

MINUTES
Low Income Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 6, 2018
HRA/Human Resources Agency
75 Charter Oak Ave
Hartford, CT

Members/Designees/Others In Attendance: Alyson Ayotte, PURA, Frank Augeri, PURA, Kate Quigley, 2-1-1, Diane Duva, DEEP, Linda Foreman, DEEP, Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel, Ruth Swift, NPU, Kelly Sinko, OPM, Kathy Wasilnak, UI, Carlene Taylor, DSS, Kelly Hall, CAFCA, Linette Jones, DSS, Eddie Swift, Eversource, Michelle Lawson, CNG, Kara Purciello, OPM Wendy Wanchak, CT Legal Services, Nadia De La Puente, Operation Fuel.

Welcome: The meeting was convened at 1:34 p.m. Kate Quigley chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the April 4th, 2018 meeting: Several changes to the minutes were discussed. Corrections were made on page 2, Frank A. stated the docket number should be 18-04-25, not 18-01-15 for uncollectible. Moved to approve the minutes with the noted changes and Frank seconded. The chair abstained. The April 2018 minutes were approved with the noted changes.

Operation Fuel: Brenda stated that the final numbers was \$3.4 million for the program that ended 5/31/18 however, MDC water territory remains open for applications. Accordingly, there were 5683 applications with the following outstanding applications; 34-heating, 31-health & safety, 43-water applications. Carlene stated that she had a water call and will forward to Operation Fuel.

LIHEAP: Carlene distributed the caseload comparison and CEAP sheets and discussed in detail. Carlene noted the decrease in the households is 4.3% from the previous year. Carlene suggested further outreach as a component of the program to reach more customers. Wendy suggested a subcommittee on outreach, i.e. attracting SNAP households because there are many others receiving SNAP benefits that are not on energy

assistance. Michelle suggested that DSS could fund fairs, etc. New York does this and is very effective. However, there is administration fees associated with this. Eddie said Eversource does outreach and suggested a customer survey would be helpful. Carlene stated that the outreach should not just be DSS but other state agencies, i.e. DMV with the DMV screen program info on it. Much discussion-about customer outreach. Linette stated for the heating system program that there was 147 application requests and 107 approved. The breakdown was as follow: 84 systems installed; 32 denied; 2 foreclosures; 1 fraud case; 22 additional information is needed and 1 incomplete. \$1 million set aside for the heating system program.

Subcommittee Update: Wendy circulated the draft policy and talked about what other states are doing and proposed setting a goal of closing the energy affordability gap to ensure energy costs are no more than 6% of household budgets. The draft policy was reviewed in detail and discussed. Many initiatives were discussed and a proposed cost analysis may be done. Review and comments to Wendy by June 22, 2018 and Wendy stated she will look at other states and to add what is applicable to what we are doing. Wendy stated that she will incorporate the edits that were discussed and distribute the draft again for another look over. Kate thanked Wendy and Diane for their input.

Utility Conservation: In response to a question, Diane stated that there is a lawsuit filed by advocates and contractors regarding the legislature's diversion of funding for the C&LM programs. The funding cuts are as follows: for SFY-2018 \$63.5 million; and \$53.5 million for SFY-2019. In 2019 4-5k low-income homes will not be served because of these budget cuts. Discussion among the group about the concern for jobs. The C&LM Plan workforce education budget (such as community college program) will be cut 50%.. Wendy noted that the energy efficiency industry in CT employs an estimated 34,000 people, and some portion will likely be affected by cuts and that is one reason for the contractors' lawsuit. There is a concern that contractors working in the utilities' low-income weatherization program would be incented to leave the state, and she stated that New York and Massachusetts have higher level of investments in its conservation programs.

Utility Matching Payment: Kathy provided a handout with the figures to show the stats. She advised that as of 5/31/18 the enrollment was as follows:

Electric 3,446

CNG 13,619

SCG 13,956

Kathy stated that CT stats are 60% success rate for customers who have filed for assistance.

Eddie provided a handout with information for Eversource as follows:

Electric-16,558

1, 000 participation in the budget program; 6,000 matched on MPP; 3,000 no balance matched on MPP and 7,000 not matched which equate to \$4.2million expended.

Eddie stated that customer has to apply for energy assistance to get MPP and stated that Eversource has a working group to produce a letter to the failed applicants. Carlene expressed concern that the programs are not succeeding and DSS are getting calls from customers needing help with keeping the power on, a second letter should be sent. Eddie stated that a calling campaign should be in place. Brenda stated that there is a new database for text applicants. Eddie stated that texts/email program in process to explore options for responses in about a year should be in place.

Legislative and Docketed Matters: Frank stated that there is an docketed uncollectible working group and advised those that wish to be interested person(s) or participants need to send in a request to PURA and will be put in notification system. The first meeting is June 11, 2018 @ 11:00am at the Department's offices. Docket number is 18-04-25.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. Kate made the motion to adjourn and Frank and Wendy seconded.