

Agenda
Low Income Energy Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 1, 2011
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Room 410
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut

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| I. | Welcome | 2:00 p.m. |
| II. | Approve Minutes of the January Meeting | 2:10 p.m. |
| III. | FFY 2012 LIHEAP Update | 2:15 p.m. |
| IV. | Update on the PURA Consumer Service Unit | 2:45 p.m. |
| V. | Weatherization Program 2013 Plan Update | 2:50 p.m. |
| VI. | Utility Matching Payment Program Updates
A. United Illuminating
B. CL&P/Yankee Gas
C. Connecticut Natural Gas/Southern Connecticut Gas | 3:00 p.m. |
| VI. | Operation Fuel Update | 3:10 p.m. |
| VIII. | Proposed Statutory Changes
A. Allow for designees for all board members
B. Add DEEP as a non-voting member and make OPM
and DSS non-voting members
C. Require the board to elect a chair rather than having
OPM serve as chair | 3:15 p.m. |
| IX. | Next Steps | 3:25 p.m. |

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

1:30 p.m.

Community Renewal Team

Members: Anne Foley-Chair, Laura Gonzalez, Shirley Bergert, Joanne Balaschak and Ben Daigle for Jim Gatling, Kate Quigley, Kristen Formanek, Lindsay Parke, David Thomas, Pamela Giannini, James McNally, and Deb Polun.

Others: Tom O'Brien, Brenda Watson, Michael Coyle, Lynn Vasquez, Joy Hollister, Veronica Gomez and Pam Trotman.

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome	The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.
Approve Minutes of the December 7, 2011 Meeting	Laura Gonzalez moved approval of the December 7, 2011 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Shirley Bergert. The motion was approved on a voice vote.
FFY 2012 LIHEAP Update	<p>DSS reported on the administration of the CEAP through January 3, 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 69,498 applications taken• 51,809 eligible applicants• 10,513 denied applications• 7,176 applications pending certification• 29,099 crisis assistance• 2,174 Safety Net <p>DSS reviewed the Caseload and Eligible Caseload Comparison charts thru January 3. The caseload comparison chart showed a -21.0% change in the caseload and the Eligible Caseload comparison chart showed a -25.5% change from the same time a year ago. The program started one month later than</p>

last year, which attributes to the percent change in caseloads.

Based on increased federal funds for LIHEAP, Connecticut may receive a total of \$79.5 million, which is \$17.9 million more than was originally projected in the allocation plan approved by the legislature. As requested by legislators, the administration sent the following recommendations for use of additional funds to the chairs and co-chairs of the appropriations, human services and energy and technology committees for review and approval. Proposed additional funding will be used to provide:

- A \$140 supplemental payment to utility heated households
- An additional safety net benefit of \$400 to CEAP eligible deliverable heated households
- An extension to the intake end date from March 1 to May 1 (May 15 for utility heated customers with disconnect notices, consistent with prior years.

The board discussed in length these recommendations and expressed the following concerns with the proposal:

- Disparity in this year's energy assistance benefits between utility heated and deliverable fuel heated households.
- Low benefit levels
- Limited federal and state funding.

Shirley Bergert motion to submit recommendations to the legislative committees of cognizance urging them to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately adopt implementation of the administration’s proposal. • Address disparities by increasing basic benefits equal to the 2010-2011 level should additional federal funds become available. • In the event that additional federal funds are not allocated, consider the use of state-appropriated funds to increase the basic benefits equal to 2010-2011 level. • Urge the committees to hold a public hearing to address the basic benefit disparity and the appropriation of state funds. <p>The motion was seconded by David Thomas and approved on a voice vote with one abstention by the Commission on Aging. The Department of Social Services and the Office of Policy and Management opposed the motion.</p> <p>Other discussion topics related to the LIHEAP included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb Polun will draft and circulate proposed statutory language to amend the minimum oil delivery requirement for households. • Shirley Bergert will work with Tom O’Brien and other interested parties to develop recommendations on implementing a pilot program requiring deliverable households to participate in a co-payment program.
<p>Update on the PURA Consumer Service Unit</p>	<p>Michael Coyle gave an update on the status of the PURA Consumer Service Unit. PURA is currently working on restructuring the Consumer Service Unit to better serve consumers. PURA is collaborating with Info-</p>

	Line to develop a system by which Info-Line will be used as an initial contact to screen inquiries and make referrals to PURA and other appropriate programs and services. PURA and/or Info-Line will provide an update at the February meeting.
Weatherization Program 2013 Plan Update	Michael reported that the US Department of Energy has yet to release the allocation levels for the non-AARA Weatherization Program. An update will be provided at the February meeting.
Utility Matching Payment Program Updates	Utility Matching Payment Program Updates, as of December 2011: <u>United Illuminating</u> 1,869 auto enrolled customers 60 new enrolled customers 91 customers on the below budget payment plan <u>CL&P/Yankee Gas</u> Report not available. <u>SCG</u> 12,333 auto enrolled customers 1,775 new enrolled customers 420 customers on the below budget payment plan <u>CNG</u> 10,676 auto enrolled customers 3,920 new enrolled customers 150 customers on the below budget payment plan
Operation Fuel	Operation Fuel reported on its 2011-2012 Winter Program. A total of 247 applications taken for a total grant amount of \$121,471.
Next Steps	The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1.

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