

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 5
1:30 p.m.
Community Renewal Team

Members: Anne Foley-Chair, Laura Gonzalez, Shirley Bergert, Deb Polun, Lindsay Parke, Jim McNally, Eddie Swift, Kristen Formanek, Joanne Balaschak for Jim Gatling, Michael Coyle for Anna Ficeto, Kate Quigley, Taren O'Connor, Dave Thomas for Laura Green, Pam Giannini, and Pat Wrice.

Others: Tom O'Brien (DSS), Joy Hollister (CLASS), Rhonda Evans (CAFCA), Brenda Watson (Operation Fuel), Lyn Vasquez (CL&P/Yankee Gas), Caty Patton (OPM) and Pam Trotman (OPM).

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome	The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m. Board members introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes of the September 7, 2011 Meeting	Jim McNally moved approval of the September 7, 2011 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Laura Gonzales. The motion was approved on a voice vote with one abstention by Taren O'Connor.
Update on the PURA Consumer Service Unit	Michael Coyle gave an update on the status of the Consumer Service Unit. The lay-off notices to 13 employees have been rescinded due to ratification of the union contracts. In the future, PURA anticipates some form of change to the current structure of the Consumer Service Unit to better serve consumers. Board members stressed the importance of maintaining the Consumer Service Unit and the 1-800 number. Members stated that the Unit serves as an important resource for customers and an intermediary between the utility companies and the customers.
FFY 2012 LIHEAP Update	The Chair provided members with an update on the final FFY 2012 CEAP Plan. After the public hearing on the LIHEAP Block Grant a motion was made by the Appropriations,

Human Services and Energy Committees requiring the administration to submit proposed recommendations regarding the preferred allocation of any additional funds. In addition, the committees requested that the administration submit a plan to the committees of cognizance with recommendations for allocation of such funds for their review and consideration. The Chair reported that although Congress has yet to adopt a budget, action to date indicates that Connecticut may receive an additional \$9 million.

Board members voted on the preferred allocation of any additional funds. The results are :

- Six (6) members voted to prioritize allocation to utility heated households
- Four (4) members voted to equally distribute benefits regardless of fuel type
- Three (3) members voted to prioritize allocation to deliverable fuel heated households

The board also discussed various mechanisms for allocation of additional funds including adding a safety net benefit, increasing basic benefits, increasing the basic benefits for vulnerable households only, and providing a payment for secondary heating sources.

Members indicated that the plan for additional funds should contemplate allocation of all potential additional funds that might be received through the end of the fiscal year such as contingency funds. This plan of action would facilitate administration of the program and minimize uncertainty regarding benefits.

	<p>DSS reported on the administration of the CEAP through October 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13,382 applications taken • 8,018 eligible applicants • 3,436 denied • 1,928 applications pending certification <p>DSS reviewed the Caseload/Eligible Caseload Comparison charts thru October 3. The caseload comparison chart showed a -46% change in the caseload from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011. Eligible Caseload Comparison chart showed a -45.9% change from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011. The negative percent change is attributed to the late start of this year's programs versus last year.</p> <p>DSS reported on Approved Application by Fuel Type. Through October 3, a total of 6,825 applications were approved for the following fuel types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil: 4,520 • Propane-166 • Kerosene-133 • Wood-19 • Natural Gas- 1,412 • Electric- 548 • Rental Assistance – 27 <p>Members asked DSS to prepare a report regarding the timeframe for processing payments to oil companies over the past year.</p>
<p>Utility Matching Payment Program Updates</p>	<p><u>United Illuminating</u> As of September UI reported 1,288 total electric customers enrolled in Phase 2 of the MPP with 278 customers in the below budget payment plan.</p>

	<p><u>CL&P- Yankee Gas</u> Report will be forwarded at a later date.</p> <p><u>SCG/CNG</u> Report will be forwarded at later date.</p>
Operation Fuel	Operation Fuel provided an update on the Discounted Utility Rate Program. See below.
Discount Utility Rate Program	<p>Operation Fuel met with Tracy Babbidge and Jessie Stratton of DEEP to discuss Sec 112-PA 11-80, requiring DEEP to conduct a proceeding to develop discounted rates for services provided to low-income residents by the electric and gas companies. Meeting participants made two recommendations: (1) invite DEEP to a LIEAB meeting to discuss the proceeding and (2) DEEP will develop the policy and Docket to be submitted to PURA. Board members agreed to invite DEEP representatives to the December or January meeting to discuss the proceeding.</p>
Next Steps	The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2 at CRT.