

MINUTES

Low Income Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
HRA/Human Resources Agency
75 Charter Oak Ave
Hartford, CT

Members/Designees/Others In Attendance: Michael Li, DEEP, Gail Lucchina, PURA, Nora Duncan, AARP, Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel, Carlene Taylor, DSS, Linda Foremen, DEEP, Nora Benson, Eversource, Margarita Campbell, Eversource, Alexis Warner, Eversource, Theresa Washington, Eversource, Wendy Wanchak, CT Legal Services, Deb Polun, CAFCA, Kate Quigley, 211, Frank Augeri, PURA, Joanne Balaschak, NOI, Linette Pisani, DSS, Kathy Wasilnak, UI, Matthew Pellowski, OPM, Kiana McDavid, Operation Fuel.

Welcome: The meeting was convened at 1:33 p.m. Nora chaired the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the August 7th meeting: Wendy moved to approve the minutes and Kate seconded. Nora and Kathy abstained. Minutes approved with the corrections specified by DSS and Operation Fuel.

LIHEAP: Linette forwarded the latest caseload information. She advised that there were 22,578 applications and there were over 15,000 accepted and 1,821 pending.

Carlene stated that the plan was approved with no problem. She noted the Continuing Resolution was signed by the president on November 21st as submitted. The grant award should be fairly soon. Carlene stated that it would probably be the third week of October.

Carlene informed the group that the Performance Management report has to be provided annually. It is data from the ten largest oil and propane companies as well as the five largest natural gas companies and five largest electric companies. They have started early with vendors and have collected data already. Carlene stated they have also begun with the utility companies but they have not collected data yet. Carlene noted that it

is not an easy task for the companies and she thanked them. Carlene distributed a snapshot from the previous year. They are supposed to use the data to develop the benefit matrix. Wendy asked what determines an “average user”. Carlene responded that she will have a presentation to the Board to explain the process. She added that HHS has a website to look at other states data as well. It is also on the DHS energy website.

Operation Fuel: Brenda stated that the summer/fall program averaged 130 applications per week. She advised that the online application is on schedule for December. She noted that the program runs through October 31st and will reopen December 2nd. Linda asked if the fuel banks keep waiting lists during the period the program is closed down. Brenda stated that they do and added that they encourage the fuel banks to also share information about suppliers and energy efficiency as well.

Brenda told the group about the upcoming Ice House Annual fundraiser. It will be open January 25th and 26th and Eversource and AARP will most likely be sponsors. Brenda advised that she'll provided further details when available.

MPP: Nora and Margarita provided handouts for Eversource. Carlene stated that she would like to see the number of customers enrolled in in NuStart and MPP as well as the number of customers that are successful. Brenda stated that she'd like to see the data going back a few years. Nora advised that the Company would bring the data for the December meeting. She also advised that the NuStart data would cover the period from January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. Wendy stated that it would be helpful to get the information prior to the meeting so members have the chance to review it.

Kathy stated that UI is in the middle of Phase II. She also noted that Suanette and Michele have taken different positions within the company which has meant that Kathy will need some additional time. She stated that she'll have the information for the next meeting.

Legislative Matters and Misc: It was announced that December will be Nora's last meeting as chairperson. She advised that she will be asking for new contact/membership information.

Margarita stated that in cooperation with Operation Fuel they have created training sessions for CAP employees. They have already held two sessions and had 45-50 participants. There are two more sessions scheduled in October with one to be held in Pawcatuck on the 18th and another in New Milford on the 22nd. Frank asked if local social service agencies and municipalities are informed. Brenda stated that they are notified. Margarita added that this will be made into an e-learning lesson as well and there will be a certification process. This will allow everyone to take the training. She advised the group that she will let everyone know when this is available.

Frank advised that the MPP plan was approved last week. He stated that \$50 Below Budgets are going to \$75. The Companies are being asked to keep data about this change and the matter will be revisited next year. Linda added that the increase will be very difficult for people. Wendy stated that she wished that the Board had jumped on this issue earlier. She stated that she would definitely look at this next year during the PURA proceeding. Frank stated that anyone can request Participant status in a docket. Brenda added that a subcommittee could also be formed at that time to rewrite language and propose it to the Governor. Nora says there does not have to be a consensus but rather just a majority.

Nora stated that time will be carved out in the December meeting to discuss how to improve MPP. Wendy stated that there will be multiple issues involved in that. Nora stated that if we are going to be discussing marketing that perhaps the utilities should bring other employees. Margarita stated that they should be made aware of the topic beforehand so that they bring the appropriate employees.

Frank stated that last month a Shared Solar Technical Meeting was held. He said that 50-60 interrogatories have been issued and there will be two additional Technical Meetings. PURA can approve it as is or modify it.

Nora raised the subject of selecting a new chair. Taren is willing to assume the role of chair and Brenda stated that she is willing to become the vice-chair. There will be a vote at the December meeting. Nora said others may step up as well if they wish to be considered.

Deb advised that there are new SNAP rules being proposed by the Trump administration. She is not sure how it will affect CT. Carlene said that is why CT went from \$1.00 to \$20.01.

Margarita informed the group that the Energy Assistance Roadmap is a handout for MPP customers. It was walked through at the training sessions and it was well received.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. Deb made the Motion to Adjourn and Frank seconded.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for December 4th.