

## Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Room 410  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT

**Members:** Anne Foley-Chair, Shirley Bergert, Kate Quigley, Kerri Kemp, David Thomas, Lindsay Parke, Carlene Taylor, Frank Augeri, Edith Karsky (for James Gatling), Pat Wrice, James McNally, and Laura Gonzalez

**Others:** Pam Trotman, Michael Coyle, Tom O'Brien, Joy Hollister, Lynne Vasquez, and Raymond Wilson

### Agenda Item/Action

**Welcome:** The meeting was convened at 1:40 p.m.

**Approve Minutes of the June 6, 2012 Meeting:** Lindsay Parke moved approval of the June 6, 2012 Meeting minutes, and Dave Thomas seconded. Motion was approved on a voice vote.

**Review P.A. 12-2 from the June Special Session:** Discussion ensued regarding implementation of Section 167 of P.A. 12-2, in particular whether proxies might be allowed (in addition to designees), and whether a simple majority of voting members would constitute a quorum. Chairperson Foley noted that the Board had not adopted Robert's Rules or other parliamentary procedures, and it was generally agreed that proxies would be permissible (owing to potential schedule conflicts), and that a simple majority of voting members would constitute a quorum, consistent with past practice.

The issue of electronic voting by Board members was put up for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous in favor, with Frank Augeri (PURA) and Pat Wrice (Operation Fuel) abstaining.

Chairperson Foley then led a discussion highlighting the P.A. 12-2 statutory changes to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 16a-41b, following up on her previous e-mail to Board members.

Edith Karsky suggested that the Board postpone Chair/Vice-Chair elections until September, to allow for additional dialogue amongst the membership. Chairperson Foley suggested Mike Coyle serve as temporary chairperson, given the P.A. 12-2 Board administrative function shift to DEEP. Mike Coyle explained that DEEP's assumption of LIEAB administrative functions would be best accomplished by holding future meetings in DEEP's New Britain offices, owing in part to its central location, hearing room availability, and set-up for call-in and audio recording functionality. Several members suggested that nominees be proposed, and those recommendations be circulated amongst the Board members, in advance of the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m., at which time a vote would be conducted.

Edith Karsky questioned the magnitude of the investor-owned utility companies' Board representation, noting that CL&P and Yankee Gas are under common ownership, as are SCG/CNG/UI. Discussion followed regarding due representation and holding company structure, resulting in a suggestion that this topic be queued up for future agenda item. Chairperson Foley and others noted that the Board's membership was set by statute, and thus any changes thereto would require legislative action/approval. It was suggested that a legislative change recommendation – if approved by the Board – might be modeled along the lines of the Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 16-245m Energy Efficiency Board model.

**LIHEAP/Subcommittee recommendations:** The LIHEAP subcommittee recommendations are still in draft format with watermarks. Final recommendations will be forwarded to members. Tom O'Brien reported the subcommittee met with community action agency representatives the week ending July 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the report would be final around July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**LIHEAP/DSS Update:** Tom O'Brien also provided an Energy Assistance payment update, and caseload profile pro formas. Tom suggested that the FFY12 program year was somewhat anomalous, and that FFY11 data might be better for planning purposes. Discussion ensued regarding available balances to kickstart the forthcoming program year, with several members noting Federal program funding was still under debate in Washington. Additional discussion followed regarding the forthcoming FFY13 Plan Report, including its status, contents, and timing of issuance.

**Weatherization Update:** DSS's Carlene Taylor reported that 11,840 units had been weatherized to date as a result of the ARRA-funded component of the DOE Weatherization program. Carlene stated several large multi-units were still in process owing to special custom components that had a long lead time. The ARRA WAP is on track to close out by yearend. DEEP's Mike Coyle reported that the "regular" DOE

WAP remains in conditional approval mode by DOE, pending closeout and reconciliation (between DSS and DOE) of prior program year funds. Based on recent discussions with the DOE program officer, DEEP expects execution of the award letter very soon, at which point the regular WAP will restart. Discussion followed regarding standardization of the utility ratepayer-funded weatherization programs (HES and HES-IE) with WAP, and the municipal utility program. Mike also mentioned there was some discussion underway with DOE regarding the applicability of CT's 60% SMI/LIHEAP eligibility test historically used as program entrée to WAP in light of the DOE-reinforced 200% FPL income test. He will provide an update.

**Operation Fuel Update:** Pat Wrice stated that Operation Fuel anticipates opening up August 1<sup>st</sup>, and will soon be circulating guidelines.

**Next Steps:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 410 at the State Capitol. The meeting concluded with unanimous recognition of Pam Trotman's longstanding dedication and administrative support of the Board.

## AGENDA

### Low Income Energy Advisory Board

Monday August 13, 2012  
1:30 p.m.

State Capitol  
Room 410

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval Minutes from July 11, 2012 regular meeting
- III. Updates
- IV. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- V. Next steps