin on May 2, 2011 with approximately \$200,000-\$250,000.</p>
<p>Utility Company Reports</p>	<p>SCG: To date, 11,568 customers auto enrolled, 6,849 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 18,417 and 300 customers on the below budget plan.</p> <p>CNG: To date, 10,472 customers auto enrolled in the program, 9,100 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 19,572 with 439 customers on a below budget plan.</p> <p>YG: To date, 13,268 customers auto enrolled in the program, 4,250 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 17,518 with 1,597 customers on a below budget plan.</p> <p>Total Natural Gas: 55,507 enrolled and 2,336 customers on a below budget plan.</p> <p>CL&amp;P: To date, 13,428 customers auto enrolled in the program, 3,664 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 17,091 with 3,279 customers on a below budget plan.</p> <p>UI: To date, 375 customers -auto enrolled in the program, 682 - new enrollments for a total</p>

	<p>enrollment of 1,057.</p> <p>Total Electric: 18,733 enrolled and 3,511 customers on a below budget plan.</p>
<p>2011-2012 CEAP Recommendations</p>	<p>Based on DSS' report that the 2011-2012 federal funds for the CEAP will be reduced to 2007-2008 levels the following concepts have been suggested by the board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate the CHAP</li> <li>• Return benefit levels to 2008 levels</li> <li>• Reduce utility levels to a level below 2007-2008 but sufficient to qualify for MPP</li> <li>• Reduce asset limits to \$3,000 for renters and \$5,000 for homeownership</li> <li>• Eliminate heat included in rent benefits</li> </ul> <p>The board did not accept or approve the proposed recommendations listed above.</p> <p>To further explore options to address reduced funding in 2011-2012, DSS shared relevant program data and preliminary program concepts to the board. As a result no additional recommendations or strategies were discussed or approved at the meeting.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4 at NU/ Berlin, CT</p>