

MINUTES

Low Income Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, December 5, 2018
HRA/Human Resources Agency
75 Charter Oak Ave
Hartford, CT

Members/Designees/Others In Attendance: Frank Augeri, PURA, Kim White, PURA, Alyson Ayotte, PURA, Gail Lucchina, PURA, Kate Quigley, 2-1-1, Taren O'Connor, OCC, Kelly Sinko, OPM, Kathy Wasilnak, UI, Carlene Taylor, DSS, Linette Pisani, DSS, Alyson Ayotte, PURA, Diane Duva, DEEP, Ruth Swift, NPU, Chris Herb, CEMA, Guy West, Clean Water Fund, Nora Benson, Eversource, Kelley Hall, CAFCA Linda Foreman, DEEP.

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

Approval of minutes of the October 3rd meeting: There were a few changes to the minutes discussed. Kate moved to approve the minutes with the noted changes and Frank seconded. The October 3rd minutes were approved with the noted changes.

LIHEAP: Carlene distributed the latest caseload information. She noted that it is a great start to the program with a 6.7% increase in applications.

Carlene advised that \$500,000 had been set aside for early intake but that has been put back to \$400,000 which is what it had been for the last few years.

Carlene stated 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. She stated that it has been a learning process. Carlene thanked Josie Caruso for her efforts in getting these contracts done. Chris inquired about the delay in getting this done. Carlene responded that it was caused by the Core System. Carlene added that at every vendor meeting she explained that there were going to be new contracts in place but if they were not, then it would be up to the vendor to decide whether to make the deliveries. Chris stated that he was going to

introduce legislation on this topic. He stated that there were not executed contracts and this exposed some dealers to be shut off from their suppliers because they owed too much money. He stated that ABCD and CRT should never have been able to send out authorizations without contracts. Carlene advised that DSS was not aware of the situation until last week. She stated that this is only a problem when there are new contracts. This is why they moved from one year contracts to three years. Kate asked if there were any impacts on clients. Chris responded that all deliveries were made. Chris stated that the issue of vendors getting paid has been a problem for a decade. He restated that their credit lines are imperative so if the initial payment is not received then wholesalers may not extend terms and make it impossible for vendors to continue making deliveries. Chris also restated that no deliveries should be made or authorized until the funds are available. He stated that this needs to change and he would like to see LIEAB take a position on this. Carlene advised that they make every effort to pay within two weeks and every two weeks they send out hundreds of thousands of dollars so deliveries can be made.

Carlene stated that DSS is working with 211, the Department of Labor and DMV on outreach. Kate advised that 211 will roll out a texting pilot. They worked with Eversource and she stated that she would send out a link. They tested it this week and it will be ready by Friday.

Operation Fuel: There was no update. No one was present but the winter program started on February 3rd.

MPP: Kathy (UI) handed out information comparing this year versus last year. She advised that electric enrollments are down by 500 and between the two gas companies, they are down a little over 2,000 from last year.

Nora Benson advised the group that Eversource would forward its information to the members very soon.

Legislative/Misc: Frank and Taren spoke about the recent Water Affordability Roundtable that Sen. Lesser and Representative Steinberg attended at the Capitol. Brenda spoke about the importance of water affordability at the event and advised that she would be attending all future Water Planning Council Meetings (WPC). WPC Councilmembers, Jack Betkoski of PURA and Lori Mathieu of DPH were both in attendance. It was stated that MDC plans to expand the Operation Fuel program. It is

ultimately cost effective and 111 families were helped with the grant money.

Frank spoke about Docket No. 18-08-29 which has been opened to look at sewer charges and the ability to lien properties, per PA 18-174. Frank advised that the Yankee Gas Settlement Decision went final and the CNG decision would be issue in approximately one week. Frank also informed the group that SJW's proposal to acquire Connecticut Water Company was denied by PURA. Frank stated that Dkt. No. 18-0-25 regarding uncollectibles was still open and comments were still being accepted. Frank added that there may be a Technical Meeting scheduled.

Frank and Taren stated that the planned Docket 101 presentation could go forward at the February meeting and that it should be added to the schedule.

Continuation Regarding Report: Taren has talked with Nora. LIEAB can certainly pass the report on to Governor Lamont. Taren asked for thoughts. Frank stated that PURA must remain neutral and Taren acknowledged that the same was true for OCC. Taren stated that the matter can be reassessed in February to decide what to do. Kate agreed and stated that at that point we will also be able to get input from Edith, Joy and Wendy since all were very involved. Diane asked about sharing the report. Diane noted that it was approved and nothing precludes Brenda or Edith from sharing it. Taren agreed. Taren stated she would also follow up with Nora to see if an E-vote should be done.

Diane stated that DEEP will want to confirm that it will do its Weatherization Assistance Plan presentation at either the February or April meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:48. Kate made the Motion to Adjourn and Ruth seconded.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for February 6th.

