

**Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 2013**  
**HRA/Human Resources Agency**  
**180 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Member/Designees/Others:** Pat Wrice (Chairperson), Joy Hollister (vice-Chairperson), Chuck Anderson (DSS), Carlene Taylor (DSS), Edith Karsky (CAFCA), Nora Duncan (AARP), Kelly Jacobson (CAFCA), Rhonda Evans (CAFCA), Taren O'Connor (OCC), Kate Quigley (211), Frank Augeri (PURA), Alyson Ayotte (PURA), Brenda Watson (Operation Fuel), Melissa Mendoza (Operation Fuel), Eddie Swift (CL&P/Yankee), Kelly Sinko (OPM), Gail Lucchina (DEEP)

Joy Hollister convened the meeting at 1:35.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Edith moved acceptance and Nora seconded.

**LIHEAP** – Chuck advised that HHS is issuing a grant award of 90% of the fund. He stated that \$67.6 million will be received in a matter of days. A handout was provided detailing where agencies are in terms of applications. Thus far, 43,000 applications were taken statewide and 30,000 have been certified. It appears that the agencies are running ahead of the previous two years. Chuck distributed a second report that provides cumulative commitments by agency. Each week the report is run and it was explained that “D” denotes deliverable and “U” denotes utility. Applications were being taken for both. CAP agencies can enter for deliveries on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. There are 310 vendors. The third report handed out is a statutorily required report. It gives a breakdown and flow of the program this year and last year. There should not be a problem with money flow. Payments for deliverables start one to two weeks after delivery which would be around December 1, 2013. Chuck stated he was not sure if there would be another sequestration. Chuck also reported that there will be a meeting next week about the change to the DSS electronic application.

**Operation Fuel** -The report of the summer program was that 1,700 households received \$570,000 in grants. There were some emergency benefits being given out in extreme situations. Pat also reported that there was a coalition meeting for the Low Income Discount Rate comments. Pat would like to pass out the original LIEAB principles and wants to make a motion to accept the principles. The Energy and Technology committee has changed so they may make policy changes. Nora stated that they are reissuing principles 1-1 from 2008. Joy stated that there are some problems with some designees voicing opinions. This is a touchy subject. There was discussion of whether or not some should leave the room during such subject matter debates. Brenda stated that perhaps individual agencies could file comments. Nora commented that she thought the separate meeting that was called was to have Operation Fuel get comments from the eligible entities. It was determined that

Operation Fuel with the assistance of CT Legal Services, would file comments. Joy advised that the comment period is open for everyone to comment per Frank Augeri and LIEAB will be on the Participant List.

**Utilities** – Phase II matches: Yankee Gas enrolled 3,850 and CL&P had 6,255 for a total of 10,105 in the program. Matching payment program letters have started to go out informing people that the customers will be enrolled. There will be 23,000 letters mailed.

**DSS** - Carlene Taylor reported that there was a serious upper management problem at one of the agencies that serves eight towns along the Gold Coast. The Acting COO has been placed on unpaid leave of absence. There was to be an emergency meeting of the Board the next day. DSS has been supportive and the Energy Director has remained the same person.

**Other Matters** – Joy wants to make sure the website is current and up to date so Deb Morrell has correct contact information. Nora advised that the contact for the Commission on Aging needs clarification.

Edith raised the issue of the necessity for a December meeting and all agreed it was not necessary. The date for the next meeting set for January 8, 2013.

Edith made a Motion to Adjourn and Eddie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.