

EAP Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2022

Meeting Minutes - New Hampshire Electric Coop (Robyn Sarette)

Present: Jeanne Agri (CAP Belknap-Merrimack), Jessica Arnold (Liberty), John Braswell (Eversource), Sue Corson (UES), Gary Cronin (DOE), Karen Emis-Williams (NHLWAA), Don Kreis (OCA), Amanda Noonan (DOE), Valerie Provenzano (CAP Belknap-Merrimack), Maureen Reno, Robyn Sarette (NHEC), Stephen Tower (NHLA).

1. Review of January 28, 2022, and February 17, 2022, draft minutes.

No corrections. Approved.

2. Update on Consultant RFP

Amanda: There has been 1 bidder. Their bid has not yet been reviewed.

3. Online Application for EAP – status update

Jeanne commented that as the system ages, adding integration could cause issues. The topic of a standalone application could be possible. There are secure ways to do this, but research is still needed. Question proposed if we should proceed with a standalone or should we wait until there can be an overhaul of the entire system (noted that has no timeframe)?

Conversation included that if we do a standalone application now, there is a chance now that the platform could allow integration in the future. It could drive the cost higher, but it is a goal for this improvement. Making this work will be easier for applicants. Applying online is easier than having to go to the agency. It is working effectively with FAP. It has been noted that streamlining this process has proven successful with NHERAP and FAP. It was unanimous to move forward with the standalone option.

Amanda noted that there are conversations happening around an entire overhaul of the EAP system, however, there is minimal movement.

4. EAP Advisory Board Meetings – format

Discussion between virtual and in-person meetings. It was agreed that we will meet in person in July. It is important that everyone feels comfortable attending understanding that could be different for everyone.

5. New Business

Karen asked how the NewStart program at Eversource is going. John reported that it is going well.

Valerie reports they have touched base with Town Square Media to take the next steps on what another campaign could look like. Currently collecting data but no timeframe yet.