

COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY ACTION AGENICES
TELEPHONIC COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
August 22, 2011
LUCAS STATE OFFICE BUILDING – 2ND FLOOR – DES MOINES, IOWA

Commission Members Participating:

Marc Lindeen – Chairperson	Anna Brown	Patti Brown
Kevin Middleswart	Tom Quiner	

Commission members not present:

Ross Wilburn	Amber Amos	Robert Tyson
Joyce Hoepker		

DHR/DCAA Staff Present:

Bill Brand	Jerry McKim	Greg Pieper	Marcia Thompson
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1. Call to Order

Mr. Lindeen called the meeting to order at 8:05.

2. Introductions

Marcia Thompson called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Lindeen asked if there were any items which needed to be added to the agenda. Mr. Brand indicated he would like to survey people on their availability for the Departmental Orientation dates that were sent out earlier who hadn't responded. Mr. Quiner moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Mr. Middleswart seconded the motion. All present voted aye. The agenda was approved.

4. Discussion of 2012 LIHEAP State Plan – Jerry McKim

The proposed abbreviated LIHEAP state plan was sent to all of the Commission members, Area Agencies on Aging, all of the Community Action Agencies, and all the DHS offices. A public notice was placed in the Des Moines Register two weeks prior to the public hearing which was held on July 27th. We had one person attend the public hearing. No written or oral comments were received during the comment period. Discussions were held with staff from the community action agencies about changes to the plan previously. The proposed abbreviated LIHEAP state plan which was sent to Commission members is the final plan which will be submitted to HHS. Changes were made in the payment matrix adding two additional minus points. (If an individual had \$15,000 or more in savings and then we adjusted the points and the poverty levels to match the way we report to the federal personnel on the percent of poverty.) All of this was explained in what the Commission members received on page 7 and 8 of the State Plan. There were no other issues that have been raised from any interested stake holder at this point. We are asking that the plan be approved as submitted to the Commission.

Mr. Lindeen asked for any questions or comments concerning the LIHEAP State Plan. Mr. Quiner asked about the \$15,000 in savings referred to on page 7, he would like to know if that is IRA or non-retirement savings. Mr. McKim stated it is non-retirement. Mr. Lindeen said this was discussed a number of years ago. Mr. McKim stated there are a number of assets people can have that we don't count as income or against them. When reverse mortgages became a big thing, we didn't count that as income. We have many families who have no savings at all and it was felt that you shouldn't necessarily be ineligible because of it but if you have those resources, you should be treated a little differently than those who have no savings. What counts and what is exempt from being counted comes from federal statute. There is no asset test like for example food-assistance, but they still must be income-eligible. It is pretty rare when anyone who signs up for energy assistance even has a \$15,000 savings. Generally speaking they have no resources.

A. Approval of the 2012 LIHEAP State Plan

Mr. Middleswart moved that the 2012 LIHEAP State Plan be approved as submitted. Ms. Anna Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Anna Brown voted aye, Ms. Patti

Brown voted aye, Mr. Lindeen voted aye, Mr. Middleswart voted aye, and Mr. Quiner voted aye.
The motion carried.

V. Discussion of 2012 CSBG State Plan

Mr. Pieper stated that the proposed CSBG State Plan was e-mailed to the Commission members, Community Action Agency Directors, and Community Action Agency Planners on August 4, 2011. Hard copies were mailed to the Commission members on August 5, 2011. A public notice was published in the Des Moines Register on August 4, 2011. A copy is included in the State Plan as Attachment 5. The review and comment period was from August 8 through 12. The State Plan was available at the Division of Community Action Agencies, the DHR web-site, and all of the Community Action Agencies for review and comment. We did not receive any comments during the specified time period. On August 16, 2011, we held a public hearing at the Lucas Building in Des Moines and no one attended the public hearing. We did not receive any comments either written or oral. Significant changes to the plan were delineated in the e-mail and hard copy that was mailed to the Commission members.

Mr. Lindeen asked if there were any questions regarding the 2012 CSBG State Plan. Mr. Quiner asked if it is standard that no comments were received regarding the state plan. Mr. Pieper stated he has been in this position since the late '90's and has never received any comments or had someone attend the public hearing on the CSBG Plan. Mr. Middleswart had a question concerning the administrative cost limit. He thought it had been 5% last year but he read in this plan that it was 4%. Mr. Brand stated that historically it has been 4% but for one year, last year, the Legislature raised it to 5%, but it goes down to 4% this year. The state is allowed up to 5% for administrative costs but the State Legislature in its annual federal block grant bill approval sets the administration level for CSBG. Iowa probably has close to the lowest admin costs in the country.

A. Approval of the 2012 CSBG State Plan

Mr. Quiner moved that the 2012 CSBG State Plan be approved as submitted. Ms. Patti Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Anna Brown voted aye, Ms. Patti Brown voted aye, Mr. Lindeen vote aye, Mr. Middleswart voted aye, and Mr. Quiner voted aye. The motion carried.

VI. Other Items

A. Availability for Departmental Commissioner Training

Commission members have been contacted concerning a Departmental Commissioner Orientation to be held sometime in September. Director Wong has asked that all Commission members respond with dates of their availability. As of this date some Commissioners have not responded. Mr. Lindeen stated he would be available on September 23 or 30. Mr. Middleswart state he would prefer the 16th or 23rd since he will be busy harvesting his crops in late September. Mr. Quiner stated he would be available the 16, 23, or 30th. Mr. Brand thanked the Commissioners for their information.

VII. Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be held on Friday – November 4, 2011 at Southern Iowa Economic Development Association (SIEDA) in Ottumwa, Iowa.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Quiner moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Middleswart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Thompson

