

July 14, 2010

Energy Council Meeting Conference Call

10:12 PM

Attendees: Jason Wimbley, Val Martinez, Louise Perez, Arleen Novotney, Kathy Kifaya, Dennis Osmer, Andrew Signey, Cliff Allenby, Joan Graham

Also in attendance: Don Williams, Melissa Martin, Maria Caudell, ChuckBelk, Dianna Molina, Mary , Leslie Campenella

Call-in: Chris Johnson

Directors Report :

Only as strong as our weakest link, so its our job as a network and group to be effective we all have to be aware and ready to deal with these issues when they come up and its going to require help from the network and CSD is willing to do whatever they can do to help those weak links become strong.

GAO LIHEAP REPORT: (handout of matrix that highlights recommendation of the GAO report.)

Since the report has been released there have been a number of reactions and Mark Wolf is trying to coordinate with HHS and the SS Administration to obtain access to their information.

A number of states have been in discussion of best practices and a number of states have moved forward in verifying SSN but it comes at an enormous cost- 25,000 upfront and \$5 per record. This is where Mark Wolf interjected himself and is trying to put together a meeting with the departments.

Critical findings, because the program is a block grant HHS does not provide prescriptive guidance and pout things in broad terms to leave the states there own discrepancy- so going forward the feds is strongly encouraging us to collect SSN but not giving authority to establish it a condition as eligibility. At the state level the state has encouraged departments to collect only required or essential information, but the state controller officer relies on SSN so they are encouraging us to collect it, but with the findings of this report the feds see how critical the SSN is and is encouraging the states to collect it, but is not a directive. Currently CSD is receiving 100 clients a week going through helpdesk who do not want to provide SSN information.

Rejections- CSD is seeing the most of the names do not match exactly as it is, in CSD database and the CSD database won't accept if it does not match. People do still have the ability to look-up duplicates in the CLASS System. CSD will send out a reminder that agencies can check CLASS.

The critical findings of the report is that HHS has failed to provide specific guidance to states; relies primarily on broad regulations for states to establish appropriate systems and procedures to prevent

fraud also that the states lack a comprehensive fraud prevention framework consisting of the following elements: preventive controls, detection and monitoring, and investigations and prosecutions.

The recommendations of the GAO report recognize that not all these things are feasible but it is up to the state to look into and evaluate the feasibility of the recommendations within their own programs.

CSD planned approach response to the GAO Recommendations for Fraud Prevention:

CSD will research and determine the feasibility of requiring total household data.

CSD is researching the possibility of an interface with SAA in the near future and evaluating the associated costs as well as the appropriate enhancements to CSD's database.

In the event that CSD does begin to capture total household data it would be possible to detect a household member that moves and reapplies at a different address.

The validation is performed at data entry and second time when a record is placed on a data file payment

CSD will research and determine the feasibility of obtaining access to prisoner information, including internal enhancements to incorporate the data.

CSD will research and determine the feasibility of obtaining access to State Directory of New Hires and nursing home facilities, including internal enhancements to incorporate and evaluate the data.

NEXT Steps CSD State Plan- there has been a supplemental addition asking CSD what is their intention in handling verification of audits, the authenticity of vendors, how individual agencies are audited, how payments are being credited to an account, so CSD has to explain what they are doing currently and how they plan to do it in the future. Gives CSD a chance to explain how they do things now, and how they are looking into how to do things in the future.

DOE ARRA- Updates

DOE Audit and Priority Measures Request has been submitted to DOE and DNR is reviewing, there has been a conference call with RHA and DOE technical advisors and trying to get more information from RHA on conducting evaluations, the meeting ended with RHA committed to providing follow up information to DOE and it will take DOE 3weeks to complete the review.

SHPO- moving forward with the Aug 1st date anything assessed, in-house getting it setup- and trying to setup informal reviews on web-based application- but till that gets up and running will develop an interim steps and that will be released later next week. CSD is in talks with Department of general services to use SHPO consultants they currently use to do CSD formal reviews initially as CSD develops their own consultants. CSD is pushing the turnaround to be 1-2 days on formal reviews, and desk

reviews to be no more than the afternoon. More information will be found out in their meeting July 15th. This is for everything across board LIHEAP, SOLAR, and DOE.

Affordable Housing- CSD issued grant guidance memorandum to how services should be provided and substantiating the benefits to the tenants. In the grant guidance the preference was given to EE measures, and as part of that service do include H&S benefits. For some of the providers there is a learning curve. The memo including new procedures of enrollment, and shifts from individual client to the property manager, and made mention of intake form they will be designing based on the pilot done with orange county and CRP. (Form was passed out)

There are five workshops scheduled for the WX and affordable housing exchange. They want to reschedule the San Diego and Los Angeles workshops to September but the Sacramento (10th) and Fresno (11th) are as scheduled. The San Francisco workshop will be completely cancelled and then moved to the inland empire.

People need to understand the differences between the two.

HUD-don't have to do income but still have to do everything else and determine 66% or not.

Affordable Housing – still have to do complete intakes BAU and the manager cooperation is the only benefit you are going to have. How successful we are going to be will be a case by case basis.

Work close with the CA Housing Partnership but there are other affordable housing groups not part of Matt's. So the push back is to invite these other groups to those meetings.

CSD will host a training session to these new policy changes and how they do not qualify across the board, and to clarify the rules and how they do not qualify to LIHEAP. Take the information and apply it to how they do business. This meeting will be from 1030-130on Aug 4th at CRP. CSD will send out a notice.

Statewide Unit Production-

Completed 8,679 units to date with the goal being 8,966 so off by 287. Looks like we are track meeting 30% target but the concern is with agencies that are woefully underperforming. The funds allocated at these agencies are at risk. CSD is in constant talk with agencies that are not performing.

CSD has to look at redirecting, and CSD has to be selective in the number of entities to bring on board, who do not know the process. When Sept. 30th rolls around the funds will have to be allocated.

Cash Flow and reporting- not only a system issue but also a staffing issue to handle review and processing of the reports.

Suggestion of quarterly advance another suggestion is that CSD to look internally to see how long it's taking to process the claim –because if it gets processed faster then payment will be faster. CSD has looked internally and learned that 3 staff process reports and before the reports are approved they try to reconcile activity to expenditure, and what happens in the SART report discrepancies and they don't

reconcile to the number of units that they are reporting, it takes 2-3wks to complete process as before it took 2-3days. Donald Williams at CSD will provide guidance on the SART report discrepancies. Problem with ECIP-rewx on the SART reporting. CSD will look into this with Chris.

When Bob Adams is here CSD is hoping to get clarity on advancements. DOE fiscal grants management concurred with the BSA audit report but the program side of DOE saw the need of capitol as it is a capitol intensive program. CSD is hoping to get clarification.

Increasing T&TA funding for DOE and DOE ARRA- contract says 2% under LIHEAP and should be 5% it will be sent out as a grant guidance. Only for LIHEAP as DOE is different.

Department of General Services will be an interim solution.

LEAD Renovator Form- has to meet certain criteria as far as EPA form. It's a RHA form and some agencies went to CalCerts which it's a different form. SO CSD will look at the forms people are using.

LIHEAP Policy Discussion:

Increasing T&TA Budgets for LIHEAP WX and ECIP HCS- remedy with grant guidance

Increasing Support Cost Budget Line Items for Energy Cash Assistance & Sweats Components- In the past there was a 18% of the top of the total contract for support cost line item support cost allocation when it was ran locally and decentralized than went to 5% for everything. Program support before could be covered which is not covered under administrative costs that its program under intake. There will be an update on the issue once CSD gets a response back.

SWEATS local trigger, send email to CSD and state what will be done and why. The problem is the start and stop date especially the last winter when clients had no heater to provide immediate assistance would be to provide blankets or a portable heater. Is there a way to bill into HCS program if it cannot be built into the SWEATS to allow the flexibility for agencies. Suggestion is to cleanup SWEATS policy and to bill that in. CSD will look into the issue and said it should be an easy fix.

Adding Solar Water Heating As A New WX Measure- ACCES spoke to Chuck and Denise about the State program with a 3,000 match. One of the things to do is to add it under LIHEAP contingent on leveraging the funds with the rebates to be offered and run it for as long as those rebates are available and to buy down costs of the system- Costs on our end minus rebate 1500-2000. Rebate will be available for 7 years or till the money runs out. Look into implementing 2011 and see if standards are solid and a criteria of target homes, and any training that may be needed. Will be treated as an optional measure.

Next Meeting will be Sept 14th and next meeting will be Aug 4th for training.