



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor

Conference Rooms B & C

Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: Marie Abdou (for Jeremy Newberger), Eric Beaton (for Chrystal Kornegay), Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Cindy Carroll, Elizabeth Cellucci, Larry Chretien, Rebecca Davis, Maggie Downey, Paul Gromer, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Elliott Jacobson, Judith Judson, Emmett Lyne (for Michael Sommer), Richard Malmstrom, Laurie Pereira (for Trish Walker), Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

Councilors Absent: Michael Ferrante, Charlie Harak, Paul Johnson, Deirdre Manning, Michael McDonagh, Andrew Newman, Bob Rio, Victoria Rojo

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Mark Kravatz

DOER Staff Present: Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Matt Rusteika

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Council Updates and Business

EEAC Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2017

Boecke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Davis abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2017

Boecke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Boyd seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Malmstrom abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee (ExCom).

Public Listening Sessions

Commissioner Judson began by noting that DOER was in the process of organizing public listening sessions. Rusteika indicated that they would be organizing six sessions and that they would all be held on a weeknight from 6-8 PM. He added that they would be held at locations across the state including Boston, Salem, Fall River, Mashpee, Worcester, and Springfield. He asked that the PAs and Councilors be available where possible.

January Planning Workshop

Rusteika noted that the final planning workshop would be held on January 30, 2018. He indicated that the workshop would be focused on discussing demand management and coming to a consensus on the final recommendations to be voted on at the February Council meeting. He added that it would be held at MassHousing.

Executive Committee Seat Opening

Rusteika noted that there is an opening on the ExCom for a councilor representing residential customers. He added that Councilor Wambui and Councilor Jacobson have expressed interest in the opening and that a vote would take place at the February Council meeting.

General Updates

Belliveau indicated that the Consultant Team's (C-Team) Fourth Quarter report was posted on the Council website.

Commissioner Judson noted that the February Council meeting would be rescheduled from February 14 to February 28.

4. 2018 Council Priorities and Vote

Commissioner Judson noted that edits had been made to the priorities document to accommodate feedback from the Council at its last meeting. She asked if the Council had any further questions or comments before moving to a vote.

Boyd requested that the language reading "the bulk of" in the first line of the document be removed. No Councilors were opposed and the edit was made.

Boyd motioned to approve the 2018 Council Priorities as amended. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The 2018 Council Priorities were approved as amended.

5. Low-Income Sector Overview

Consultant team Presentation

Kravatz gave an overview presentation on program improvement opportunities for the low-income sector. He began with a review of the key opportunities identified from the low-income workshop. These included identifying how resources are allocated and monitored between lead and non-lead Community Action Programs (CAPs), reviewing how CAPs identify prospective participants, and describing the low-income program's quality control protocols. Kravatz also discussed participation potential, the 2017 year-end forecast for the program, and highlighted some resources and next steps.

Wambui noted that a map that shows the number of participants and dollars spent does not give a good sense of impact unless there is an assessment of need first. Kravatz indicated that they are in the beginning stages of developing the impact maps and that her feedback would be useful as they continue to identify what questions the maps will answer.

LEAN Presentation

John Wells, on behalf of the Low Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN), gave an overview presentation on LEAN's operations. He began by reviewing the lead vendor and sub-grantee network, LEAN's territories, how budgets are developed and allocated, and their outreach methods. Wells also highlighted an example of an impact map that they plan on using to assess completed versus potential weatherization. He concluded with a review of the field work and data and reporting aspects of the network.

Davis asked how low-income folks in the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) territories are served. Wells indicated that they try to do as much as they can in those territories and added that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) allows them to increase spending so that customers can be served.

Wambui asked what happens if a sub-grantee goes beyond their production goal. Wells indicated that they do have some flexibility to shift money around to all more work to be done, but that they are sometimes limited by the overall budget. Wambui also asked how LEAN gets the CAP agencies to focus on energy efficiency when they have other priorities. Wells noted that the CAP agencies have a division solely focused on energy efficiency.

Boyd indicated that she was surprised to hear that there are different reporting methods across the PAs and asked why that is the case. Cellucci noted that the reporting includes the PA's billing and invoicing system and that it would be impossible to have all of the PA's align those systems. Abdou and Wells added that the measure list and savings for the program is the same across the PAs which does allow for the data to be comparable.

Chretien asked why the geographic data on Mass Save Data does not break out residential and low-income separately. Jodi Hanover noted that they are grouped together because the usage and savings data would not align. She added that it is further complicated because customers move on and off of the low-income rate. Chretien noted that he felt it would still be useful if residential and low-income savings were split up. He suggested that they could do that with an asterisk to indicate that savings and sales should not be compared. Chretien also asked if it would be possible to see what percent of savings is residential versus low-income. Hanover indicated that she would look into it.

Belliveau asked what the criteria are for being able to revisit a house that had already been treated. Wells indicated that a house can be revisited after three years or immediately if there is a new measure.

Malmstrom asked if Wells could identify how many customers that might be eligible for low-income services but are not on the low-income rate. Wells indicated that it is a very difficult number to assess, adding that there are many eligible clients that are served through the multi-family program.

6. Potential Studies 101

Belliveau, on behalf of the C-Team, gave an overview of what potential studies are and how they are conducted. In his presentation he reviewed the different types of potential studies, what purpose they serve, how they are conducted, and how they are typically used for the purpose of informing policy and program planning.

Referencing the on-going potential studies being conducted by the PAs, Boyd asked if they are all using the same cost-effectiveness testing, inputs, and methods. Belliveau indicated that they would all be using the same cost-effectiveness test, but that the PAs were all using different contractors who would likely have different inputs and methods that go into their models.

Weber asked if the C-Team's assessment of potential would point out the commonalities and differences between the studies along with their relative impact on the savings estimates. Belliveau indicated that they would do that.

Abdou noted that the potential studies are just one part of the planning process. She added that PAs do their best to incorporate new measures, use historical results, and use as much evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) data as possible. She also noted that there was coordination amongst the PAs to get aligned on inputs.

Commissioner Judson asked what the C-Team's timeline was for completing the assessment of potential. Belliveau indicated that it would depend on when they receive all of the PAs completed potential studies and that he would not be able to commit to a timeline until that has happened. Hanover noted that all of the PAs expect to have their studies completed by the end of January with the exception of Eversource's Demand Response which would be completed by the end of February.

7. January Data Dashboard

Steve Menges, on behalf of the PA, updated the Council on the PA's performance through November, 2017. He noted that the PA's had hit their portfolio goals for both electric and gas. He added that they would have a PA by PA breakdown in the fourth quarter report in February and that those results would be pretty close to final.

Representatives from each of the PAs gave a preview of their year-end estimates. Lyne began by caveating that numbers are still subject to quality assurance and quality control.

Cellucci indicated that Columbia Gas did very well on residential and low-income and that they struggled on savings for commercial and industrial (C&I). She added that they still feel like they are on track to meet their 2016-2018 Plan goals for all sectors. Carroll indicated that Unitil is on track to meet their goals but that they might fall a little short if one of their large C&I projects slipped into 2018. Downey indicated that Cape Light Compact expects to exceed annual savings for residential and low-income and fall just short on C&I. Periera indicated that Liberty Utilities expects to meet the portfolio goal, exceed on residential, and come in a little under on low-income. Abdou indicated that total portfolio lifetime savings are expected to be at or above their goal and that all sectors should come in at or above goal. Lyne indicated that Berkshire Gas expects to finish at about 83% of their lifetime savings goal for all sectors. Gundal indicated that Eversource expects to be slightly above goal for both electric and gas portfolios.

Gromer congratulated the PAs on their performance. He noted that the Council keeps recommending higher goals and the PAs keep hitting them. He added that he saw that as a challenge to push even higher in the next plan.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.