

MINUTES

Low Income Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, August 1, 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, Kelly Sinko, OPM, Kathy Wasilnak, UI, Carlene Taylor, DSS, Edith Karsky, CAFCA, Kasia Purciello, OPM, Chris Herb, CEMA, Nancy Joaquim, PURA, Wendy Wanchak, Ct Legal Services, Joanne Balaschak, New Opportunities, Karen Palmieri, Eversource, Eddie Swift, Eversource, Diane Duva, DEEP, Linda Foreman, DEEP.

Welcome: The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m. Nora Duncan chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the June 6th meeting: Several changes to the minutes were discussed. Wendy moved to approve the minutes with the noted changes and Kathy seconded. The June 2018 minutes were approved with the noted changes.

LIHEAP: Carlene advised that there were 93,380 applications and a little over 80,000 were approved. That is a 4.3% decrease in applications from the previous year.

A primary utility supplemental payment will be done and they have let the agencies know this information. Money will also be given to homeless shelters to cover heating bills as well as domestic violence shelters.

Carlene advised that there was a late start in LIHEAP weatherization. She stated that over a two year period funds must be sent back and that amount is expected to be approximately \$500,000. If expenditures are higher, the amount returned will be less. She informed the group that the final report will be done at the end of January. She also advised that a Feasibility Study has been done and a Business Processes Study needs to be done.

It was reported that this would be the last day for the heating system repair/replacement program. It was stated that approximately \$800,000 was spent on the program this year.

Frank inquired about a Phase II match of the supplemental payment and Kathy and Eddie both said the payment would be matched.

Carlene distributed the poverty guidelines for next year and the LIHEAP fact sheets. Carlene informed the group that LIEAB's recommendations are always taken into consideration. She also handed out the benefits matrix. Carlene stated that all the benefits were increased across the board. She stated that an Energy Directors meeting would be held in September to go over all the information. Carlene advised that the Public Hearing would be held on August 17th. Nora asked if there were any concerns or discussion about the plan. She asked for a vote to support the plan and provide testimony. Edith moved and Wendy seconded. Nora stated that she would write the testimony. Diane asked if it is worthwhile to attend in person and Carlene and Kelly agreed that it is worthwhile. Wendy said she would go if possible or possibly Nora. Diane stated that support is an important part of the plan and advised that DEEP will be there. Edith stated that she will be testifying on behalf of CAFCA.

Operation Fuel: Brenda reported that 800 households were provided grants. It is a \$2.6 million program in fiscal year 2019 with a limited summer program. She added that 73 households were given water grants and there is \$14,000 left. The closing date for the water grant program is April 2019 but they are hoping that MDC continues it.

They received two applications for the repair/replacement program. They were for water heaters. She stated that CRT is doing a good job of leveraging these funds.

MPP: Eddie stated that he did not have data for Eversource. He advised that the portal is open for agencies to use. Kathy advised that UIL did not have numbers to report either. Nora asked both companies to email the information when it became available.

Miscellaneous: Kelly stated that the August 17th hearing date was tentative and she would inform the group once the date was finalized.

Eddie introduced Karen Palmieri who will be taking over for Veronica.

Edith informed the Board that she has a report that was done a few years back concerning weatherization and health and she'd like to share it with the group. She advised that it demonstrates what can be done with a little bit of extra money when doing weatherization in a person's home. Joanne added that it was a very good analysis and showed how injuries were prevented. Occupational therapists went in and did anything that would prevent injury. Joanne said it had been a \$250,000 grant and the study was done over a one year time period. Nora asked if there had been a training program and Joanne replied that there was training and a series of certificates. Joanne also stated that there is a program called Hospital to Home and they would like to do this statewide. Edith added that they are training 100 CAA staff to be community health workers and Carlene stated that the first session has already begun.

Legislative: Frank advised that both CNG and Yankee were in with rate applications. He informed the group that the uncollectibles docket held a technical meeting in June and there was good information provided. He advised the group that the MPP for next year is Docket No. 18-07-01 and is currently being reviewed.

Continuation Regarding Report: Nora stated that the draft from Wendy had been distributed to the group. Wendy stated that it was round tabled and she took notes and incorporated the points discussed. She added that two or three people sent written comments. Wendy advised that there was time to decide what needs to be changed or deleted and to decide what the Board wants to do with it. It was noted that on Page 6 Wendy added another recommendation regarding arrearages. Wendy said that we can modify down the road but is it good to have something conceptually organized. Nora stated that not every member needs to be 100% on board with every concept. She said that AARP may not agree with every concept individually but that should not stop progress. Nora stated that it may be given to a new governor. Edith asked if a vote could be taken at the October meeting and offered that there should be a discussion of strategies for the upcoming legislative session. Nora said that the group has

postponed before so it should go forward in October. Wendy stated that we are almost there and most members are generally supportive. Wendy advised that there was agreement to remove references to water. Carlene also stated that at this point it might be better to leave it out because it competes with energy in general especially at the federal level. Carlene stated that it would mean that LIHEAP dollars would have to be distinctly directed to water and it would take money away from LIHEAP. Brenda suggested that perhaps we put in a recommendation that there needs to be consideration of the matter at the state or federal level and that water affordability is an issue. Nora advised that the report state that it is an issue of growing importance but not our purview.

Wendy advised that she would put together a draft and comments should be submitted by August 22nd. It was noted that would be a vote at the October 3rd meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05. Edith made the Motion to Adjourn and Frank seconded.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for October 3rd.