

EAP Advisory Board Meeting

Follow up to Quarterly Mtg

February 17, 2022

Present: Jean Agri – Belknap Merrimack CAP; Christopher Vought – Belknap Merrimack CAP; Sue Corson – Unital; Amanda Noonan – DOE; Gary Cronin – DOE; Matthew Fossum – Unital; Mary Schwarzer – DOE; Robyn Sarette – NHEC; Kevin Landry – Belknap Merrimack CAP; Valerie Provenzano – Belmont Merrimack CAP; Karen Emis-Williams – NHLWAA; John Braswell – Eversource; Steve Tower – NHLA; Jessica Arnold – Liberty; Don Kreis – OCA; Ray Burke – NHLA; Kenny Landry – Belknap Merrimack CAP.

The DOE opened the meeting stating the original intent of the meeting was to discuss the scope of work for consultant for the Request for Proposal (RFP), referencing the outline for a scope of work that was circulated in advance of the meeting. However, things have changed given the recent order from the NHPUC, Order 26,576 in DE 21-133.

There was general discussion regarding what role, if any, the Advisory Board wants/should play going forward. Who speaks for the board? The OCA suggested an option would be no one speaks for the board; it's not their role. The DOE mentioned the Advisory Board's rules of Governance state that no member speaks for the Board without authorization from the board. In the past, the PUC Staff has submitted recommendations to the PUC on behalf of the board, but only following discussion and review by the board. The DOE could continue in that role going forward, or another approach could be considered.

The OCA stated there is a big value to make statements of what is known to be true. The OCA stated support for the DOE continuing in that role, and that one voice for a group of individuals is valuable. There was agreement for one voice (general nodding to unified voice). Multiple parties behind one voice carries more weight, though it can be hard to get all to agree sometimes.

Discussion on specific questions from NHPUC order:

Q7 – How Advisory Board intends to reduce current balance. Possible responses/options were discussed one of which was the reason why the Board wanted to hire a consultant. NHLA strongly feels part of the response should address OSI's lack of progress regarding the development of new software. This has been a long process over several years.

Q 9 – What the Advisory Board recommendation is. Consensus was the recommendation answers the question.

OCA inquired if the Commission has the recommendation. It was filed with the clerk's office in June so they should have it, but it is unknown if they have seen it.

The DOE asked if the Board wanted to review the record request responses submitted by the parties in DE 21-133. The consensus was yes, the Advisory Board would like to review draft response that are due on February 28. The DOE committed to forward the responses to the Board. There was general agreement that would be good approach.

The DOE also pointed out the 8% tier is a huge group and commented it would be interesting to have the consultant look at perhaps splitting that group. The question is whether this group is an underserved group.

The DOE also commented on the general approach that had been agreed to by the parties to DE 21-144. The parties were discussing petitioning the PUC to act on the June 16, 2021 Advisory Board recommendation and requesting a longer procedural schedule to accommodate the work of the consultant. NHLA shared it was considering hiring a consultant of its own if the PUC did not approve the Board's June 2021 recommendation.

The DOE will share the data gathered in response to Q 11 and 12 with the group.

The Board wants to extend a warm welcome to Valerie Provenzano, who was introduced to the group as the new EAP Director.

Meeting adjourned: 3:24 pm