

Low-Income Energy Water Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 1:32PM -2:23PM

Recorded via Zoom

[Zoom Recording link](#)

Attendance: Claire Coleman, Perkin Simpson, Joanne Whistnant, Franke Augeri Jr., Andrea Millard, Matthew Dillon, Laura Robidoux, Lydia Santiago, Janine Tarantello, Michelle Williams, Nora Duncan, Kimberly White, April Salazar, Bonnie Roswig, Evannie Bocachica, Kathy Wasilnak, Cassandra Norfleet Johnson, Christian Herb, Ruth Swift

Absent: Jaime Soto, Theresa Washington, Nicole Lawton, Greg Kirschner (Sarah White), Alicia Dolce, Angel Battle, Rhonda Evans, Victoria Hackett, Zani Imetovski

Chairwoman Claire Coleman called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Roll Call	Due to time constraints expressed by multiple board members, the roll call was completed via the ZOOM chat box.
2. Approval of October 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes	Chairwoman Coleman noted two clerical corrections to the October 2 nd Minutes, the header reflects correct date of October Meeting, and the minutes have a time stamp, this minute correlates to the ZOOM recording time of the meeting. Chairwoman called for approval of the minutes, Joanne Whistnant approved motion and second by Michelle Williams. Nora Duncan and Kathleen Wasilnak abstained due to absence from the Oct. Meeting.
3. Public Comments	None.
4. New Business a. Review timeline for LIEWAB's 2024-25 LIHEAP Plan Recommendations i. Change of Meeting Schedule-May 21 st	Minute 4:49: Chairwoman Coleman stated it would be helpful to have a timeline set for the board to allow the opportunity of proactive input of the LIHEAP allocation plan as it is being developed vs. after its' publication. DSS develops the LIHEAP plan in early spring, the board can provide recommendations on the outset of the plan and submit recommendations no later than June of 2025. Chairwoman Coleman proposed a change of the June 5 th meeting, which is the last day of legislative session, to the May 21st to allow time to make and incorporate LIHEAP recommendations. In addition, the working group that is charged with reviewing the question of whether the CEAP application can be integrated into the common DSS application will be presented to the board by March 19 th and discussed in the April 2 nd meeting, this

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	meeting can also lead to broader discussion topics for the LIHEAP plan. A question was asked by Bonnie Roswig.
5. Energy Assistance Program Updates a. Op. Fuel b. DSS- CEAP c. Eversource d. Avangrid	a. Minute 12:31, <u>Operation Fuel Report</u> was provided by Perkin Simpson. Questions were asked by Chairwoman Coleman. b. Minute 17:50, DSS <u>CEAP report</u> presented by Cassandra Norfleet Johnson. Cassandra also proposed an updated Online Demo of online application process to the board in a future meeting. Questions were asked by Chairwoman Claire Coleman, Frank Augeri, and Matthew Dillon. c. Minute 30:35 <u>Eversource report</u> presented by Joanne Whistnant. d. Minute 33:22, <u>Avangrid report</u> presented by Lydia Santiago. Kathy Wasilnak noted the data reported for Low-Income Discount Rate Enrollment needs to be updated, which she will email to LIEWAB secretary to forward to the members via email. Questions were asked by Chairwoman Coleman. <i>**the corrected report is linked **</i> Chairwoman Coleman Claire suggested a proposal of a presentation of new Matching Payment Plan (MPP) provided by Eversource and UI. Utility representatives agreed to collaborate to make a presentation.
6. PURA docketed matters	Minute 39:35, Frank Augeri, Jr. noted PURA has started the rate cases for United Illuminating and Yankee Gas. On Nov. 6 th The Energy Affordability docket 24-05-01, decision was released. He referenced pg. 5 of the final decision has an MPP table reflecting program guidance. Frank will forward the <u>decision</u> to LIEWAB secretary for board circulation. Chairwoman Coleman suggested the <u>Low-Income Discount Rate Decision</u> should also be circulated to the board.
7. Updates/Discussion on Legislative Proposals & Agendas	Minute 41:01, Chairwoman Coleman indicated new legislative session is starting within a month, she wanted to open the floor for members to share plans and thoughts on legislative priorities.

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	<p>i. Minute 42:06, Vice Chairwoman Nora Duncan (AARP) noted AARP doesn't have a specific piece of legislation that it is presenting however, it will continue its advocacy of "Do No Harm" and consumer protections in addition to an advocacy of fare rates.</p> <p>ii. Minute 45:14, April Salazar, Town of Manchester. In the 118th Congress, HR. 101 50, which had 21 co-sponsors to finally establish water assistance and provide funding for it, was not passed. Currently there is no water funding available on federal level, unfortunately LIWAP seems to not make the legislative agenda.</p> <p>iii. Minute 47:21, Chairwoman Coleman noted OCC is concerned about affordability and availability of funding for low-income customers. The final decision of wage garnishments was issued, which OCC led the working group. PURA ordered for wage garnishments to resume for those with 70%SMI and above, legal collections have resumed.</p>
8. Public Comments	None.
9. Adjournment	Chairwoman Coleman noted the next meeting is scheduled for Feb 5 th and will be held at the LOB in person, there will be a hybrid option. She called a motion to adjourn, moved by Chistian Herb and seconded by Kathy Wasilnak. No objections.