

**NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF WELFARE & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC
HEARING TO ADOPT LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP) and NEVADA FUND
FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND CONSERVATION
SFY 2016 STATE PLANs AND POLICY MANUAL AMENDMENTS**

The public hearing to adopt Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation SFY 2016 State Plans and Policy Manual Amendments was brought to order by Steve Fisher, Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1st, 2016. This meeting was video-conferenced between the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Professional Development Center, 701 N. Rancho Drive, Training Room 5, Las Vegas, Nevada and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Central Office, 1470 College Parkway, Room 149, Carson City, Nevada.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Fisher, Administrator
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, Program and Field Operations
Lori Wilson, Chief, Employment and Support Services
Betsy Ransdell, Energy Assistance Program Specialist, Employment and Support Services
Jessica Cutts, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Leandra Copeland, Legislative Counsel Bureau

STAFF PRESENT IN THE SOUTH

Judith Temple, DWSS EAP
Angelia Haskett, DWSS EAP

GUESTS PRESENT:

North

Linett Rodriguez, Washoe County Social Services
Sue Martin, Nevada Housing Division
Stacy Woodbury, Southwest Gas

South

Alexander Corey, Review Journal
(one additional guest present – name unknown)

Mr. Fisher opened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m. and explained how the hearing will proceed. He explained this public hearing was noticed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and posted on the Division's website. He asked everyone to please sign in and include e-mail addresses to be included on the Division's mailing list.

***I. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)**

The benefit program year begins July 1, 2016. A FY 2017 state plan is necessary to delineate the program benefits, eligibility criteria, available emergency/crisis assistance, and other policy changes occurring in the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.

PROPOSED UPDATE FOR THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP) FY 2017 STATE PLAN:

Ms. Wilson announced that the program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document. Clarification of language throughout the document is proposed to be updated.

Ms. Martin announced that the Housing Division has no significant proposed program changes for FY 2017 other than updating one of the Leveraging Programs from Southwest Gas Corporation Weatherization Assistance to the Governor's Office of Energy Weatherization Assistance and that households approved for LIHEAP funded weatherization services must be seniors over 60 years old and a NV Energy customer to be eligible.

The Energy Assistance Program has no significant proposed program changes for FY 2017.

Mr. Fisher asked if there were any questions or comments from the south.

Hearing none, Mr. Fisher asked if there any questions or comments from the north.

Hearing none, Mr. Fisher moved to item II.

***II.** Nevada Fund For Energy Assistance and Conservation

Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 702, requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division, to adopt regulations for the administration of energy assistance and weatherization services to low-income Nevadans.

PROPOSED UPDATE NEVADA FUND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND CONSERVATION FY 2017 STATE PLAN

Ms. Wilson announced that the program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document. Clarification of language throughout the document is proposed to be updated.

Ms. Martin announced that the Housing Division is proposing: an increase to the average per household expenditure by the program Subgrantee from \$6,000 to \$6,750; that single family dwellings be exempt from the 50% landlord contribution for capital improvements; and adding that services to rural counties may be completed on a rotating basis with only emergency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning ((HVAC) provided annually.

The Energy Assistance Program has no significant proposed program changes for FY 2017.

Mr. Fisher asked if there were any questions or comments from the south.

Hearing none, Mr. Fisher asked if there any questions or comments from the north.

Hearing none, Mr. Fisher asked if there were any questions or comments not related to the agenda for this meeting.

There were no additional questions or comments.

Hearing no additional questions or comments, Mr. Fisher adopted the plan amendments on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective July 1st, 2017.

Mr. Fisher thanked those in attendance for their participation in this public hearing. He closed the public hearing at 1:41 p.m.