

MINUTES

Low Income Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
HRA/Human Resources Agency
75 Charter Oak Ave
Hartford, CT

Members/Designees/Others In Attendance: Nora Duncan, AARP, Frank Augeri, PURA, Gail Lucchina, PURA, Kate Quigley, 2-1-1, Taren O'Connor, OCC, Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel, Tasheenah Brown, Operation Fuel, Kelly Sinko, OPM, Kathy Wasilnak, UI, Michelle Lawson, CNG, Carlene Taylor, DSS, Linette Jones, DSS, Edith Karsky, CAFCA, Alyson Ayotte, PURA, Wendy Wanchak, Ct Legal Services, Eddie Swift, Eversource, Diane Duva, DEEP, Linda Foreman, DEEP, Ruth Swift, NPU, Joy Hollister, Class/Town of Ellington, Guy West, Clean Water Fund, Nora Benson, Eversource, Chuck Burnham, Eversource.

Welcome: The meeting was convened at 1:39 p.m. Nora Duncan chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the August 1st meeting: There were a few changes to the minutes discussed. Nora moved to approve the minutes with the noted changes and Edith seconded. The August 1st minutes were approved with the noted changes.

LIHEAP: Carlene stated that she wanted to thank the CAAs and noted that they are making an all effort. She advised that the benefits are robust this year so more people may be encouraged to apply. Carlene added that they will be receiving \$50 million more than the previous year.

Carlene advised that Connecticut has a new process for how "purchase of services" contracts are done. They are now going through CORE. They will also be doing three year contracts.

Carlene informed the group that they met with Eversource to discuss opportunities for outreach. A handout was distributed to the group. They are still finalizing the handout that will be used and she will send that out when it's completed. They are working on a video with Eversource. DSS

is also working with DMV to put information on their television screens as well as Department of Labor Job Centers.

Carlene stated that they will spend over \$900,000 on heating system repair/replacements with the new allocation. It was reported that there were 324 applications and 286 qualified and a total of 4738,248 was spent. There were 38 denials due to either foreclosure, fraud, over-income and one applicant rescinded. There were 739 clean, tune and tests done.

Carlene advised that they have made the last round of supplemental payments for UI and Wallingford Public Utilities. She noted that all agencies should have made their supplemental payments which totaled more than \$14 million. The supplemental payment was \$265 and there were approximately 58,000 recipients. Carlene added that if the Company cannot identify an account, the money must be returned as soon as possible. She stated that the money has to be spent within two years.

Carlene showed the group a rough draft they worked on with DEEP to let clients know how to get weatherization assistance. It will be included with the energy assistance eligibility letters.

Carlene advised that the oil vendor and CAA meetings would be held soon to talk about changes to the program.

Carlene stated that performance measures are due to the feds in January. DSS has to provide data on household consumption. They did a pilot with Norwich Public Utilities and TBCAA. Thus has now been expanded to include the five highest utility vendors, the 10 highest oil deliverable fuel and 10 highest propane vendors. Twelve vendors were invited and eight attended.

Operation Fuel:

Tasheenah handed out the Water Assistance Program information. The program ended in September and nearly \$44,000 was allocated. There were 111 households served and MDC has stated that they plan to do an Add a Dollar option on customer bills.

It was reported that there were 16 households served and \$15,000 spent on home systems/repairs. The majority of the money was spent on water heaters.

Brenda stated that the summer program would be ending at the end of October. There were 1,900 households served and it was a \$500,000 program. They also reported on the Homeless Intervention Program and advised that \$6,500 was spent and 9 households were helped.

Brenda introduced Tasheenah Brown to the group and stated that she is the Director of Energy Programs at Operation Fuel.

MPP: Both Eversource and UI provided their MPP data to the group and stated that they would email the information as well.

Eddie advised that Michelle is doing an outreach roadmap which is being created to define how the match works. He stated that it outlines the process and they are trying to make it as easy as possible. Carlene, Joy and Edith all remarked that the amounts that are being required for the MPP do not need to be as high an amount in many cases. Eddie agreed with their concerns. Joy also asked if the bill would be clearer about the amount due and that at times clients are not aware of the MPP amount that is due as their payment. Eddie says he will take that concern back. UI stated that their bills make it clear what amount is due.

Legislative: Frank advised that Docket No. 18-04-25 is the Arrearage Docket. He advised that anyone can comment. He added that there is a Technical Meeting and they have issued a Notice of Comments. This docket looks into uncollectible balances and terminations. Wendy stated that she wished there was an easier way to participate. Frank advised Wendy to call him and he will explain the process. Nora stated that it might be a good idea for Frank to do a Docket 101 for the group.

Continuation Regarding Report: Nora stated that the draft from Wendy had been distributed to the group. She noted that there was some dissent in the room. Both UI and Eversource had statements that they wanted included and they said they would forward them. Nora voiced her disappointment that the utilities waited until today to express these opinions. She added that full agreement was not the goal but different groups on this board can support the document as a collective voice.

Wendy added that the goal was to provide strategies to look at. She advised that LIEAB cannot initiate or implement but it can put strategies out there to consider. Taren, Frank and Diane all expressed that they must remain neutral. Diane added that having LIEAB weigh in on energy affordability gives DEEP something to point to and is very important to have this collective document even if there is not universal agreement on every item.

Nora offered to put a statement like footnote 23 up front in the document and she called for a vote. She offered to rewrite something to reflect what is in footnote 23. Wendy made the motion to highlight footnote 23 earlier in the document but vote today. Edith seconded. Eight members voted yes and five abstained. The Motion passed. Nora said that the information in the footnote would now be a preamble to the document.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:09. Frank made the Motion to Adjourn and Edith seconded.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for December 5th.