

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, August 13, 2012

Room 410

State Capitol

Hartford, CT

Members: Anne Foley (Chair), Shirley Bergert, Laura Gonzalez, Taren O'Connor, Edith Karsky, Lindsay Parke, James McNally, Robert Norton, John Dobos, Frank Augeri, Carlene Taylor

Others: Janet Edwards, Raymond Wilson, Joy Hollister, Caty Patton, Tom O'Brien

Agenda Item/Action

Welcome: The meeting was convened at 1:45p.m.

Approve Minutes of the July 11, 2012 Meeting: Edith Karsky moved approval of the July 11th minutes; Jim McNally seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous, with John Dobos and Taren O'Connor abstaining because they were absent from the July meeting.

Update:

Review of CEAP Plan: Chairperson Foley asked Tom O'Brien to provide an overview of the 2012-2013 CEAP Plan, particularly addressing items upon which the Board had made recommendations.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the proposed '12-13 Plan is based on the highest of the various proposed funding levels. In particular, the plan calls for:

- Income eligibility at 60% SMI
- Inclusion of households with children in the definition of "vulnerable"
- Inclusion of the SNAP benefit provision – it was noted that there may be a repeal of this loophole at the federal level.
- Benefit levels place emphasis on basic rather than crisis benefits

Mr. O'Brien also noted that many of the recommendations made by the Board are implemented via administrative policy rather than being explicitly stated in the Plan.

Edith Karsky moved adoption/approval of the Plan. The motion was seconded by Joy Hollister, and subsequently passed by unanimous vote.

Chairperson Foley indicated that the legislative hearing on the plan had not yet been scheduled. DEEP will notify Board members once the date and time are set.

Election of New Chair/Vice Chair: Election of a new Chair/Vice Chair in compliance with the amended statute was discussed. Some expressed concern regarding the appropriateness of having a utility representative serve as Chair. Also discussed was whether a "designee" could serve as Vice Chair. There was consensus that whoever serves as chair needs to be prepared to set aside personal positions in an effort to take on the greater role of building Board consensus.

Discussion followed regarding: whether a designee could serve as Vice-Chair, and the possibility that a new Board designee, Nora Duncan, might serve as Chair. Edith Karsky subsequently moved nomination of Pat Wrice as Chair and Joy Hollister as Vice Chair, which motion was seconded by Robert Norton. After discussion, and in light of Ms. Wrice's absence, the motion was withdrawn.

It was agreed that election of a new chair and vice chair would be tabled to the next meeting scheduled for September 5th, at which point the meeting was closed.