

NEUAC Summer Board Meeting

6-15-2021

Attendance: Kathy Kerr, Ariel Drehobl, Faye Kinner, David Conn, Sarah Schaffer, Rhonda Harper, Edith Baltierrez, Steve Whitworth, Tanya Jones, Patrick Strickland, Joe Diamond, Keelie Gustin, Chere Coleman, John Rich, Cheryl Stowell, Darlene Yule, Celia Andrade, Silvia Aldana, Kim Rikalo, Bonnie Temme, Mary Wilkins, Mike Bradford, Liz Schurk, Gerri Drummond, Jacquie Moss, Saunteel Jenkins, Michael Bell, Brian Caudill, Emily Wong, John Godfrey, Allison Bury, Edward Gingold, Sheila Ruffin, Theresa Kullen, Ian Gray, Billie Kaumaya, Scott Thach, David Carroll, Michael Sullivan, Liz Berube, Zoe Ahlstrom, Haly Laasme, Deb Brown, Britton Gabel, Lorena Shah, Debra Moss, Kelly Caplan, Denise Adamucci, Anne Armstrong, Kenley Farmer, Liz Brister, Nancy Loehr, Olivia Wein, Katrina Metzler, Erica Lambert

Executive Committee report – Rhonda

EC was busy in between meetings, many decisions to be ratified by full board

Contract for planning meeting in New Orleans – who can travel to New Orleans in October

Katrina mentioned that there will be no cancellation fees or attrition for the planning meeting

(I was on the phone)

Steve, Nancy Loehr, accepted motion

Conference Committee – Tanya. Financial success, looking forward to New Orleans

Celia – planning was touch and go because of concerns with San Diego hotel not accepting our position to cancel the conference

Mem/Fund – need to talk about prorating membership when new committee forms. Hit \$400k in funding

PPA – Brian Caudill. \$900m in initial LIHEAP funding at the start of the pandemic, \$8.25b in FY2021. Highest level of LIHEAP funding in the history of the program. It's a testament to the work we've all done over the years. ERA and Mortgage assistance could assist for utilities as well. Some states are looking to or starting to turn money back in. I doubt it's LIHEAP, there's a better process to get rid of that money, I suspect it's ERA money. Could be that states are unequipped to handle, dissemination was clunky, but it's a bad look. Something to keep in the back of your minds for the next 4-6 months, if it becomes broader knowledge there will be additional study on the hill. What did we learn? We can pivot quickly, we can move an awful lot of people to contact offices so they can make decisions. Decisions are crowdsourced at NEUAC, can take a long time to get decisions made through PPA. I can only talk about how it works at an association like AGA, which is that subject matter experts in conjunctions with their leadership can make quick decisions when quick decisions are necessary. It's not easy to track people down over the weekend to sign a letter. Makes us look disorganized. I

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understand the importance of having a certain amount of crowdsourcing, but sometimes more rapidity would be useful.

Silvia wants to comment, you've touched on some things that are very valid that are going on in states. In CA there have been challenges related to capacity, there are some state run assistance programs, I think that the network that has existed prior to this influx of funds has frankly been challenged. These are CBOs, nonprofits, that don't have capacity. Even though we're a year into it, other factors at play, including politics, who will administer the funding, how they get disseminated

Rhonda – a lot of states are experiencing what Silvia says. Does Brian think admin could be increased that it would help with capacity at all?

Brian wants to defer to people on the ground

Celia, says admin would help

Anne Armstrong – really appreciate Brian's overview and the dialogue. It may be difficult to get funding to families in need, it's been difficult for the legislature to appropriate the funds, many states are just coming off of moratoria which impacts how people seek assistance. How people seek LIHEAP funds with ERAP funds is different too. Is there any role for NEUAC on best practices on outreach on the hard-to-reach communities, collaborative outreach. Last year MI worked with Consumers and DTE to put together a statewide PSA, worked with coops and munis, let them know it was coming, work with local radio stations, wondering if there are ideas that members could share at the state/local level?

Haly – thank you Brian, I wanted to add from the state perspective, I can tell you it has been extremely challenging, to do the admin portion of the LIHEAP grant it is very complicated in general. Have to cover all software maintenance, all subgrantee funding, all the supplemental funding that has come in have to be tracked separately, every line has to be tracked. Many states had to change their IT systems, couldn't do intake until that was done. Would've been nice if that wasn't a requirement. Our software costs are enormous. Yeah, we'd like to have more admin, NEADA has pursued it several times to increase admin. At least increase for the smaller grants or something.

David - I think that what Haly pointed out about the size of the state grant is very important. Building an IT system there are fixed costs, if you're NY state and you get \$500m then you have \$50m in admin, that's different if you're DE and you get \$12m and \$1m in admin. The flat percentage is part of the problem. The question that people asked about the CBOs, yes they don't have enough admin, we've also heard that it's extremely hard for them that their budgets go up and down every year.

Site Selection Committee – Rhonda Harper, Chair

- 2024 and 2025 looking for locations
- MSI super helpful

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Executive Director Report

- Provided 2021 conference metrics
 - 585 total users
 - 63,737 page views
 - 4,239 mobile page views
- Asked for input for future conference in New Orleans
- 40 Years LiHEAP anniversary is August 13
 - Can't let milestone like this to not get attention without something pandemic or not
 - Virtual time capsule – Opens in 2031
 - Please submit something, video, picture or just a write up. Be creative.
 - 40 stories for 40 years of LiHEAP
 - August 13 – Twitter storm this day, social media graphic that can be pasted into social media
 - John Godfrey – Has outside contractor, if you are doing stuff connect them with my staff and we will get it done. Katrina provided her name
- New Board Check List
 - Whistleblower
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Committee Interest
 - Network and enjoy!!!
 - Let us know what committee you would like to be on.

Schedule/Calendar

August LIHEAP Awareness Month

August 13 LIHEAP 40th Birthday, Social Media Campaign

October 19	Conference Planning Meeting	New Orleans, LA
October 20	NEUAC Fall Board Meeting	Hybrid/Virtual

Housing Block: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1620313174031&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

December 1	NEUAC Winter Board Meeting	Virtual
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2022

February/March	LIHEAP Action Day	Washington, DC
	NEUAC Spring Board Meeting	

June 26	NEUAC Summer Board Meeting	
June 27	NEUAC Pre-Conference	New Orleans, LA
June 28-30	NEUAC Conference	New Orleans, LA

TBA	Conference Planning Meeting	NEUAC Fall Board Meeting	San Diego, CA
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TBA	NEUAC Winter Board Meeting	Virtual
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Rhonda – would like us to go back to in person Winter Board Meetings. Several folks indicated that they would be interested in exploring.

Other Business

Nothing was brought up.

Rhonda – Glad to have everyone aboard and things are getting better. Look forward to seeing you all in person hopefully in October. Thank you board and executive board members

Motion to Adjourn - Nancy Loehr

Darlene – 2nd the motion

Vote passed!! 97%

Recorded by: Kim Rikalo, Secretary