

**Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 7, 2013**  
**HRA/H**  
**Human Resources Agency**  
**180 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT**

**Members/Designees:** Caty McDermott, Wendy Wanchak, Frank Augeri, James McNally, Kate Quigley, Veronica Gomez, Taren O'Connor, Edith Karsky, Joanne Balaschak, Nora Duncan, Gail Lucchina

**Others:** Chuck Anderson, Josie Caruso, Lavern Allyn

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

**Approve Minutes of the June 5, 2013 meeting:** Nora Duncan moved approval of the June 5, 2013 minutes; Edith Karsky seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Update:**

**FFY 2013 – CEAP/CHAP, DSS Allocation Plan review, July 8, 2013 Financial Report:**

Chuck Anderson provided handouts of the documents and advised that Connecticut is over the 10% allowable carryover of funds. The overage totals approximately \$821,000. These funds will not be returned to the federal government. Instead, a \$15 supplemental benefit to utility heated households will be provided. In other years, if the overage was less than \$300,000 the money was typically given to homeless shelters. Ms. Wanchak initiated discussion regarding future overages of funds and suggested the board discuss alternatives for future overages.

**Introduction of Josie Caruso and Lavern Allyn:** Chuck introduced Ms. Caruso and Ms. Allyn and stated that they will be assisting him with the DSS duties related to CEAP.

**Review of CEAP Plan:** Chuck Anderson provided an over of the 2013-2014 CEAP Plan. Recommendations based on the June 5, 2013 were incorporated.

The plan maintains the eligibility and asset limits.

The plan uses a standard benefits structure.

Children under six years of age continue to be treated as vulnerable.

Crisis and safety nets increased \$10 each.

Risk assessment disposable income goes from \$800 to \$1000. Approx. 100-200 additional households will be eligible due to this increase.

There is no more need to have zero income households verify they are not receiving unemployment compensation.

Vendors are prohibited from requiring a credit check as a condition of fuel delivery.

\*The Plan was submitted to OPM on July 31, 2013. A handout comparing the 2013 and 2014 plans was distributed to the group.

The Block Grant Hearing will be mid-September.

**LIEAB BOARD ACCEPTED PLAN:** The Board made a motion to accept the draft 2014 CEAP Plan. The Board noted that its recommendations from the June meeting were incorporated in the Plan. The Draft was accepted unanimously. Chuck was complimented on the Plan.

**Utility Matching Payment Program Updates:** Eddie Swift will be emailing his report.

**Operation Fuel:** Pat Wrice called and was unable to attend the meeting. No Operation Fuel update was available.

**Low-Income Discount Rate Review:** LIDR report has been issued. The PURA Docket No. is 12-07-01.

**Miscellaneous:** The comments filed by UI in their draft rate case decision were discussed briefly.

The status of the various electric supplier dockets was discussed. Ms. Duncan mentioned that these cases are interesting relating to predatory practices. Mr. Augeri confirmed that all of the cases are based upon customer complaints.

Ms. Duncan informed the group that AARP has put together helpful information regarding The Affordable Care Act. The information is available at [Healthlawresources.org](http://Healthlawresources.org). People were advised to contact Nora if they would like information about presentations.

**Election of Board Chairperson:** It was decided that the election of a new chairperson will be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 2:45. The next LIEAB meeting will be held September 4, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. The Block Grant hearing date will be made known at that meeting.