

Revised
Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
1:30 p.m.
Berlin System Headquarters

Members: Ray Wilson, Pamela Giannini, Tom O'Brien, Laura Gonzalez, Joy Hollister, Joanne Balaschak, Shirley Bergert, Deb Polun, Patricia Wrice, Lindsay Parke, Kate Quigley, Kerri Kemp, James McNally, Emy Skene, and Edith Karsky.

Others: Caty Patton-OPM, Robert Slate- Operation Fuel, Cassandra Floyd- CAANH, April Branch- CAANH, Amos Smith- CAANH and Pamela Trotman.

Agenda Item	Action																
Welcome	Chair Ray Wilson convened the meeting at 1:40 p.m.																
Approval of April 2011 Minutes	James McNally moved approval of the April 2011 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Laura Gonzalez. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.																
LIHEAP/CEAP Update	<p>DSS reported on the status of the CEAP. As of May 4, the CEAP is open. DSS authorized agencies to process pending applications through April 14. DSS will authorize agencies to process pending application on a weekly basis. Current funds may allow agencies to process pending applications up to April 21. The total estimated pending cases through May 2 is 5,104 for a projected cost of slightly over \$3.2 million.</p> <p>DSS reported on the CEAP/CHAP Estimated Funds as of May 2, 2011:</p> <p><u>LIHEAP:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Block Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$96,941,803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingency</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,775,356</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carry Forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,330,634</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$114,047,793</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>CEAP/CHAP Estimated Obligated Funds</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Expenditures</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$101,303,857</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Set Asides</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,350,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approvals</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,253,899</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$115,907,756</td> </tr> </table>	Block Grant	\$96,941,803	Contingency	6,775,356	Carry Forward	10,330,634	Total	\$114,047,793	Expenditures	\$101,303,857	Set Asides	10,350,000	Approvals	4,253,899	Total	\$115,907,756
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Discussion with CAANH

Estimated Balance \$ (1,859,963)

DSS reported on Application Data for CEAP, SAFA, and CHAP through May 2, 2011:

- Applications – 133,917
- Eligible Applicants – 111,861
- Denied Applicants-16,778
- Pending Applications -5,278
- Crisis Assistance-38,641
- Safety Net -14,950

DSS reviewed the Caseload and Eligible Caseload Comparison charts thru May 2, 2011. The caseload comparison chart showed a 2.7% change in the caseload from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011. The Eligible Caseload Comparison chart showed a 2.1% change from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011.

DSS must return \$250,000 of CEAP funding to the federal government due to a claw back provision. In addition, the leveraging and reach programs were eliminated resulting in a loss of about \$300,000.

CL&P is working with DSS to develop and implement a more cost effective way to reach customers regarding the winter protection program.

Amos Smith and staff of CAANH attended the meeting to answer questions from board members regarding decreased caseload levels in 2011. Mr. Smith indicated that the agency has and will continue to assess the decline in cases. The agency will forward findings to the Board. The following were identified as possible causes attributed the decline in cases in the New Haven service area:

- Lack of affordable housing.
- High cost of living.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration to the lower Naugatuck Valley due to Section 8 – clients may be served by other community action agencies. • Migration out of the city resulting in a significant shift in the demographic of the area’s low income population. • Elimination of the Meals on Wheels program reducing the number of clients. <p>CAANH also reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51% of all clients served by the agency are unduplicated cases. • Clients are now receiving improved quality services due to administrative and programmatic changes. • Increased collaboration with an array of entities to further improve services. <p>CAANH will continue to explore options and develop strategies to best meet the needs of its clients.</p>
<p>Operation Fuel Update</p>	<p>Patricia Wrice introduced Robert Slate as the new Small Business Advocate for Operation Fuel. To date, Operation Fuel distributed \$1.7 million to the fuel banks. The Summer Program started on Monday. Operation Fuel will continue to develop and implement strategies to raise funds for the program.</p>
<p>Utility Company Reports</p>	<p>SCG: To date, 11,568 customers auto enrolled, 7,567 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 19,135 and 461 customers on the below budget plan.</p> <p>CNG: To date, 10,472 customers auto enrolled in the program, 10,132 new enrollments for a total enrollment of 20,604 with 504 customers on a below budget plan.</p> <p>YG: No updated information provided.</p> <p>CL&P: No update provided.</p>

	<p>UI: To date, 375 customers -auto enrolled in the program, 1,389 - new enrollments for a total enrollment of 1,764.</p>
<p>2011-2012 CEAP Recommendations</p>	<p>The Board discussed, voted and approved the following recommendations for the 2011-2012 CEAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the use of state appropriated funds to supplement the federal CEAP. • Maintain program eligibility levels. • Plan for “level funding”, but create a tier approach to allow the program to be readily modified in a predictable way should available funding be less than current funding levels. • Require SNAP recipient households to comply with the asset test requirement for CEAP eligibility determination. • Change the administrative structure regarding the return of CEAP funds from utility companies where the utility no longer has an account for the program beneficiary to which it can apply the benefits. • Engage in a dialogue with the utility companies and DPUC to provide better coordination of CEAP with the arrearage forgiveness/matching payment program offered to utility customers. <p>Draft recommendations will be forwarded to board members for comments prior to submission to OPM and DSS.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1.</p>