

**Low Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 1:30 - 3:00 pm**

Minutes -Approved

Members in attendance: Deb Polun (Chair), Jaime Soto, Theresa Washington, Joanne Whistnant, Kathleen Wasilnak, Kenya Van Eyken (representing Op Fuel), Ruth Swift, Nickey Kollie, Vicki Hackett, Cassandra Norfleet-Johnson, Nicole Lawton

Starley Arias, LIEAB Administrator

With a quorum present, Chair Deb Polun called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
1. Roll call/Approve minutes	S. Arias took the roll call. Minutes from 10/12/2022 were presented for action.	Motion (Swift/Wasilnak) to approve the minutes of the 10/12/2022 meeting passed unanimously.
2. Public comments	No members of the public presented comments.	
3. Legislative Update: Special session changes and updates	C. Norfleet-Johnson suggested that members read the governor’s press releases to see what changes were made in the recent Special Session. V. Hackett reported that a \$10 million contribution by Eversource & and a \$3 million contribution by UI were negotiated over Thanksgiving weekend. DEEP & DSS are coordinating this, along with Operation Fuel and Office of Consumer Counsel.	More information on Special Session here . More information on the utility fines here .
4. Other Updates a. Congressional action b. DSS changes/CEMA/CAAs	a. Congress added \$1 billion to LIHEAP this past Fall, which will bring an additional \$19.5 million to Connecticut. b. C. Norfleet-Johnson reported that the online application is streamlining applications for some people. Those who are enrolled in SNAP, TFA, and/or other programs are automatically eligible for CEAP. More CAAs have started offering EFT payment to vendors; all will offer that by January.	

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<p>5. Office of Consumer Counsel: Third Party Rates Options & Risks</p>	<p>JR Viglione from OCC provided a presentation on the options to switch to third-party suppliers, a consideration given that rates will close to double on the supply side of the electric bills.</p> <p>Mr. Viglione has been tracking the supplier market since 2015. Since then, customers have paid \$300 million more than if they had stayed with the standard supplier. However, in 2021-2022, those who switched to third party suppliers saved money, and he expects that trend to continue.</p> <p>There are 30 suppliers serving CT customers. EnergizeCT has a rate board. Most of the contracts are long-term (1-3 years); however, there is no penalty for leaving early. Suppliers auto-re-enroll customers, unless they opt out. Customers are advised to stay on top of rates and switch as desired.</p> <p>Hardship customers <u>can</u> switch to a third-party supplier, but they need to provide written consent and they give up MPP and arrearage forgiveness.</p>	
<p>6. Program Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. LIHEAP b. Operation Fuel c. Eversource d. Avangrid 	<p>a. C. Norfleet-Johnson reported on the latest LIHEAP numbers. As of 12/3/2022: 58,910 customers have applied, and 40,833 have been approved, increases of 19.5% and 11% respectively over the prior year. Some data need to be cleaned up, including applications denied/incomplete versus those pending.</p> <p>b. K. Van Eyken provided an update from Operation Fuel. The Summer/Fall program took in 4,500 applications; the number is normally around 1,900. Winter/Spring program will open on 12/19, and awards will increase from \$500 to \$1,000.</p> <p>c. J. Whistnant provided an update from Eversource.</p> <p>d. J. Soto provided an update from Avangrid.</p>	

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7. Docketed and/or Legislative Matters a. PURA b. Discussion of potential state legislation	a. K. White (PURA) reported that the following dockets are to review standard rates: 23-01-01 and 23-01-02. b. No discussion occurred.	
8. New Business	None	
9. Public Comments	None	
10. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.	Motion <i>(Soto/Whistnant)</i> to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 @ 1:30 pm.