

HEAP Block Grant Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2023

A meeting of the Block Grant Advisory Council was held via WebEx on Thursday, May 4, 2023. The meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Attendees

Andrew Bryk, Director, HEAP & LIHWAP, OTDA

Darrell Metcalf, OTDA Division of Legal Affairs

Emily Urban, NYS OTDA HEAP

Jeffrey Hanford, NYS OTDA HEAP

Kenneth Gossel, National Fuel Gas

Kira Pospesel, Commissioner, Greene County Social Services

Vivvy Williams, BGAC secretary

Discussion

Vivvy Williams: Ready.

Andrew Bryk: Okay, Viv take it away.

Vivvy Williams: Okay. I can hear everyone. So, everyone, welcome to the Block Grant Advisory Council meeting. And we have Emily Urban in attendance, Andy Bryk, and Jeffrey Hanford, and Kira I keep pronouncing her name all wrong at the end. How do you say your name at the end?

Kira Pospesel: It's okay, it's Kira Pospesel.

Vivvy Williams: Okay, thank you.

Kira Pospesel: Thank you for trying Viv.

Vivvy Williams: Yes, in attendance I don't want to mess that one up. Okay, so we can get started with the Block Grant Advisory Council meeting. Who will be leading the meeting?

Andrew Bryk: If I could, I think we have two other parties on the line. Could I ask that those two parties identify themselves; one is Darryl and MFC.

Darrel: Yep, this is Darrel OTDA Legal Counsel.

Vivvy Williams: We have another party on the line?

Emily: Emily MFC media center.

Andrew Bryk: Very good, thank you Emily. Okay, so for today's Block Grant I've asked that Jeff go through the agenda, and we'll have different people speak at different points and I will hand it off directly to Jeff. Jeff, take it away please.

Kira Pospesel: Can I ask just a quick question, what happened to Ken Gossel?

Andrew Bryk: I have not heard.

Vivvy Williams: I didn't hear anything from Ken.

Kira Pospesel: Because I thought, unless my memory is incorrect, I thought he was the chairperson.

Andrew Bryk: Yes, was he acting Chair Kira?

Kira Pospesel: Yeah, I think we, because unfortunately, Deb the previous chair, I thought we elected him the last meeting. Unless I'm dreaming this all up.

Vivvy Williams: No, you're absolutely right. But I didn't hear anything from Ken.

Kira Pospesel: Okay, well, sorry for the interruption.

Andrew Bryk: Well, Commissioner as the sole member of the Block Grant, how do you recommend that we proceed?

Kira Pospesel: Well, I'm not quite sure how you do proceed when there's not a quorum for anything of anything. There's more of you guys than there is of us, if I'm truly the sole member. So, it would be really interesting if I was just able to make all the decisions, it would be like a birthday gift or something. Technically, that's not correct. So, I think we might have a little pickle. We may have to ask legal counsel a couple of questions here since we're in this little pickle.

Andrew Bryk: Yeah, Darrel do you believe we can or cannot ratify the minutes from the previous meeting?

Darrel: I believe looking at the unfortunately, I don't have access to the bylaws at the moment due to a computer issue but, if my memory serves me, it requires that a quorum be half of the members that are in attendance to be at the meeting. I don't know that we have that at this time based on the Commissioner appearing to be the only member of the Council at this time.

Andrew Bryk: So, I will just ask that we table the minutes from the last meeting until we can get those ratified. I don't even know, we can't take a vote, so I'm just going to offer myself up to say, do I have a second?

Kira Pospesel: I don't think we can discuss it at all. I think it's off the table.

Andrew Bryk: So, we agree as the existing group today that we will not ratify the minutes and we will wait until we do have a quorum to be able to do so.

Kira Pospesel: Yeah, because we don't have the ability to even make that decision based on the bylaws, I believe legal counsel said and I agree, I did see them at some point.

Andrew Bryk: I concur, I definitely concur. Okay, so, for the record I believe we can at least proceed with today's meeting. It will be preserved in posterity through the, it can be televised. So, I will ask, I've asked that Jeff kind of emcee us through going off of the agenda and asking that different parties speak to different pieces of the agenda and then let's have a conversation at the end. Is that okay?

Kira Pospesel: I'll agree with you since I'm the only person out here. So, thank you.

Andrew Bryk: Thank you. Jeff, take it away please.

Jeff Hanford: So, the first thing on the agenda would be the federal funding update. Emily, do you want to give us that?

Emily: Sure, thank Jeff. So, the final federal fiscal year 2023 LIHEAP funding for the whole country that was announced December 20th and that provided \$6.1 billion in total LIHEAP funding. New York State's final share of that when it was all said and done was \$559 million, and that was for use for FFY 2023. I think it was like \$558.9 or something. Of that, \$390.9 million was base block grant funding, so as of this time 99% of funding has been released. They do withhold 1% of that, so this is what we're going to get for this year. In addition to that, we received \$161.6 million in supplemental funding, and \$6.3 million in infrastructure funding. So, again \$559 million to fund our program this year. So, higher than a pre-COVID year, not higher as last year, but we were able to run a pretty robust program. We ran our regular benefit component from November 1st, 2022, we closed that down on March 31st, 2023. Our emergency benefit component ran from January 3rd, 2023, and is still open, that is scheduled to close right now as of, or excuse me, it will close on May 19th, 2023. We do have a first and second emergency benefit available at this time. Our Furnace and Clean and Tune Components are both operating year-round so those opened up on October 3rd, 2022, and they will run through the end of this program year, so September 29th, 2023. And our cooling benefit, that's kind of the biggest thing going on right now, that opened up on Monday, May 1st, 2023, and is scheduled to shut down August 31st, 2023, or until funding allocated to this component is exhausted. So, if that date has to be moved up, we will announce that on our website. I think that does it for the funding update. If we want to go into the program that we're running this year? I guess I'm kind of stomping on Jeff with the agenda. But that is the next item on the agenda.

So, our regular benefit component again, November 1st through March 31st, with the extra funding that we received we were able to increase our benefits mid-stream. So, we had already increased our benefits for this year and then once we got supplemental funding in, I believe November, we were able to increase those benefits a little bit more. So, anybody who got their benefit after December 10th, they got the higher benefit. Anybody who had received the lower benefit prior to that did receive a supplement, and that was done automatically. So, our benefits are up from last year. So, we have issued about 1.6 million regular benefits compared to 1.5

million as of this time last year, but the big thing here is the funding that we have spent. We have spent \$320 million this year as opposed to \$238 million last year, and the reason for that is, of course, those higher benefit amounts, so, serving a few more people as well as giving out more funding to the people that are receiving those benefits and that was to offset the higher heating costs this year. New York City offered an online application for the first time ever this year. It wasn't available at the program opening. I think they kind of wanted to ease into it, so the online application for regular became available on February 13th. It went really well. We do expect New York City to offer the online application going forward, once our 2024 program opens this fall. So, more to come on that. But it was a success. So, now rest of state has Mybenefits to apply online for regular and in New York City they have AccessNYC to apply for regular.

Our emergency benefit component, as I said, is still open. We have two emergency benefits. Our emergency benefits did have to go down a little bit this year compared to last year and that was just due to limited funding and wanting to put more funding into the regular benefit component this year. And, of course, we do have the two emergency benefits to that also offset the very slightly lower emergency benefits this year.

So, first emergency benefits we were actually up quite a bit from last year, we have 87,000 first emergency benefits, as opposed to 64,000 last year. And 18,000 second emergency benefits, compared to 14,000 last year. So, both of those are up pretty significantly I'd say, and the reason for that we assume is because of the end of the utility moratorium and the end of utility arrears program. So, ERAP, RAZ, for the utilities, so with the ending of all of those, people are getting back into emergencies. Utilities are now shutting people off or sending shut off notices, so people are taking advantage of emergency HEAP benefits more than they were last year.

For Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement, so we increased our benefits this year. For Repair, we increased that maximum to \$4,000 per HEAP year and then our Heating Equipment Replacement that maximum was increased to \$8,000 this year and that was due to the higher cost of operations for Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement vendors. We have been hearing really good feedback on that, not a whole lot from the districts looking to exceed that amount. We do handle those on a case-by-case basis, but they are happening much less frequently this year and I think that was due to the higher limit, giving the vendors a little more incentive to complete these jobs and to assist the households while still running their businesses.

For Heating Equipment Clean and Tune, again, we increased that a little bit. We increased that to \$500 per year. Clean and Tune is down a little bit from last year, it looks like last year we had, sorry wrong page, no we are up a little bit, sorry, 3,700 this year as opposed to 2,900 last year. So, actually that is a little bit of an increase over last year, which is great, we love to hear it. And we do allocate \$2 million to this component every year. Historically, we used about half of that, and we've already gone through \$1.1 million in Clean and Tune this year. So, that will remain open for the rest of the summer and the fall. So, we hope everybody takes advantage of this benefit because it's there, and unfortunately, it is underutilized, but we have taken steps to make the public aware of it. We do have our Clean and Tune flyer, we work with the other

agencies to get the word out about this benefit, and it is very complimentary to our Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement component.

Then Cooling, as I said, is our biggest thing we're focusing on right now. We opened that up on Monday, and we're scheduled to close August 31st, 2023, or until our funding is exhausted. We allocated \$15 million to cooling this year and that is down from last year. Last year we allocated \$23 million to cooling and that was because NYSEERDA gave back \$8 million from weatherization to support cooling for last summer because there was such a great need for that. So, it was great, we had a really robust Cooling program last year with the \$23 million, and we were able to remove that medical requirement last year, so if you were HEAP eligible and you lived in an eligible living situation, you could get that air conditioner. We served a lot of households. Unfortunately, we did have to scale back to the 15 again this year because that is what our spending plan would support, and because of this, we did bring back the medical requirement, so the household does have to have somebody with a medical condition that is made worse by heat, or someone in the household that is vulnerable by their age, so age 60 or older or under age 6. So, although we did bring that medical requirement back, we are still serving a lot of people, even if they don't have a specific medical requirement, their age does set aside that medical requirement. We had to restrict a little bit but hopefully not too much. The majority of our households do have somebody vulnerable by age.

So, again, New York City had an online application also for Cooling last year. It was a really big success. They also had it operating this year. So, while the rest of the state does not currently have an online application for Cooling, New York City does and it really helps with the volume down there, they don't all have to report in person or by phone, so they are able to get a lot of benefits in electronically to serve more people. So, we look forward to the success of that again this year, and time will tell, it's only been open for 4 days so, we will see.

So, extreme heat remains a really high priority. We are hoping for additional funds to support summer electric at some point. Right now, we did not have the funding to support that, but we do recognize that it is a need. I think Andrew might expand on that when he jumps in. That does it for Cooling.

I wanted to touch, go ahead.

Jeff Hanford: I was just going to say, when you're done with the Cooling, if you wanted to discuss the State Plan as well?

Emily: Okay. Were there any questions so far on the benefits that we're operating this year? Okay. So, we are planning our program for next year for 23/24. Our State Plan is under development. We had our Needs Assessment comment period from February 28th, 2023, through March 14th, 2023. We received comments by e-mail, by mail, and through the local districts. So, we are in the process of compiling all of the comments that we received, and we are developing our plan. So, once that draft plan is ready, we will post that to our website, and we will also post to our website the dates of our public hearings. We expect the public hearings to take place in mid to late July or possibly early August. That was a comment we received in our public comments, was to give a little bit more time or a lot more time with that draft plan. So, we do hope to have that posted much sooner this year. It gives people a chance to, hi Ken.

Ken Gossel: Hi all, I apologize for my tardiness. It didn't hit my calendar, so.

Emily: Oh, I apologize. Well, we're discussing the State Plan right now but if you have any questions on what we already discussed, I'm happy to answer those.

Ken Gossel: I was watching publicly maybe since Vivvy noticed me about a dozen minutes, so, thank you.

Emily: I apologize. Okay. Great.

Darrel: I just want to jump in here, we do now have a quorum.

Emily: Okay, after the State Plan, I'll pause, oh, go ahead Kira.

Kira Pospesel: You mean to tell me, two of us equal a quorum?

Darrel: Of the membership list that I have with you, Andrew Stone, Paul Brady and Ken, with the two of you present that would be 50%, I was incorrect when I had said that one half was needed to establish a quorum, it's actually one third according to the bylaws.

Kira Pospesel: Gotcha, okay.

Ken Gossel: What power the Commissioner has.

Kira Pospesel: I know it was kind of scary. I felt all alone, I was like, oh no.

Ken Gossel: So sorry.

Emily: Directing the whole meeting at you and the public, of course. So, just going back to the State Plan and what we're doing for that. So, we do intend to have our public hearings held by WebEx again, we started that in 2020 due to the we had to do it in 2020 because we could not meet in person, but we did find that it was really successful. We had more attendants and more comments by holding this electronically. So, we have continued that, and we will continue that for this upcoming year. So, our public hearings will be held by WebEx, the link to those hearings will be posted on our website, and they will be announced in the major newspapers in the State.

Kira Pospesel: Can I ask, was there any comments from the local districts regarding the issue when HEAP benefits and SNAP applications submitted at the same time to maybe make it a little bit easier on the staff if they can withdraw the HEAP application if they're not eligible and then the SNAP case can continue on its own? Because right now it ends up being, it needs to be registered, so there are so many more steps that need to happen, that we're just not able to make the SNAP application to stand on its own.

Emily: Yeah, I understand, yeah, we didn't receive that comment to my knowledge, but it is a good comment, and we will add that into our future considerations so, if we have any more questions, if we could reach out.

Just one of the other comments, I'm not going to go through all of the, there were quite a few, but again, we did receive a comment a couple of times about the public hearings and the time that the draft plan is posted. Some other comments we received were a little bit more clear messaging on our website, so we will work towards that, not necessarily in our State Plan but duly noted. And then a comment we received this year, and we have received it from a few different areas was working towards the goals of the Climate Leadership and Climate Protection

Act, CLCPA, creating those pathways to the net zero emissions by 2040 and doing this through taking steps in our plans over the years to support this. So, through electrification, renewable electricity and storage and solar and heat pumps.

And then the other comment that we have received from a few areas was a cash cooling benefit to support higher electricity use, as I said when I discussed Cooling, we were not able to do that this year but that is always something that we are trying to consider. So, if there is funding to support that, we will work that into our plan.

So, after those public hearings, those comments will be collected and reviewed, and then we'll make any final changes to the plan, and we will submit our plan to HHS by the due date which is September 1st of 2023. Any questions on the State Plan, how it's developing? And we do plan to take a little bit more of a conservative approach with our program for 2024 and that is because we do expect a little less funding than we have received. Again, going back to those pre-COVID funding levels, so while we recognize that heating costs do remain high, and energy costs still remain high, we may have to scale back our benefits in our program a little bit. This might be through smaller benefits, smaller benefit amounts and then we're running the programs for less time next year. So, we are planning our plan based on the assumption that we will receive the same base funding, just without that supplemental funding that we received. And then I think Andrew wanted to touch on the 2024 funding forecast, and how that relates to our State Plan.

Andrew Bryk: Thanks for that, you did it beautifully. You landed the plane much quicker than I would have. But, before we jump there, I think a couple of the other comments and getting back to the need for electricity or the look at electricity as opposed to just looking at heating for the regular benefit, that's a real discussion. It's not just here, it's everywhere in the nation. And how do we address that split need as people's electricity costs and heating costs are the ebb and the flow there. So, there is definitely a need for summer cooling. We're hearing that it's echoing. It's one of those things that certain things that we've changed in the program over the years, you've heard for a number of years and I think I can't leave a deaf ear there any longer, that is the reality of where we're moving, especially, we can see what happened in the State Budget, as we move towards electrification. We received, it may be just a city centric or an urban comment about heat included benefits, yet the household is responsible for electricity for a supplemental blower to bring heat into the individual dwellings within the larger buildings. And a couple about resources, and one that I would say we may have missed a little bit. We tried to increase our benefits this year, especially on the fuel side. We addressed gas and electric arrears with RAZ and what we didn't address fuel arrears and that was one of the other comments that we received, and I heard it as we moved through last heating season, which was partially, these are all contributing factors why emergency was extended. Commissioner, thank you for being kind or refraining, and thank you for what your staff is doing. It really came down not about what we were doing or the impact, it was about the consumers. And at the PFC level, they still that \$1.4 billion in arrears, I'm still baffled that we continue or exceed that and we're not going back to pre-COVID levels on the arrears. People with fuel are unable to get continuing deliveries. And I don't know about you guys, but the last couple of days have been pretty cold. I know my heat has been kicking on, so I can only imagine down in the Catskills that it's kicking on or out in Buffalo, your heat's kicking on too. And so, it's just hanging on. So, these are some of the

contributing factors to a decision that was made late in the game, and I own it. We take responsibility, but we thank you for all understanding why we did it and it was about the customers.

So, going back to the federal before I get beat up on too badly, I'm jumping right to fed. On the federal outlook, it is pretty, it's a tough congress this year. It's a Republican congress. We all know what happened with that feeling, the President's proposed budget. It pushed out additional monies for HEAP, but I'll tell you right now the discussion on the hill is really about \$4.1 billion nationally which scares me. We've expanded the program, we've increased benefits, we've done additional monies towards cooling. Last year we expanded eligibility for cooling, this year, not knowing what the funding is going to be, we pulled it back to a level that we could afford. And thank god, because with the additional emergency an additional regular is going out the door. Emily highlighted it earlier. Upstate the regular numbers are pretty year to year consistent. New York City regular numbers have gone up tremendously, and also New York City's numbers on emergency have doubled since last year. Upstate though it also continued to go up tremendously. Don't quote me but I want to say 9 to 11%, and that demonstrated to me, even though we had about steady level on the regular upstate, the need for emergency is just there, and the data that I'm hearing that we all discussed. Ken, you're in the EAP groups, we're all discussing it and it just really substantiates what we've done. But what we're going to be seeing in the future and the prospect of going back to 2021 funding, potentially \$3.7, \$4 billion total, that's a scary number, and it's going to impact the numbers that we can serve or the benefits that we're able to push out. Like I said, it's about a \$2 billion cut and it's kind of a scary place to be right now. In addition to that, in the President's proposed budget there was a carve out to allow states to allocate up to 2.7% of the LIWAP funding to water. We administered water for the last 2 years under the CARES and the American Rescue Plan Act fund, and this would be a continuation of that program, and it would be either arrears or bill assistance. The bottom line is there isn't a lot of support on the hill on either side of the house for a carve out from HEAP, I'll just say it bluntly, as you all know I can, the advocates don't want to cannibalize HEAP for water. But at the same time, there is a large lobby for energy and the water groups don't have that same lobby. But I can tell you they went into Washington with what they called the Fly In two weeks ago and they're trying to find their champion, and they're trying to have a dialogue because even though the President's budget carved out 2.7% potential, the dialogue on the hill is a \$1 billion stand along allocation for LIWAP that would be administered under HHS. Bottom line is as we can see what's happening in congress, everything is a wildcard right now. So, on the water side, we're doing all of our close down activities to allocate those funds throughout September. We are going out within the next couple of weeks on the water side, sorry, I know its HEAP, but I'll plug the water for a second, for a public input on a modification to the water state plan. So, if anybody wants to keep your ear to the ground, that's about how we're going to close out the program and provide supplement to households that we've served in September as we close out the program. If there's additional funds or additional program, that will be a different story.

But going back to HEAP – so the federal outlook is not good. The trickle down to us is worse. I hope that they do not monkey with the formula or put any twists in, but the twist that I'm going to tell you about is the discussion about supplemental funding or contingency funding that would

be tied to the regular base funding. Personally, supplemental funding as we had this year enabled states to be able to do things and be proactive and increase benefits knowing that we had a need as opposed to contingency funding which has to be released based off of a natural disaster or an occurrence, increase in costs, fuel scarcity and natural disaster, the President would propose and be able to declare and then be able to release those funds. It is reactionary and generally, by the time those funds are released, the emergency is past and then we're just trying to catch tail. So, that's the trickier part of the funding that's being discussed as we move into 2024. It seemed so far away last year and it's here now. So, I'll stop there if anyone has any questions.

Kira Pospesel: So, I can't let this opportunity go by, so this is interesting because clients, all of us have certain behaviors, and so what's going to happen is if somebody really is an emergency, they are going to come to the local districts, and we're going to end up authorizing the benefit on the emergency side, and as you know how long that takes and that becomes a nightmare not only for us, especially with the staffing levels that all of the counties have at this point, which is really just dismal, but for the vendors and everybody else. So, we're going to have people out there who are really going to end up in horrific emergency situations, and if we have below zero like we did for that one week that we had, people really forgot what that was like, and it was amazing here at least in the Catskills the stories of the bust pipes and everything else because people were not prepared for that. So, that would be a shame. We've done many good things with this program, and we would absolutely go backwards if we couldn't do those benefits up front and get those things out there before the emergencies are really happening here. So, Andy, keep fighting.

Andrew Bryk: You have a champion in Emily, I'll be very honest. She's making sure that the spending plan it adds up, we are reconciling, we are staying on top of the numbers so that we know exactly where that checkbook is so that, as bluntly as they say it, landing in right on the belly so that we're meeting the needs of the households in the state.

Ken Gossel: Okay, I throw it back to you Jeff.

Jeff Hanford: The last thing we had on the agenda which is the grant membership.

Andrew Bryk: I'll take that. Sorry, I will. In the Interagency Taskforce with our sister agency the other day, I brought it up that the Public Service Commission, Department of State, SOFA, who am I leaving out, I think the Department of Health, its all of the agencies within the energy space. So, I brought up the discussion of the HEAP Block Grant, and how we really need members. I've thrown out a couple of names, and I've got a couple people that have expressed interest via these parties, DPS had somebody, Richard Berkeley out of Richard Berkeley's prior establishment that might be interested, HCR had somebody who was interested. I think those perspectives would bring great value to the Block Grant. So, we're an Executive Agency, I think there's nothing wrong with our agency putting forth some recommendations if we have people. I know Andy Stone was one of the ones who made the recommendation of HCR to solicit them. When I discussed it with our executives, OTDA will be putting together letters to the legislative leaders and Stewart-Cousins and Carl Hastie to make sure that they are aware they do have open appointments available on this Block Grant, and we're going to make the Governor aware that she also has appointments available, so that they're aware. And we're going to put together

information for parties who are interested in getting involved and how they would then petition their elected official to be nominated to be on the Block Grant. Commissioner or Ken, you both came out, Ken, I know you came out of the Senate at least Ann Marie did but you also got her appointment and had to go through the process. So, Commissioner, you'll have to forgive me if you were through the Executive or through the Assembly.

Kira Pospesel: The Executive.

Andrew Bryk: Thank you. So, Ken you're the only member that I have right now that is not from the Executive Chamber, so that said, any insight that you'd be willing to lend in your guidance to us as we put that information together so that others might be able to be part of the Board.

Ken Gossel: Sure, absolutely, will take it back and discuss further. We do need new active participants to further all of our objectives to assist clients and customers.

Kira Pospesel: And I'm going to second the word that Ken used, active not in name only. This isn't just come to have your name on a piece of paper, that person has to open their mouth and come forth with some sort of words, so we can all have a conversation, or we'll beat it out of them (laughing).

Andrew Bryk: One of the individuals is very active in our space and I think she would bring a lot of value from Richard's old alma mater; I don't think I can veil it any thinner. We lost Charlie; he came from that organization. He then as he retired became a citizen advocate. I think it would be great to have some advocates to keep us honest, to move the dialogue in that direction. I'll be very honest, Commissioner, I think we've lost Paul at this point to NYPWA. We have not received a resignation. I am looking actively, and I will ask you point blank, you can say off the record, if you want to send me an e-mail, if you have any recommendations of your fellow commissioners that you would recommend that we put forth. I have one a little north of us that was pretty vocal and has been pretty good as far as being able to give us information. And then the other individual from HCR has been, I would say is moving that organization very progressively. So, that individual might be a good insight to help us making sure that we're putting our plan together so that we can coordinate our programs moving forward. I'm sorry that Andy Stone isn't here today. I actually was going to ask Jeff - we'd really like to do something as far as furnaces and emergency replacements in coordination with heat pumps and moving forward into that and how can we collaborate in that space? So, potentially moving forward with a subgroup to make a recommendation to the Block Grant and the OTDA, how we could move forward to facilitate electrification in that way, especially when we have an opportunity to not put a fossil fuel appliance back in if there is an opportunity. Be mindful and I'll be very mindful when I say it about the increased electric load and the increased heat load you know, the energy burden ratio on that household. So, what would have to be coupled with that and how could we do that best to serve households? And my final statement is going back to a \$4 billion level just really punctuates the need for better communication and collaboration, especially with our utilities through the EAP program. Because that piece of the puzzle or that piece of the pie just got even that much more important, because these are our dollars, these are our local dollars that we're reinvesting into our low-income households. So, it's even going to be a larger percentage if we have to reduce our benefits and so, as an agency, as a state, we need to

make sure that we're doing the best we can to make sure that everybody that potentially can be, should be, and is enrolled into an EAP program. I'll stop there, thank you all.

Vivvy Williams: Everyone is still here right now, is that the end of our meeting?

Andrew Bryk: Do you have future business?

Ken Gossel: I was going to jump in, sorry as I said, I was I didn't have it in my calendar and unfortunately, I did not get an electronic notice. I'm just looking at the minutes as well, and I propose that we put those off until the next meeting, the minutes from February 2nd. I have no other new business, but just was going to ask Commissioner or others any new business to discuss?

Kira Pospesel: No, but I think we're in person for the next meeting in August.

Ken Gossel: Okay.

Vivvy Williams: Yes, we are, we are in office.

Ken Gossel: And that is Thursday, August 3rd, 1:00 p.m. in studio. So, that's all I have at this point in time. I guess I'll make a motion to conclude the meeting.

Kira Pospesel: And I'll second that.

Ken Gossel: Okay, all in favor, that's everyone. So, thank you all very much. Enjoy your summer and greatly looking forward to seeing you all at the August 3rd session. I appreciate it, and again apologies for my delay in joining.

Vivvy Williams: Yes, and I will have to say that I apologize to everyone as well. I noticed that you weren't there Ken.

Ken Gossel: Thanks for letting me know. I got to watch Emily's great presentation on the public access, so thank you. Enjoy, take care.