

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, from 1:32PM -2:51PM
Recorded via Zoom and Broadcasted via CT-N
[Zoom Recording link](#)

Attendance: Claire Coleman and designee Kimberly White and Brooke Parker, Lydia Santiago, Jaime Soto, Theresa Washington, Joanne Whistnant, Frank Augeri, Perkin Simpson, Gannon Long and designee Mike Tiraj, Nicole Lawton, Jannine Tarentello, Matthew Dillon, Shayleen Alfieri, Christian Herb and Nickey Kollie, Michelle Royce Williams, April Salazar, Rhonda Evans, Cassandra Norfleet Johnson, Zani Imetovski, Yessenia Santiago-Bejarano

Absent: Nora Duncan, Kathleen Wasilnak, Greg Kirschner, Bonnie Roswig, Alicia Dolce, Angel Battle, Victoria Hackett

Chairwomen Claire Coleman called the meeting to order at 1:32PM.

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Roll Call	Completed by Y. Santiago-Bejarano.
2. Approval of August 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Minute 7:40 - Chairwoman Coleman motioned for the approval of the minutes absent any objections or corrections. Motion moved by Matthew Dillon, second by Gannon Long. No objections. Abstentions: Michelle Royce Williams and Perkin Simpson. Minutes were approved.
3. Revision of June 5 ,2024 Meeting Minutes	Min. 8:29 - Motion to revise the Minutes of June 5, for section 4b. second section as follows “MDC is not regulated by PURA and any water assistance program that is not funded by LIWHAP or other external resources would likely require support from MDC consumers or ratepayers.” Motion moved by Gannon Long, second by Joanne Whistnant. No objections. Amended Minutes were adopted.
4. Public Comments	None.
5. Approval of Annual Report to CT General Assembly	Min. 12:46 - Chairwoman requested approval for the Biennial Report.. 1. DSS- expressed concerns of format and narrative while DSS may agree with the plan, DSS is a non-voting member, therefore is requesting disclaimer that is not endorsing the report as a non-voting member.

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	<p>a. Chairwoman Coleman noted a Disclaimer will be added for all non-voting members of which OPM agreed.</p> <p>2. CAA, Rhonda Evans, noted the CAFCA is not in agreement with adding CEAP report to the DSS application under section 3b.</p> <p>a. Chairwoman Coleman acknowledged concern and noted the LIHEAP Plan Recommendations that were submitted as part of the discussions, agreement and recommendations was to evaluate the potential for LIHEAP to become part of the DSS common application in the form through the recommendation of a study as noted in section 4b(iii) via a working group “to understand any impediments DSS or the CAA’s would face (one common application)” . As such one meeting was held in September thus far.</p> <p>3. CT Water, Michelle Royce Williams, Section 5b, paragraph 4, noted CT Water has updated its policies with Operation Fuel and the last line of this section can be removed, as there is no longer a payment history requirement.</p> <p>4. Manchester Water and Sewer, April Salazar, the HWAP program customer received a one-time benefit, the report should reflect those participants received a second supplemental benefit in the amount of \$285.00. DSS,</p>
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	<p>Cassandra Norfleet Johnson, noted the supplemental benefit is \$285.00 which the LIHEAP Block grant is implied for water but not directly.</p> <p>5. Theresa Washington, requested correction to Matching Payment Plan to Matching Payment Program under Section IV.a(i) and throughout the document. In addition, Section IV.a(ii) should include language of registered physicians, APRN, physician assistant can complete the protection form.</p> <p>Chairwoman noted the Biennial report is due October 15th, and noted if there were no objections she would move to approve the Biennial report with the recommended changes in this meeting or have a special meeting next week. Also, noting the change to the cover page to reflect Biennial not Annual Report. Motion was second by Chris Herb. Members instructed to vote via hand raise feature in Zoom. Approval vote: Gannon Long, Michelle Royce Williams, Matthew Dillon, Nicole Lawton, Shayleen Alfieri, Rhonda Evans, Janine Tarantello, Perkin Simpson, Joanne Whistnant, Chris Herb, Lydia Santiago, Jaime Soto, Theresa Washington, and Frank Augeri. No Objections or Abstentions.</p>
<p>6. Energy Assistance Program Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DSS CEAP b. Operation Fuel c. Eversource d. Avangrid 	<p>a. Min. 38:34 - DSS CEAP report may be found here. Cassandra Norfleet Johnson reported on format of DSS reporting, early intake data, and addition of link to CEAP on Heating Assistance website. Questions were asked by Chris Herb.</p> <p>b. Min. 45:45 - Operation Fuel report may be found here. Gannon Long reported on . annual SBC report to DSS, opening of fall season for three weeks,</p>

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	<p>and increase of need for water assistance. Questions were asked by Avangrid, CLASS, and Chairwoman Coleman.</p> <p>c. Min. 1:04:48 - Eversource report may be found here . Joanne Whistnant presented enrollment figures for CT New Start Forgiveness Program, Matching Payment Plan, and Low-Income Discount Rate enrollments.</p> <p>d. Min. 1:06:19 - Avangrid report may be found here. Jaime Soto provided enrollment for Matching Payment Program, Flexible Payment Plan and the Low-Income Discount Rate enrollment.</p>
<p>7. Updates on Legislative or PURA Docketed Matters</p>	<p>Min. 1:09:15 - PURA (Frank Augeri, Jr.) Noted pending draft decision in the Energy Affordability Docket and that United Illuminating filed its intent to submit another rate case.</p> <p>Min. 1:09:48 - OCC (Chairwoman Claire Coleman) The Low-Income Discount Rate Decision due soon and anticipating Yankee Gas will be seeking a rate increase as well.</p>
<p>8. Public Comments</p>	<p>Min. 1:11:10 - Janine Tarantello- members of CLASS inquired and requested information on program updates and changes. There was dissemination of emails in the chat box to further coordinate informational sessions with the utilities and DSS.</p> <p>Min. 1:17:05 - Theresa Washington suggested that program descriptions of energy assistance programs marketed online, should be reviewed for accuracy.</p>
<p>9. Adjournment</p>	<p>2:51pm</p>