



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Low Income Energy Assistance Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Recording of Webex Meeting Held on October 28, 2021

Recording

Topic	Password
Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Webex Meeting-20211028 1800-1	No password

Attendance:

PAC Members: Sarah Moskowitz, Citizens Utility Board (CUB); Jared Policicchio, City of Chicago-City Mayor's Office; Joan Howard, Illinois Commerce Commission; Eric Shrader, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas (Proxy); Kris White, Will County Center for Community Concerns; Nichole Owens, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd); Ellen Rendos, Nicor Gas; Kimberly Bond (Proxy), Ameren Illinois; David Wortman, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Guests: Aarian Smith, ComEd; Granada Williams, Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA); Julie DeSalvo, MidAmerican Energy; Latoya Butler, CEDA; Kimberly Roberts, CEDA; Larry Dawson Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA), Abigail Miner, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Diana Fuller, IACAA; Brauder G. Smith, Ameren; Manuel Alicea, CEDA; Martha Strawser, City of Rockford Human Services; James Agnew, Illinois Commerce Commission; Craig Antosh, CEDA; Ronita Gamble, ComEd; Shahi Nawab, CEDA; Shimecka Anderson, CEDA; Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center (NCLC); Jennifer Jaeger, City of Rockford Human Services; Jennifer Marten, Nicor Gas; Kathy Segobiano, Department of Human Services (DHS); Mionia Booker, CEDA; Shelby Montgomery, CEDA; Anthony White, Ameren; Nina Jackson, CEDA ; Mindy Browning, ERBA; Chad Kruse, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); Jamey Neal, Ameren; Kathy Walk, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity; Allen Cherry, Low Income Utility Advocacy Project.

DCEO Staff: Leslie Ann Lesko, Deirdre Coughlin, Ben Moore, Mick Prince, Maria Gallardo, Cassandra Vaughn, Wayne Hartel, Garrett Vaughn, Marie Mueller.

**Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Webex Meeting Transcript
October 28, 2021**

WEBVTT

1
david wortman 00:00:57.180 --> 00:01:18.325
27 participants were 1 minute in, so we'll just jump into it so I call the meeting to order and want to remind everyone that the meeting is being recorded. We've got everyone on mute. So, if you later want to talk, you'll need to mute, but we're gonna continue to mute people. You can always enter questions into the chat area.

2
Maria Gallardo 00:01:34.120 --> 00:01:55.265
Good afternoon everyone this is Maria. You already done with uh, I will call the back members name so please either mute yourself and say that you are present or also we can monitor the chat and gather your attendance. So we'll start with bearing from.

3
Maria Gallardo 00:01:55.269 --> 00:01:57.634
People's gas in North North.

4
Maria Gallardo 00:02:04.720 --> 00:02:06.725
Family and support services.

5
Maria Gallardo 00:02:09.664 --> 00:02:11.555
Nicole Owens from comments.

6
Nichole Owens 00:02:13.235 --> 00:02:14.795
Hey, good afternoon. The call was on.

7
Maria Gallardo 00:02:15.635 --> 00:02:16.085
Thank you.

8
Maria Gallardo 00:02:17.410 --> 00:02:19.925
Let me brown from Emily.

9

Maria Gallardo 00:02:32.920 --> 00:02:36.725
Skilled send from Illinois area agency of aging.

10

Maria Gallardo 00:02:40.084 --> 00:02:43.204
Uh, 1, the Hopkins for himself.

11

Maria Gallardo 00:02:46.805 --> 00:02:49.355
Don't Howard from Commerce Commission.

12

Joan Howard 00:02:50.195 --> 00:02:51.305
I'm Maria. I'm here.

13

Maria Gallardo 00:02:51.665 --> 00:02:52.505
Hey.

14

Maria Gallardo 00:03:01.520 --> 00:03:13.185
Jared police police issue city of Chicago city majors office. Okay. Thank you. Uh, Ellen renders.

15

Maria Gallardo 00:03:17.905 --> 00:03:21.415
Right in Robertson from looters, Robertson and.

16

Maria Gallardo 00:03:24.209 --> 00:03:28.374
So the lawyer from champagne county and regional planning commission.

17

Maria Gallardo 00:03:31.374 --> 00:03:34.404
Terry vendor from department of human services.

18

Maria Gallardo 00:03:37.164 --> 00:03:41.604
Laurie walls, city of Chicago, the burden of family and support services.

19

Maria Gallardo 00:03:54.325 --> 00:03:55.615
The electric agency.

20

Maria Gallardo 00:03:58.435 --> 00:04:09.295

Giving right representing the independent energy providers and the last, but not least, uh, David department, the Department of commerce.

21

david wortman 00:04:09.895 --> 00:04:10.285

Yep.

22

Maria Gallardo 00:04:10.915 --> 00:04:18.954

Right. So I little monitored the chat as well but if any members had.

23

Maria Gallardo 00:04:18.984 --> 00:04:31.195

That had not identified themselves yet. Please let us know if you are present either a muting yourself or you can put your name on the chat. I'll turn it back to you.

24

david wortman 00:04:31.645 --> 00:04:40.105

Maria, I'm not an expert or, uh, uh, I, I don't know robert's rule uh, completely, but did we.

25

david wortman 00:04:40.109 --> 00:04:43.344

Do you have a quorum? It sounded like we had less than 50%.

26

Maria Gallardo 00:04:45.444 --> 00:04:58.614

So, we have 77 members so far with 8 because Eric, I'm seen his name now with the chat. So we got 8 members out of 19.

27

david wortman 00:05:00.234 --> 00:05:01.254

So, it's not a big.

28

david wortman 00:05:01.285 --> 00:05:05.815

You know, because we, the only thing we have to vote on is the approval of the minutes, uh.

29

Maria Gallardo 00:05:05.815 --> 00:05:06.325

Right.

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30

david wortman 00:05:06.325 --> 00:05:22.405

I think there's another voting item, right? I'm going to say that, since we only have 8 of 19, we're not going to approve the minutes. Um, we should probably on the next meeting.

31

david wortman 00:05:22.434 --> 00:05:28.134

That again, Maria just put on the January, or is it January?

32

Maria Gallardo 00:05:28.974 --> 00:05:30.534

January yes, that's correct.

33

david wortman 00:05:30.654 --> 00:05:33.834

Yeah, so we'll just do the approval of both meetings, uh, both.

34

david wortman 00:05:34.134 --> 00:05:34.614

Does that mean.

35

Maria Gallardo 00:05:35.334 --> 00:05:35.574

Okay.

36

david wortman 00:05:35.574 --> 00:05:43.554

Okay, so, um, but so everyone knows we do it the same way the link for the previous meeting recording and.

37

david wortman 00:05:43.559 --> 00:06:04.704

The transcripts were attached, so that is available. So we'll move on to the pack discussion items. I was asked earlier by Mick if he could jump the queue and go in front of ben's fiscal report. Because Mick has some other work he has to do later this afternoon. So, Nick, do you want to give you.

38

david wortman 00:06:04.710 --> 00:06:05.515

Position report.

39

Mick Prince 00:06:06.325 --> 00:06:08.455

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Yeah, thank you David. Can you hear me? All right.

40

david wortman 00:06:08.845 --> 00:06:09.205

Yep.

41

Mick Prince 00:06:10.135 --> 00:06:24.955

Okay, let me pull up my notes here real quick, so just real quick on production numbers right now it looks like we're right around 350 completed units, uh, with approximately 650 units in progress.

42

Mick Prince 00:06:31.280 --> 00:06:52.185

We're, we're obviously behind where we would like to be, um, you know, I think it's nationwide. Here's a, that we're experiencing fatigue and all business sectors and I, I think is also experiencing some of that on on some levels anyway. Um.

43

Mick Prince 00:06:52.454 --> 00:07:12.104

Couple of other quick updates many of our local agencies are wrapping up procurement right now. Um, it should have been done right around October 1st to coincide with the carry over grants expiring. But there's still a few agencies that are kind of in the final stages of contract execution.

44

Mick Prince 00:07:31.720 --> 00:07:52.865

Contractors, um, and some of the work the agencies did together, they, they worked together on a market analysis to create kind of a regional pricing structure. Um, I think varying levels of success right now, with, with the regional pricing, um, pilot.

45

Mick Prince 00:07:52.869 --> 00:08:13.294

So work together to arrive at a uniform methodology for prequalifying contractors as well as the scoring rubric for we're prequalifying those contractors. And I, I definitely think that part of the project was was a success. Um, so, anyway, hopefully we brought on some new contractors and.

46

Mick Prince 00:08:14.044 --> 00:08:24.664

And, uh, I've introduced the program to, um, some new folks, and we'll have some more resources here in the future. Um.

47

Mick Prince 00:08:25.324 --> 00:08:45.874

Some of the big work that we've been doing is with apex. I T, they're they're the developers for the new weather work system. The actual development hasn't started yet, but we've been working with them for the last couple months on, um, just getting all the requirements for the system. And so we're.

48

Mick Prince 00:08:46.474 --> 00:09:07.594

Definitely really excited about the prospect of replacing whether works and so far. So good. The project seems like it's, it's on track and, uh, we hope to have a new system here in the next couple of years. Um, 1 thing I did want to bring up, um, it's come to my understanding that the.

49

Mick Prince 00:09:07.774 --> 00:09:28.744

Program, uh, may be a need of updating the schema for system communications, between light heat, dot net and the utility providers. And if that, that, in fact is happening, I would definitely like to get considerations made for some of the changes.

50

Mick Prince 00:09:28.749 --> 00:09:49.894

In the schema, we basically require a lot of the same information that he does with respect to their performance measures looking at Pre and post Westernization, consumption data. So, anyway, I just wanted to bring that up that we would we'd like to be involved.

51

Mick Prince 00:09:49.924 --> 00:09:55.804

And discussion, if there is, in fact, a schema change on the horizon.

52

Mick Prince 00:09:57.634 --> 00:10:01.534

That's really all I have for updates David. If there's any questions.

53

david wortman 00:10:04.144 --> 00:10:13.624

I have a question Maria. Can you scroll down? So I can see the bottom of the uh, okay, so you're at 637 is that the number? I see at the bottom of.

54

Mick Prince 00:10:16.144 --> 00:10:21.394

That's units that are actually in progress. We have around 348 that are complete.

55

david wortman 00:10:22.204 --> 00:10:22.714

Okay.

56

david wortman 00:10:25.204 --> 00:10:26.194

Okay, I see.

57

Mick Prince 00:10:26.194 --> 00:10:27.484

Behind where we want to be.

58

david wortman 00:10:28.594 --> 00:10:42.814

Yeah, I was pulled up on my other screen. I have last year's numbers at this time and, uh, yeah, so this, uh, make sure that I understand this is starting from July 1.

59

Mick Prince 00:10:44.794 --> 00:10:45.334

Correct.

60

david wortman 00:10:45.754 --> 00:10:46.204

Okay.

61

david wortman 00:10:52.415 --> 00:10:57.485

All right any questions from the rest of the group here.

62

Nichole Owens 00:10:59.165 --> 00:11:12.995

Yes, this is the call from comment, um, certainly can understand and attest to the covet fatigue. I think we're all at that point. Was there any additional insights that you may have gathered? Maybe even from the agencies, if there's other.

63

Nichole Owens 00:11:13.089 --> 00:11:27.994

Factors that are clank into the numbers and you're saying 11%. So my 2nd, question is you stayed at 11% is behind where we want it to be just wanted to make sure where is it that we would expect to be at this point. I'm not sure if that's that 21.

64

Mick Prince 00:11:29.254 --> 00:11:34.234

No, we, we generally the 1st quarter is pretty slow and so.

65

Mick Prince 00:11:34.654 --> 00:11:55.294

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11, I, I'd like to see us at 25. um, we're not there. Um, generally, we're, we're not at 25% either. I'd have to go back and look at this time last year at the at the document, and see where we were then. But, of course, we had, it seems like we're in into our 3rd year of.

66

Mick Prince 00:11:55.504 --> 00:12:04.594

I don't think it's been quite that long, but it's impacted several program years now. So, um, but I'd like us to be right? Sitting right at a quarter.

67

Mick Prince 00:12:06.785 --> 00:12:07.895

Right.

68

david wortman 00:12:08.225 --> 00:12:12.005

I looked up the last 2 years you were right around 30 at this point.

69

Mick Prince 00:12:12.545 --> 00:12:12.965

Right.

70

Mick Prince 00:12:16.625 --> 00:12:36.215

That we're behind, and part of that is due to the fact that agencies are they have to do procurement and get these, you know, just got resource, uh, low resources. And when you have to break off and do a massive undertaking, like procurement, uh, then it will definitely.

71

Mick Prince 00:12:36.279 --> 00:12:37.204

Fact production.

72

david wortman 00:12:38.614 --> 00:12:57.154

Yeah, it looks like your units completed or significantly lower. You're actually a little higher on what's the last column called? Work orders so the units underway or last year you were at 404 right now you're at 637 on the units underway. So it looks like.

73

david wortman 00:12:58.234 --> 00:13:04.504

You you are behind, but, uh, there's more going now than were a year ago.

74

Mick Prince 00:13:21.285 --> 00:13:29.265

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In the trades in general, but also in web and so I, I think there's just a, it's kind of a perfect storm right now.

75

david wortman 00:13:33.614 --> 00:13:33.944

Good.

76

david wortman 00:13:37.160 --> 00:13:39.315

Their questions or comments.

77

Mick Prince 00:13:46.424 --> 00:13:46.634

Thank you.

78

Mick Prince 00:13:46.724 --> 00:13:47.054

Great.

79

david wortman 00:13:47.564 --> 00:13:54.314

Yep, thank you. Mick. Uh, moving on. We'll, uh, have Ben talk about his fiscal report.

80

david wortman 00:14:07.184 --> 00:14:07.994

It's been.

81

Maria Gallardo 00:14:11.535 --> 00:14:14.355

Saw it I think it may be double muted.

82

Ben Moore 00:14:16.639 --> 00:14:37.634

Sorry about that. Yeah so in weather station we have about 48.7 Million out to the grantees for this year and they've expended about 4.7, which is reflective of what we just heard Nick commenting on. This is somewhat of a slow start. So we have about 43.9.

83

Ben Moore 00:14:37.844 --> 00:14:42.854

Still available for the, for the grantees to utilize through this program year. Um.

84

Ben Moore 00:14:46.815 --> 00:14:54.495

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Don't really have any other comments on the weather report, um, portion of the reports and for why he.

85

Ben Moore 00:14:59.505 --> 00:15:18.675

In total, we have about 456Million out to the grantees, Marie if you could scroll down a little bit. So they could see the whole thing would be great and then my animals at all set. But so we're about 456Million out in total in in grants and so far about 413.

86

Ben Moore 00:15:18.705 --> 00:15:24.045

1Million of it expended with about 42Million remaining.

87

Ben Moore 00:15:29.534 --> 00:15:47.414

The RPR grant here, I'm realizing that the upper grant amounts are the amounts that are out to the grant are actually being utilized by grantee. The full amount for RPO is about 208Million. So, um.

88

Ben Moore 00:15:48.824 --> 00:15:53.744

I apologize in the middle of the report there so I think I need to look into.

89

david wortman 00:15:54.434 --> 00:15:54.944

Um.

90

Ben Moore 00:15:54.944 --> 00:15:55.844

To that amount.

91

david wortman 00:15:56.264 --> 00:15:57.734

What number are you talking about?

92

Ben Moore 00:15:58.274 --> 00:16:09.434

Well, the, the RPO in the middle, it only has 35Million. So I'm, I'm realizing that that I think it may be part of the problem that you and I were discussing.

93

Ben Moore 00:16:09.439 --> 00:16:17.594

This morning, David, or the dot net doesn't reflect all the grants that they haven't utilized any of it yet. So.

94

david wortman 00:16:18.074 --> 00:16:28.574

Yeah, Maria, can you scroll down? Just a little more so we can see the, uh, the bottom line number Yeah right there.

95

Ben Moore 00:16:28.604 --> 00:16:29.534

Okay, yeah.

96

Ben Moore 00:16:34.034 --> 00:16:42.734

I apologize I think there that I must have an error in the RPO. So that should be 208.

97

Ben Moore 00:16:47.924 --> 00:17:06.104

Which is gonna gonna impact the totals. So I think I'm gonna need to Relook at this day. Cause I'm, I'm realizing that that total that 456. if we add the 200 is gonna be more than we actually have out there.

98

Ben Moore 00:17:10.543 --> 00:17:16.634

So, I think I'm going to I need to revise this and we'll we'll send it out to the pack after I. correct. It.

99

david wortman 00:17:20.925 --> 00:17:21.615

Okay.

100

david wortman 00:17:25.994 --> 00:17:37.514

So people, so we can understand you've got the bold lines there. So what are the 4? So, the top line is the 21.

101

Ben Moore 00:17:54.280 --> 00:18:11.075

With the, and the supplemental, um, last year so that grant is effectively completed. The majority of grantees are utilizing their offer grant at this point, which is the 2174 in the middle.

102

david wortman 00:18:12.185 --> 00:18:15.215

So, the next bold, the 22.

103

david wortman 00:18:15.934 --> 00:18:20.554

For I would have thought that would have been largely unspent.

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104

Ben Moore 00:18:21.544 --> 00:18:22.684

Yeah, right.

105

david wortman 00:18:25.355 --> 00:18:38.585

So that's right so the top line is our is last year's grant, which is almost completely spent the next line is this year's 224 grant this year's grants.

106

Ben Moore 00:18:38.915 --> 00:18:39.845

And.

107

david wortman 00:18:40.055 --> 00:18:46.355

Largely unspent and then the 3rd bold is the, which is 2.

108

david wortman 00:18:46.449 --> 00:18:59.224

Nate, which we're trying to completely exhaust this year, but we're at the very beginning I think we've spent about 40Million as of this morning. I pulled it up this morning. And then.

109

Ben Moore 00:18:59.224 --> 00:18:59.344

So.

110

david wortman 00:18:59.344 --> 00:19:02.824

Is the, uh, this year state grant.

111

Deirdre Coughlin 00:19:06.304 --> 00:19:10.684

Because this is obligated to not expended Ben does that make a difference on the sheet here?

112

Ben Moore 00:19:13.684 --> 00:19:14.104

Um.

113

Deirdre Coughlin 00:19:16.354 --> 00:19:17.314

Maybe obligated.

114

Ben Moore 00:19:17.374 --> 00:19:34.354

No, not the 20, the 21 grant obligations and expenditure should be synonymous here. So I yeah, I, I think there's yeah, I'm realizing that this, the PIP number in the 2. 5, 4 is in.

115

Ben Moore 00:19:34.415 --> 00:19:55.355

Correct but the total available for the 207 grant, I may have sent the wrong report from Maria to post. I apologize because this is just not accurate. So I'm going to need to review this.

116

Ben Moore 00:19:56.254 --> 00:20:16.594

Because this year 1 thing I wanted to point out this year, we did break out the PIP grants in a separate series, the 207 there at the bottom and the, the 204, which is the state lie. Heap does not include tip this year. So, um, I.

117

Ben Moore 00:20:17.284 --> 00:20:20.494

It's just not right I am not sure what happens.

118

david wortman 00:20:21.124 --> 00:20:34.354

Because the, uh, the lie, each supplemental grants so the 205 for the, the 2nd, from the bottom that's bold. That is the state fund like dollars correct?

119

Ben Moore 00:20:34.444 --> 00:20:34.774

And.

120

david wortman 00:20:34.804 --> 00:20:37.804

The bottom bottom line is, is the state.

121

david wortman 00:20:37.864 --> 00:20:39.064

Pip numbers.

122

Ben Moore 00:20:40.384 --> 00:20:47.854

Correct yeah, and and the, the state, like, he should only be about 26Million or less so right.

123

david wortman 00:20:48.274 --> 00:20:48.574

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Right.

124

Ben Moore 00:20:51.214 --> 00:20:58.984

I'm sorry, it's just not accurate. So I'm gonna need to like I said, we, I can correct it and we can distribute it to.

125

Ben Moore 00:20:59.134 --> 00:20:59.734

To the.

126

david wortman 00:21:00.604 --> 00:21:04.384

And I think we could get that out here tomorrow.

127

david wortman 00:21:06.934 --> 00:21:09.424

I think we could have it by the end of day tomorrow. Correct?

128

Ben Moore 00:21:10.084 --> 00:21:11.374

Yes, definitely.

129

david wortman 00:21:14.014 --> 00:21:20.134

So, we will send, uh, we will send a revised out by end of day tomorrow. Um, I've been trying to.

130

david wortman 00:21:20.139 --> 00:21:40.894

Checking the, uh, dollars out, and we had a meeting with the local agencies last Tuesday. I believe I can't remember, but we're 7 weeks into the live heap here right now and really.

131

david wortman 00:21:41.314 --> 00:22:02.134

I, I was curious this far in whether we would look more like Pre covet or look like last year and it's not surprising that we're, uh, we're in between, uh, and I would say we're in between but closer to last year. And that's so, what that means, um, the.

132

david wortman 00:22:03.125 --> 00:22:23.585

When we reduce the face to face applications, the number of applications completed the percentage of applications completed. So an application started versus 1 that is given benefits. There's the denial rate last year under.

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133

david wortman 00:22:23.614 --> 00:22:43.444

That denial rate went way up in normal years. We would have about 9% of the applications would be denied. Last year. It was 26% this year. It's looking like it's going to be. It's I don't think it's gonna be 26, but we're I don't think we're going to be down at 9% again.

134

david wortman 00:22:44.764 --> 00:23:05.674

Spending rate it's early. It's hard to tell because we have that 30. we have a, you know, the length of time that a local agency has to take an application versus get it complete. So, the numbers kind of the money out the door is constantly changing and it's a bit delayed but it looks to me, like.

135

david wortman 00:23:06.214 --> 00:23:25.204

Uh, on a path to get the money out that we had budgeted, which, uh, was, um, well, lighting can fit together was 295Million. So, I think, uh, we're on track to do that.

136

david wortman 00:23:28.385 --> 00:23:30.785

So, Ben, did you have any more on? Is there a.

137

Ben Moore 00:23:31.805 --> 00:23:47.435

Well, no oh, yeah, I apologize. Yeah, there is there's the distribution of the state funds, which we have to programme T or per utility. So with the, the regular.

138

Ben Moore 00:23:49.114 --> 00:24:09.334

Distributed about 1.2Million to this, the distribution across the utilities in the regular heat state, light, heat fund and David I'm guessing that a majority of those are a good portion. Well, we did have some grantees who there are for Grant was not executed.

139

Ben Moore 00:24:09.544 --> 00:24:29.644

When the program started, so they needed to utilize state funds to start the program. And so I think that's actually a majority of it. The balance would be the, the customers, the undocumented customers who are eligible for the state funds, but not for the, the federal money. So.

140

Ben Moore 00:24:30.489 --> 00:24:51.634

That wouldn't make up most of those and now that everyone's our for Grant is executed. I would anticipate that there would wouldn't be much expenditure in the regular state. My heap grant for regular life activity until the RPO money is expended. Um, and then for Pip is about 20.

141

Ben Moore 00:24:51.664 --> 00:24:59.314

8.8Million, they're in obligated or accepted pledges for the state.

142

Ben Moore 00:25:04.355 --> 00:25:22.535

Okay, and just back on the other reports. So the, the new lanky board that started with the new fiscal year, October 1st, we have all of the grants ready to go, but we have not received our award yet. So the numbers on here.

143

Ben Moore 00:25:22.714 --> 00:25:43.174

Supposed to represent what was going to be available, but the, we don't have the award yet. Once we get the award then we can begin processing those grants and actually getting them executed. But for now, grantees are utilizing the RPO money, which, you know, we anticipate certainly should get us through to when we're able to execute the.

144

Ben Moore 00:25:44.464 --> 00:25:53.884

Grants and actually we don't really anticipate utilizing much of that 22 the new 22 award this program year. Right? David, based on our estimate.

145

david wortman 00:25:54.814 --> 00:25:55.054

Correct.

146

Ben Moore 00:25:56.284 --> 00:26:04.954

And then the livestock grants have not been issued we're in the process we're in the final stages of getting those out. So I didn't I didn't represent them here because the.

147

Ben Moore 00:26:04.984 --> 00:26:16.774

Graham hasn't officially started at any grantees, but again, we're in the final stages of getting the live off the water program grants out and hope to be able to allow grantees to start that program soon.

148

david wortman 00:26:19.444 --> 00:26:39.784

Maria, can you go up to the bottom of the 1st page so okay right there so the numbers that, uh, on the bottom there the 4. wow. Did that really add up to 5 fours 44,444. so that is the number of recipients.

149

david wortman 00:26:43.114 --> 00:27:00.964

Households and the 32,700 is a tip. Um, so those numbers are good. Uh, 2 years ago on 19 we had 21,000 in the.

150

david wortman 00:27:01.360 --> 00:27:21.995

Program last year we had 28,000, so 2128 and now we're 32.7 so the number of Pip households has increased significantly. I mean, from 21 to 32, that's a 50% increase from 2 years ago. And I'm looking.

151

david wortman 00:27:22.534 --> 00:27:33.844

I'm comparing the same October pack report from 19 to this year. So reporting, like, numbers were 50% higher. So that's good.

152

david wortman 00:27:38.705 --> 00:27:40.805

So, Ben, did you have anything else in your.

153

Ben Moore 00:27:41.345 --> 00:27:42.785

No, I don't think.

154

Eric Schrader 00:27:44.405 --> 00:27:55.595

David, is it, uh, is there a just curious since you have that up? What were the liking numbers that they come down to reflect the increased Pip enrollment or.

155

david wortman 00:27:56.885 --> 00:27:57.365

You can't.

156

david wortman 00:27:59.074 --> 00:28:18.904

You can't do that. Uh, I think that was Eric asking. You can't do that because we started at different points. So, the October report from 19, the light here had only started October. 1st. So we only had 18,500 on whatever, October 20.

157

david wortman 00:28:18.910 --> 00:28:24.995

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For 2019, but this year we started September 1 so it's hard to compare.

158

Eric Schrader 00:28:26.015 --> 00:28:27.215

That's fair, thank you.

159

david wortman 00:28:27.245 --> 00:28:31.745

Right, but the PIP, because it's year round, uh, the number should be comparable.

160

david wortman 00:28:37.504 --> 00:28:55.324

So, uh, if that's everything from Ben, as we said, we'll be sending out a revised document by the end of day tomorrow to everyone that's on this call and we'll move to the next discussion item, which is the program status report for likey.

161

Leslie Ann 00:28:58.204 --> 00:29:16.684

Thanks David. Good afternoon. Everyone the state plan for was submitted to August 30th, and it has been approved. The document can be found on the website. We, thank you all for your input.

162

Leslie Ann 00:29:17.225 --> 00:29:37.865

We will send this group a direct link to that document tomorrow with ben's revised fiscal report as David said, the new enrollment period started September 1st, and it's been open to all priority groups. Well, all groups in order to.

163

Leslie Ann 00:29:38.224 --> 00:29:47.914

Households with income loss, reduction, impacted by Covalent, so no priority groups. Everyone can apply. Excuse me.

164

Leslie Ann 00:30:10.225 --> 00:30:29.815

Uh, in terms of the application entry count, they have taken a total of 82,049 applications, uh, that is from September 1st to October 21st. So they have entered a lot of applications and.

165

Leslie Ann 00:30:30.774 --> 00:30:51.174

They then we've moved back to having the final disposition for applications be within 30 days of application date. So we look forward to seeing a lot of approvals coming up as David said we met with the last week. We had.

166

Leslie Ann 00:30:51.179 --> 00:31:12.084

touch base meeting to see how's it going so far this program here we discussed the importance of continuing to work with applicants and approved applications within thirty days work with customers to have less denials and getting the benefits paid

167

Leslie Ann 00:31:13.224 --> 00:31:33.474

To the utilities and the vendors within 45 days, we'll continue working with to better understand issues that they're currently facing that prevents prevents timely application approvals and hopefully less denials.

168

Leslie Ann 00:31:33.479 --> 00:31:53.904

Reminded the group about the program flexibility, such as proof of social security number if it's already been used on an approved application in the past, and it's in our database they don't have to get a copy of the social security proof utility bills.

169

Leslie Ann 00:31:54.745 --> 00:32:15.595

have different flexibilities for that the verified income will remain valid for ninety days excuse me which is the policy that we've had in the past presumptive eligibility means looking forward if they have some type of documentation or or

170

Leslie Ann 00:32:16.854 --> 00:32:36.924

Affidavit their own words, say, you know, that they've lost their income. It's sort of like a DHS has a stopped income policy, I think, or they used to we can look forward and say, we don't they don't we don't anticipate any income for them going forward and get them help that way. There's.

171

Leslie Ann 00:32:36.929 --> 00:32:58.074

On a regular check rule so that we're not counting if they get 5 checks in a month, because of the date, we're not counting that check against them. We're counting whatever to the customer's benefits or advantage and also using the intake workers out the David case notes. Et cetera, to try to.

172

Leslie Ann 00:32:58.079 --> 00:33:18.114

Tie the whole application together and get to an approval hopefully. So the flexibility are encouraged to help customers their barriers or in lieu of customer documentation when the customer has no other means of submitting documentation.

173

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Leslie Ann 00:33:19.674 --> 00:33:40.374

More agencies are using the customer inquiry portal, the upload feature for the documentation. So that's good to see. In addition. There are some reports available on my dot net that can assist agencies that they, we say, quote unquote work. They're denied.

174

Leslie Ann 00:33:41.155 --> 00:34:01.195

Look through your denied applications and make sure did they was the denial really? Correct can it be overturned respond to missing documentation as it comes in? After the denial? Excuse me? And they can overturn those documents. I mean, denials.

175

Leslie Ann 00:34:02.364 --> 00:34:22.164

As we discussed in previous meetings, and as a reminder, the new program details, we're maintaining heap income guidelines at 200% of federal poverty guidelines, and 60% of state median income. We increase the likely benefit matrix by 50.

176

Leslie Ann 00:34:22.824 --> 00:34:43.074

So that is significant. The, the reconnection assistance, maximum benefit amount has been increased to 1200 dollars per household per year. We are not having the good faith effort, or the customer payment requirement.

177

Leslie Ann 00:34:45.475 --> 00:35:04.585

Those are continued to be overwritten and the reconnection assistance benefit is being provided to eligible households, regardless of the restoration of energy services. Several of those we've had both policies have been in effect since March.

178

Leslie Ann 00:35:13.465 --> 00:35:31.555

And we're leaving the definition of imminent threat of disconnection to be at 300 or greater dollars outstanding balance. Instead of the 7 days prior to this connection. We.

179

Leslie Ann 00:35:32.129 --> 00:35:52.944

Have added categorical eligibility to our policy as a customer is active snap tennis, cash or cash. They the agencies can use their notice of decision letter to verify.

180

Leslie Ann 00:35:54.084 --> 00:36:14.034

And put the customer in the correct bracket where they need to be for their percentage of poverty. We put an insert into 450,000, DHS, notice of decision letters. It was in August reminding customers that they.

181

Leslie Ann 00:36:14.844 --> 00:36:35.574

That they may be eligible for and redirected them to, I think, a phone number and a website. It might've been to help you on our families. We have a new. Oh, this is new, new new I did. I think I brought this up a few meetings ago that we're going to be starting.

182

Leslie Ann 00:36:35.634 --> 00:36:56.724

Vendor monitoring, we're initiating this beginning in January, our federal funding source has been encouraging grantees to include vendor monitoring a process for years. So the goal of this monitoring is to ensure likely customer.

183

Leslie Ann 00:36:57.295 --> 00:37:17.875

Received their benefits and that they were properly credited to the customer's account in a timely manner. We've already met with the 6 regulated utilities to sort of get the ball rolling and we got a good meeting and in the future, we will add other vendors that we want.

184

Leslie Ann 00:37:17.879 --> 00:37:30.024

wanted to just start with the regulated utilities at first i know that was a lot of information so if you have any questions i haven't been able to look at the chat

185

Leslie Ann 00:37:33.654 --> 00:37:35.124

My best to answer.

186

Leslie Ann 00:37:38.874 --> 00:37:48.204

Okay, otherwise, um, Maria has the now it's meant to make and then she's going to talk about to program status.

187

Nichole Owens 00:37:51.595 --> 00:38:00.325

Hey, this is Nicole from comment before you transition, could you the vendor monitoring? Could you give a little bit more insight into that? What is that? Exactly?

188

Leslie Ann 00:38:03.025 --> 00:38:23.965

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Uh, we will be sending a sample a request for a random sample of the customers that we have information that we have provided he benefits I believe Aryan attended the meeting. I don't know if anybody else from comment was at that meeting. I think it might've been on October 5th, but we.

189

Leslie Ann 00:38:24.684 --> 00:38:45.144

Recently started meeting and we don't even have it all worked out that exactly what we're going to do because we wanted to work with all the utilities regarding exactly. What kind of proof of monitoring, what kind of monitoring items we need.

190

Leslie Ann 00:38:45.594 --> 00:39:03.324

To be able to check off our boxes that the payments were posted basically to the correct customer the correct amount that it reconciles with our records. The utility records meet match our records.

191

Nichole Owens 00:39:07.645 --> 00:39:27.595

Okay, thank you. I was unclear if you were saying that this is like, a system enhancement or process improvement, it might be a little bit of both. And the intent is to make sure that whatever is post it from a utility standpoint. And from an agency standpoint that the customer pain.

192

Nichole Owens 00:39:28.344 --> 00:39:34.884

Or the assistants grant is consistent that we don't have discrepancies between the 2 systems.

193

Leslie Ann 00:39:37.074 --> 00:39:48.744

Well, it's not a, our system electronically communicates with your system. It is each utility their representatives may need to request a certain query or.

194

Leslie Ann 00:39:48.749 --> 00:40:07.374

They might be able to run some different reports to be able to show us that the, or the sample that we choose that yes, it matches our records with the 2 records batch. It's just like an auditing monitoring process.

195

Leslie Ann 00:40:10.404 --> 00:40:14.724

Establishing it, I don't know Dan wants to jump in.

196

Ben Moore 00:40:15.114 --> 00:40:30.894

Yeah, Leslie and thanks. I mean, it's what you said it is, it's a manual process area and it's at this point, there's no nothing automated through the system for it. We will do a random sampling of benefits that we've.

197

Ben Moore 00:40:31.314 --> 00:40:52.194

We have on record in my heap dot net that we're paid for certain customers at each of the utilities. We're going to share that sample with utilities. They will gather the necessary documentation to validate that the payment that we have on record on. Why he gotten that was actually posted to that customer, you know, the proper customer's account and in a timely manner. So, at this point, it really is.

198

Ben Moore 00:40:52.200 --> 00:41:13.345

Manual, and I think what Leslie was talking about a query is in our meeting with the various utilities they indicated that they would likely need to create some kind of query to pull the data that we need. And actually, each utility is still kind of, I think, reviewing what what the most efficient process is for them to gather and work that may at this point the manual. So.

199

Ben Moore 00:41:13.974 --> 00:41:15.894

Um, hope that it gets a little more clarity.

200

Nichole Owens 00:41:18.084 --> 00:41:20.994

It absolutely does. Thank you. Thanks, Leslie, and appreciate that.

201

Ben Moore 00:41:21.324 --> 00:41:21.534

Sure.

202

Eric Schrader 00:41:25.404 --> 00:41:45.174

1 more follow up on 1, other item you mentioned, you said that more of the Las are using the portal to accept applications, um, are you tracking any kind of success on those applications? I know that last year when it was introduced, there was some trouble.

203

Eric Schrader 00:41:45.894 --> 00:41:58.194

You know, various customers had issues, you know, using the portal. So, I mean, are you seeing my question is, are you seeing more success for customers in using that? Are they getting better with it or that sort of thing?

204

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Leslie Ann 00:41:59.784 --> 00:42:06.804

Well, there's a couple of things that are intertwined there. The customer inquiry portal is.

205

Leslie Ann 00:42:06.929 --> 00:42:28.074

Place for customers can go check their application status statewide, any customers in the state as long as they know their application ID and some information about the head of household. And also, in addition to be able to check their status, they can check a box sign electronically. Sign their application.

206

Leslie Ann 00:42:28.079 --> 00:42:49.224

And they can also upload documentation so that's a separate system from the health, Illinois families where we had a Pre application that system we have changed a little bit. Now, we're not calling in a Pre application anymore, because for 1 thing, they never got an application ID number. And that was part of the.

207

Leslie Ann 00:42:49.230 --> 00:43:10.375

Last year, but what we did now is we're calling it a request for services, and the way the different are handling those requests for services are based on the way they're accepting applications. It's, it's for most of them. It's like a resource list that they.

208

Leslie Ann 00:43:10.380 --> 00:43:31.525

Go to, and they know that the customer wants to apply and then they reach out to the customer but in Cook County. See that they're they actually, they're helping our family request for services goes into seed as it transfers into their port there. I don't know what to say. It transfers.

209

Leslie Ann 00:43:31.529 --> 00:43:52.674

Into their own site where they actually do get more information from the customer, and it does lead to a Pre application. It is a Pre application for speed that only they have developed their own process. And so you might, I don't know if you want to check with them to see how that's working.

210

Leslie Ann 00:43:53.184 --> 00:44:13.824

Um, but as far as data goes for, like, the success of the documentation upload in that, that will be seen further in the program year. I don't really have that right now, except the denial rate, which is pretty high, but it's very.

211

Leslie Ann 00:44:13.884 --> 00:44:17.514

Early in the program year to assess that.

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212

david wortman 00:44:18.714 --> 00:44:28.704

Eric, I will, uh, add that, um, the denial rate that I was talking about earlier, that was 9% Pre, coven and 26% last year.

213

david wortman 00:44:30.985 --> 00:44:51.805

Some of that is connected to the fact that we built the help Illinois families and had clients fill out the Pre application. Some agencies took the Pre applications and put them directly into net prior to contacting the.

214

david wortman 00:44:53.184 --> 00:45:12.924

Other agencies took the information from the help on my family's Pre app, contacted the client. And then, when they knew the client had the documentation and such, then put it into light heat done yet. So different, uh, agencies did it differently. And it caused some agencies to have really high.

215

david wortman 00:45:13.465 --> 00:45:34.195

Um, denial rates, uh, they put it in prior to talking to people, uh, versus kind of going through and getting the application together and then putting it in as lesbian said this year. Uh, all except Cook County have been moved back to and this came from us.

216

david wortman 00:45:34.224 --> 00:45:55.344

To the network, and how they preferred most of the network preferred a shorter request for service that just has the name of the household, and that they want to be contacted for assistance. So, most agencies in the state are doing it that way. Sita is still doing the Pre app. They're still taking the information and my.

217

david wortman 00:45:55.349 --> 00:46:16.464

Standing is putting it directly into, like, heap dot net. I've been talking to SITA about their system and they're going to make efforts this year to reduce the number of applications that are denied. So it's early in the year and they're still working on it.

218

david wortman 00:46:16.795 --> 00:46:20.245

But the goal is certainly to improve on the numbers from last year.

219

Eric Schrader 00:46:22.885 --> 00:46:28.165

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Okay, great. That's that kind of answers my question and it sounds like good news. Thank you.

220

Maria Gallardo 00:46:33.714 --> 00:46:36.984

I think that this is my queue now too.

221

Maria Gallardo 00:46:39.295 --> 00:46:59.995

So, good afternoon, everyone I'm Maria Garda with to wrap up the discussion. Um, I'd like to report out. This is the time of the year that we work with the regulated utilities and propane vendors to collect the data for our.

222

Maria Gallardo 00:47:00.654 --> 00:47:21.354

Performance measures report this report provides a couple data, a lot of data points, but basically measures the energy burden of our population. The ones that we collect the data with the vendors. But also how.

223

Maria Gallardo 00:47:23.635 --> 00:47:42.415

Utilize fonts for restoration of, of services, or prevention of services, and all other data points. This report it's due to on January 31st of next year. So, like I said, we currently are collecting.

224

Maria Gallardo 00:47:42.684 --> 00:48:03.654

This data with, which is available by the way with the regulated utilities and the appropriate vendors. So thank you for always working with us. The, we send already the files to them and then we ask that the annual annual usage information be returned back to us.

225

Maria Gallardo 00:48:04.224 --> 00:48:12.234

By November 9th, so we appreciate your Trump response and and thank you for for your continuous partnership.

226

Maria Gallardo 00:48:15.265 --> 00:48:36.085

To all satisfying that a report requirement. I'd like to say that we look at the performance measures report in terms of energy burden, and also utilize that data when we are deciding whether we can increase the liking benefit. And, of course, you know, whether.

227

Maria Gallardo 00:48:36.114 --> 00:48:57.234

We have that phone thing available, et cetera. So Leslie, and reported we increase the heap benefit matrix this year, which is on target as, as you all have heard the news basically, you know, energy prices are going to be.

228

Maria Gallardo 00:48:57.384 --> 00:49:01.734

Increasing mostly for natural gas.

229

Maria Gallardo 00:49:03.144 --> 00:49:23.994

Although we don't have too much people hearing really annoying but, uh, and then some like Tracy as well. So that's that becomes an pointy of us, you know, races the benefits and, you know, we, we're glad that we did that. So, we can then help those customers that could potentially be coming to our doors. So.

230

Maria Gallardo 00:49:24.055 --> 00:49:44.395

Uh, uh, moving along with the report, the a total of 34,814,660, it's currently obligated annually on behalf of 32,722 customers that are enrolling beep.

231

Maria Gallardo 00:49:45.179 --> 00:50:05.244

So, we are looking at an average big benefit statewide of a 1063 dollars. So when we compare these against last year, during the same, uh, time of the year, last year, I stayed wide P benefit. It was a 1007. so we are roughly.

232

Maria Gallardo 00:50:06.354 --> 00:50:27.474

Spending a little bit more, you know, would be benefits of these here the opening applications or new enrollments also started on September 1st, along with the heap enrollment, period, Leslie and reporting. You know, we don't have any priorities it priority groups.

233

Maria Gallardo 00:50:27.505 --> 00:50:48.625

So instead eligible households would start applying you to September 1st, as we have reported in past meetings the statewide allocation increase this year, compared to previous year. So currently the state wide allocation.

234

Maria Gallardo 00:50:48.629 --> 00:51:09.294

To the, it's 58.8Million compared to 40Million dollars that we used to releasing prior year. So, you know, of course, this is 1 of the results of the energy affordability past discussions and the goal of continue increasing.

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235

Maria Gallardo 00:51:10.135 --> 00:51:30.535

Be as much as possible enrollment end date continues to be March 31st instead of the December 31st. And as you may remember, we move that date last program here with intent of helping those agencies.

236

Maria Gallardo 00:51:30.929 --> 00:51:45.204

Usually were leaving for their budgets, so hopefully that extra time could help them obligate those findings um, those, those funding or that funding, uh, by that time.

237

Maria Gallardo 00:51:49.104 --> 00:52:08.874

That gets a lack of funding status, or if at this time our approach this year will be that we will be moving funds to continue serving customers per that agency, funding availability or budget availability.

238

Maria Gallardo 00:52:09.295 --> 00:52:29.965

However, if there are no additional phones to be moved at this time, we plan to issue additional your fonts until December. So, at that time, we would know the spend spending rate of beep and whether we can add more funding to that specific, you know.

239

Maria Gallardo 00:52:31.224 --> 00:52:50.244

We had up the, uh, steering committee meeting, uh, 2 weeks ago. And 1 of the feedback, of course, you know, we received, was that, you know, if an agency stops taking application at this time, because we cannot move more further.

240

Maria Gallardo 00:52:51.300 --> 00:53:11.875

At this time we talk about that balance between closing people at this time, and then reopening in December. So, at the end of the day, it will be also up to the agency if they want to manage that. And how.

241

Maria Gallardo 00:53:12.449 --> 00:53:33.594

To manage that part. So today we only have 1 agency that, uh, has stopped taking applications as of October 1st, due to funding. And that is the CFS. We have an older, you know, potential agency that we're working with.

242

Maria Gallardo 00:53:34.524 --> 00:53:54.744

At this time to try to move funds around as much as possible, but that's kind of, you know, like, right now, in terms of the big funding is speaking of the steering committee we also heard from the local agencies during that.

243

Maria Gallardo 00:53:54.775 --> 00:54:15.865

Meaning that you're seeing more customers choosing DVB would offer based on the larger GDP benefit that they're getting by now. So I just would like to share that observation with the pack as well. In terms of the.

244

Maria Gallardo 00:54:15.924 --> 00:54:36.834

New program changes that we made to the peep program this year in terms of the star speed system, based on the Senate bill 265 we rolled these changes to the stars system, starting August 2nd and Daddy's. Now, our maximum.

245

Maria Gallardo 00:54:38.155 --> 00:54:58.165

Of the 8,800 dollar that we potentially provide to a customer between the gas and the utility. Now, the speed eats 50% or 900 dollar will go to the gas utility. And then the 900 dollars will go to.

246

Maria Gallardo 00:54:58.524 --> 00:55:19.284

Electric company, also the buying portion requirement or the CPR split of the 6%. Also 3% will go to the gas and then 3% will go to the electric company. And then finally the drop date change to 75 days.

247

Maria Gallardo 00:55:19.554 --> 00:55:38.844

For 1 payment, instead of the 45 days that we used to have in the past, and, you know, we still are sending the normal number of reminder letters to the customer to tell them, hey, you know, you have to make your payments.

248

Maria Gallardo 00:55:40.555 --> 00:55:55.885

Current and pay your bills all the time, right? The due date, otherwise you could potentially be drug, you know, from the program. So, let me make a pause and open now the floor for any questions or comments.

249

Maria Gallardo 00:55:58.854 --> 00:56:02.274

See, that the chat doesn't have any new questions.

250

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Larry Dawson 00:56:02.274 --> 00:56:13.074

This is this is Larry from Micah. I missed the, uh, I missed the, um, the average benefit, the new average benefit amount for.

251

Maria Gallardo 00:56:14.034 --> 00:56:19.734

So, this here, it's a 1063 compared to last year.

252

Maria Gallardo 00:56:19.980 --> 00:56:23.485

During this time of the year, it was a 1007 dollars.

253

Larry Dawson 00:56:23.965 --> 00:56:25.105

Okay, thank you.

254

Maria Gallardo 00:56:25.375 --> 00:56:25.735

Okay.

255

Larry Dawson 00:56:28.439 --> 00:56:34.734

I guess 1, other question, I know this is off Pip, but was, it was the average benefit amount share for the likey program as well.

256

Maria Gallardo 00:56:40.734 --> 00:56:57.924

I think we did not have weather, um, you know, we were looking around, uh, you know, earlier and, uh, based on the total dollar amount, uh, spend and the.

257

Maria Gallardo 00:56:58.050 --> 00:57:18.535

Number of customers serve so far our average 1 time benefit right now it's 892 so when we compare it against last program here during the same October meeting, it was that 1 time benefit of 696. so you can tell that.

258

Maria Gallardo 00:57:20.064 --> 00:57:26.394

We're spending more for the by benefit, at least on the 1 time benefit.

259

david wortman 00:57:26.934 --> 00:57:40.344

Yeah, Larry, I think, um, from doing, like, projecting what it's going to end up, I, I do think we'll end up over a 1000 dollars per application. It it varies because you.

260

david wortman 00:57:40.884 --> 00:58:01.194

The way that, I say per application, you got furnace in there as well. So, the year as the year gets longer and you have the furnaces and the added then it changes the number. So, the 890 or whatever that Maria just said will be a low bar. And as the year goes on, it'll get closer to 8,000 dollars per.

261

Larry Dawson 00:58:02.005 --> 00:58:03.265

Okay, thank you.

262

Deirdre Coughlin 00:58:09.385 --> 00:58:12.295

Maria, this is dierdra question Marie.

263

Deirdre Coughlin 00:58:12.804 --> 00:58:26.154

No, 1 has answered yet, but we're getting reports of a higher number of disconnections and a lower threshold. So if the companies could please put in the chat with the minimum, is that they're disconnecting at that would help us.

264

Deirdre Coughlin 00:58:30.714 --> 00:58:33.894

So the minimum amount, they're sending out disconnection notice.

265

david wortman 00:58:39.505 --> 00:58:43.045

Okay, are there any other questions for Maria on her.

266

david wortman 00:58:45.564 --> 00:58:46.584

Her presentation.

267

david wortman 00:58:51.084 --> 00:59:03.984

All right, so I think, uh, that leads to the other business and, uh, the 1st item up is, uh, I'm going to talk about the system rewrite.

268

david wortman 00:59:07.915 --> 00:59:27.205

This is, uh, I started this 2 weeks ago on the steering committee meeting. Uh, I talked about something. So, uh, for the people who were on that call, There'll be a little bit of a repeat, but I'm going to expand, uh, some of the thinking. Uh, but for people, I know that, uh.

269

david wortman 00:59:28.194 --> 00:59:48.414

A few people on here who may not be completely familiar with the way the CEO runs the 2 energy assistance program. So he is run through heap dot net. It's a 1 time benefit. And, like, heap dot net is the system that the only thing it does.

270

david wortman 00:59:48.804 --> 01:00:09.804

And, you know, the furnace benefit underlying heap, and then the PIP percentage of income payment plan that, uh, that program energy assistance program is run in a different system called stars. And we tried to.

271

david wortman 01:00:09.809 --> 01:00:30.954

To offer those 2 programs to a client whenever they come in to request service. So we're at the very beginning of an system rewrite here for. And because we have this opportunity to rethink the way that.

272

david wortman 01:00:30.984 --> 01:00:52.104

We do things since we have, you know, we're going to be redoing an system that's almost 20 years old. We're using this as an opportunity to review how we run our entire systems. And that includes.

273

david wortman 01:00:52.134 --> 01:01:13.254

Includes how we're doing the water program this year. So we just this morning, we had, I guess you would say the 1st meeting on the systems for the non weather station. So our weather's.

274

david wortman 01:01:13.260 --> 01:01:33.595

That ity system rewrite has begun we're working with a company called apex. They're writing a system in an Oracle platform and that that project is about 3 to 4 months into it. And.

275

david wortman 01:01:34.704 --> 01:01:55.524

Whether they have had long meetings, uh, they're, uh, they get homework every week that they have to bring back to the programmers to explain how our system works and what needs to be done. So this morning for the 1st time, the lie heap tip and.

276

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david wortman 01:01:56.034 --> 01:02:16.704

Program managers, uh, set down with our I. T people. So, uh, Julio Rodriguez is the chief information officer for the Department of commerce. So, uh, Julio, and his program manager, and the program managers for we all sat down.

277

david wortman 01:02:16.734 --> 01:02:37.704

Representatives from Oracle to start talking about what our goals were, how our programs run and what kind of things we were looking for in our system rewrite. So, Maria, do you want to go on to the next slide? So all of these.

278

david wortman 01:02:39.594 --> 01:02:59.004

The differences in technology from 2003, or whenever, like, dot net was written to today. Uh, have there been some immense changes that allow us to do things today that weren't possible when it was written and that allows us to rethink how we do our program.

279

david wortman 01:02:59.035 --> 01:02:59.275

Yes.

280

david wortman 01:03:02.304 --> 01:03:21.504

Slide so this is, uh, this is kind of a cartoon version of what we're thinking about. So, uh, the top box, there would be an online interface that all of the people using the.

281

david wortman 01:03:21.984 --> 01:03:42.714

Suite of programs would access that all of us would access it through the Internet. And that would be a state of Illinois people. So, and possibly, maybe some others, uh, the Department of, uh, or the controller or something like that. The local agencies would have.

282

david wortman 01:03:42.744 --> 01:04:03.624

Log INS, the utilities would have log ins, but also most importantly, I think the clients would be able to log in. They'd be able to enter an application through the online portal, but also then check on the application status and view.

283

david wortman 01:04:03.895 --> 01:04:25.015

What their benefit was, and where it was at so all of that, that top intake module of this system would then feed information into each of our programs. So, right now the weaponization is is being written with that intake system up top there uh, being part of.

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284

david wortman 01:04:25.020 --> 01:04:46.165

Whether it's rewrite and the authorization rewrite has a connection with the utilities right now. So it's in the early stages but the utilities will be we'll be bringing them in to talk about the communication with this new system and the utilities. So what I talked about.

285

david wortman 01:04:46.169 --> 01:05:07.314

2 weeks ago at the Pips up committee meeting was the concept of, uh, combining, uh, PIP and into 1 program that I'm calling. Why he plus, that would try to take as many of the positives as many of the things that, uh, the poverty advocates and clients like.

286

david wortman 01:05:07.524 --> 01:05:27.984

About Pip and trying to incorporate them into a more robust program so that, uh, we have 1 program available to all clients. And that program would possibly have have some of the aspects of tip.

287

david wortman 01:05:28.644 --> 01:05:49.614

Uh, give, uh, client's options and all of this, it's a complicated process that we're starting right now, because all of this are things that I think, and I, I imagine are possible, uh, but we still have to work with the I. T, folks to make sure that, uh, some of the things that we're thinking can be done.

288

david wortman 01:05:50.035 --> 01:06:10.765

Indeed can be done so it's going to take, uh, input from stakeholders early on in the next. I'm saying, next few months on whether or not, they think these things are good ideas and then we're going to have to communicate these ideas.

289

david wortman 01:06:10.770 --> 01:06:31.855

Do the I T, people as we draft the, uh, work scope budget schedule for this system rewrite we need to be saying, this is what we would like, and then they can tell us. Yes. That's possible. Let's put that in the budget or possibly. No, that sounds like something that we can't do. So.

290

david wortman 01:06:32.694 --> 01:06:52.404

Over the next few months we're going to need to be communicating so that we're all on the same path. And, uh, everyone agrees that this is something we should try to do. And then D CEO would work with the vendor to.

291

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david wortman 01:06:53.069 --> 01:07:08.634

Make sure that this vision, this path that we're headed down is something that can be done from an I. T. perspective. So, for this meeting here, today, that why he plus is the thing that we'll be looking at. So, next.

292

david wortman 01:07:13.555 --> 01:07:32.545

So, he plus, um, would have, uh, monthly payments, uh, be optional to the client. Uh, there would be reconnection assistance as, uh, required by and their funding. Um, I'll talk a little more at the, uh, about this.

293

david wortman 01:07:32.575 --> 01:07:40.195

This week then I did 2 weeks ago about equalizing energy burden and how we could do that. Uh, right now.

294

david wortman 01:07:42.714 --> 01:08:02.664

On the PIP program, we tried to maintain a 6% energy burden for Pip clients, but we're not able to get there. I think that, uh, we have the data and the ability now to try to make it where all of our recipients, how we can, we can try to have the average client at a particular.

295

david wortman 01:08:12.115 --> 01:08:32.424

Working with utilities and making sure that they're able to do this and and agreeable to do this, make it where, as you're signing up for lie here, you can choose to do budget billing where you would click a button on on your application or as you talk to the intake worker that's working with you on your application, you'd be able to.

296

david wortman 01:08:32.429 --> 01:08:53.574

Budget billing and then right now we send out a lot of hard copy emails or letters. I would like to look in to see which 1 of those are if those are requirements from the feds, or if we have some possible flexibility.

297

david wortman 01:08:53.934 --> 01:09:14.724

To do more text or email communication. I know that, uh, the Oracle system, they, uh, when we talked with them on the weaponization, uh, they have a very, uh, robust program or module that they can add to our system that is designed for, uh, email and text communication.

298

david wortman 01:09:14.729 --> 01:09:35.754

With clients, and then the, I think the primary benefit of doing a single program is that everyone in the state would have access to it. Right now we have a little over 10% of the state receiving PIP. I think that it's pretty well understood that more than 10% would like it.

299

david wortman 01:09:36.204 --> 01:09:47.604

And I just think that there's a fairness issue, and I like the concept of trying to build 1 program that the entire state has access to next slide.

300

david wortman 01:09:51.653 --> 01:10:11.124

So, um, for the rest of this, that's in a few minutes uh, pretty well, what I talked about 2 weeks ago at the PIP steering committee, what I want to do for the rest of this presentation is talk more in depth about things that I think we can do to make our.

301

david wortman 01:10:11.155 --> 01:10:32.275

System and our program better, and with the new systems things that I think are possible, that kind of improve the, this is the this program. So right now we do a benefit matrix. Every year we update the benefit matrix. We've talked about it a couple times.

302

david wortman 01:10:32.279 --> 01:10:52.824

So, I think that we could replace the benefit matrix with an equation and they the way that that would work would be an improvement. I think it would make a fairer system. So, next slide, Maria, if you look at our benefit matrix and what it actually looks like.

303

david wortman 01:10:53.429 --> 01:11:12.924

This is our benefit matrix. This is about 1 order of the benefit matrix because the way the middle of the matrix works, there are 4 different. I would call them dimensions to the benefit matrix. So, next slide. If you look at the.

304

david wortman 01:11:14.724 --> 01:11:35.724

The 1st, place that you're put into is your geography, whether you're in the north part of the state, or the South part of the state. And that is trying to reflect a difference in cost that the north part of the state has versus the South. Because we are primarily a heating program, and if you're in the North.

305

david wortman 01:11:35.755 --> 01:11:56.875

You likely have greater heating costs than you do if you're in the South part of this state. So, the 1st, dimension of our benefit matrix is geography. But the thing I would say about that, is that while we are a, a heating program, I don't know that the.

306

david wortman 01:11:56.879 --> 01:12:17.904

The North part of the state has greater cost if you consider that in the South, they're using Pro paying. So, we have a different, uh, I'll talk about that dimension on fuel type here in a little bit, but with the data that we have right now, I think rather than dividing the state up in North South, you could by county or even by.

307

david wortman 01:12:18.029 --> 01:12:39.174

Zip code, but I think that might be a bit much, but you could by county look at the actual cost that households have in that county and where we currently use the geography and the number of people in the household to show.

308

david wortman 01:12:39.179 --> 01:13:00.324

How much to project how much their interview cost might be? We actually have the data to show. So we can show whether late county has a higher energy cost than Alexander county. Uh, because we know from the tip reporting that we.

309

david wortman 01:13:00.329 --> 01:13:21.474

Get from utilities, and from our performance measures that we do for heap, we have data that shows what the actual utility costs are to households throughout the state. And we don't have that for every single client, but we have it for enough that I think that we could build the, the cost that utility.

310

david wortman 01:13:21.479 --> 01:13:42.594

The customers are experiencing and actually paying every year. We have that data. So I think the geography right now, we just do North South and it's the state about and half. I think we could do that at a county level. So, the 2nd dimension is we use the income level of the.

311

david wortman 01:13:42.629 --> 01:14:03.234

Household, so that's the circle there to the left. You can see the 0 to 50%. That's 1 of 4 bins that we put clients into. So you're 50 50 to 101,015,150 to 200. so we have 4 income bins that we put, uh, clients in.

312

david wortman 01:14:03.804 --> 01:14:24.444

Uh, the thing I don't like about putting them into bins is that if someone comes in and they're at 49.9% poverty, or I guess it would be 50.9. maybe they get put into that top bin. And if they come in and they have 20 dollars more a month in income, there'll be at 21.

313

david wortman 01:14:25.194 --> 01:14:45.384

So, if they're at, at 50%, they're gonna get, uh, if they're all electric, they'll get 840 dollars per household. If they're 20 dollars more a month, they can end up at 6,600 dollars per household. So, uh, I think that, uh, making it where we don't have bins. But rather we have by.

314

david wortman 01:14:47.124 --> 01:15:07.224

Income percentage, it goes down a little bit so there aren't, uh, little clips where you get moved from 1 bin to another, uh, next slide. So, the fuel type is the 3rd dimension and that's, uh, you get, uh, uh, a certain amount. If you're a gas electric.

315

david wortman 01:15:07.229 --> 01:15:28.314

House versus all electric versus propane, propane and fuel oil, I believe, are the exact same this year. So those would be similar. So, the fuel type is the 3rd dimension that determines what your benefit is next slide and the last 1 is your household size. So, between those 4.

316

david wortman 01:15:28.674 --> 01:15:45.444

Uh, items that determines what your benefit is, uh, you know, in any given year. So, geography, income, fuel, type and household size as a household gets bigger. We get more money for for that household next slide.

317

david wortman 01:15:48.714 --> 01:16:09.084

So this is, uh, from 2019, these were the average benefits that were paid and this is what I was saying about the little clips this was back when we only had, uh, we only gave benefits up to 150%. So, you see, the percent of poverty is the X axis there.

318

david wortman 01:16:09.384 --> 01:16:29.814

And the dollars, the average payment for client is on the Y, axis and you can see the blue line is the payments and you see where there's a cliff, right? Around 50. and then you go up to around 100%. And there's another cliff. Those are caused by the benefit matrix.

319

david wortman 01:16:30.474 --> 01:16:51.564

And where we have the bins, so if someone, uh, that's what I was saying, if you're at 50%, you're up there at 900 dollars. If you're 51%, you're down at 700 dollars. So next slide shows, what we could end up having is a, a, an equation that uses all 4 of.

320

david wortman 01:16:51.569 --> 01:17:12.624

Those dimensions that we use to determine your spot in the benefit Matrix, we can have those dimensions as as coefficients or as equations that feed into a, uh, big equation that determines the benefit for a particular client.

321

david wortman 01:17:12.925 --> 01:17:33.865

And if you go to the next slide, I'll show what I'm talking about. So a benefit equation would just be the f, is this from my college days that's function. So the, the function of your life heat benefit would be equal to some benefit.

322

david wortman 01:17:33.894 --> 01:17:54.864

Base, and if you look at the, um, we won't go back to the slide, but on the benefit Matrix, there's a, there's a minimum dollar amount. I don't remember it's like the I think it's if you look at, like, the all electric house. Yeah. So, if you look at, like.

323

david wortman 01:17:55.734 --> 01:18:16.164

The all electric is 840 dollars, you can kind of say, that's the minimum that someone gets paid. Now we have cash down on the bottom of those renters. That's a little different but the all electric would be kind of like the base. So, i1 person, all electric house would be where you start from.

324

david wortman 01:18:16.194 --> 01:18:17.634

Now, go back to the equation.

325

david wortman 01:18:20.664 --> 01:18:41.454

So that would be like your benefit base. That's that's the minimum. And if if all the rest of the dimensions are don't add anything that would be, uh, what that person would get. But then, uh, next slide if you start adding the dimensions. So, your geography to be county level data and what that might be.

326

david wortman 01:18:41.785 --> 01:19:02.695

If you're in Cook County that f. g might be 1.2 and that would mean you get 20% more than the state average. If you're in Alexander County, where it may be less, because you're down in the South, then it might be a 1. so, you don't get anything above this.

327

david wortman 01:19:05.735 --> 01:19:26.225

So that would be geography number 2 next 1, your income level this would be, uh, by percent. So it goes up, uh, you know, it goes up linearly. It doesn't jump in bins and, uh, so it would be your exact federal poverty level. And what that may show.

328

david wortman 01:19:26.584 --> 01:19:46.744

If we analyze the data, we may see that, uh, people who are at higher poverty actually, have higher energy costs. Because you may, we may find that someone is in a higher federal poverty level because they have 4 people in the household, and that's causing them. That have greater energy usage.

329

david wortman 01:19:47.704 --> 01:20:08.254

But the data would lead us to that. And that would be another 1 where there would be either a single coefficient like, uh, it may be that. It's well, this would likely be an equation. That would be where the is. But it would be something where it would say, if you're.

330

david wortman 01:20:09.124 --> 01:20:29.344

10% federal poverty that part of the equation would say that you should get 1.5. so you're 50 above the average for the state. And, uh, if you're at 200%, federal poverty, it may it would give you a 1. so you don't get any increase from the base.

331

david wortman 01:20:29.704 --> 01:20:46.654

That that's the baseline. So, uh, but once again, it would be analyzing the, uh, the data that we have from the previous year or previous years to establish these, uh, these parts of the equation next slide.

332

david wortman 01:20:50.254 --> 01:21:10.444

So the fuel source, uh, once again, we have data on, uh, electric versus, uh, gas and and the expenses how to do this on propane and fuel oil and, like, wood. That's gonna be difficult. But, um, the, the fuel source would need to be considered on.

333

david wortman 01:21:10.864 --> 01:21:31.714

How what the lie he benefit is next slide and the last 1 is household size. And, uh, once again, we have that data. So all of this here, what we would be looking at, I've already had a conversation with a, uh, an economic.

334

david wortman 01:21:31.744 --> 01:21:52.864

Next professor here at a university in Illinois to talk to them about how we could analyze our data and create a, an equation and this looks really complicated here. But what it would do is that as a person put in their.

335

david wortman 01:21:52.870 --> 01:22:14.015

Information the system would be able to tell them what their, what their benefit would be. And I think, I don't know if we would need to do it annually or every few years you would need to look back at the previous year's data and make sure that these.

336

david wortman 01:22:14.020 --> 01:22:34.835

These these sections of this equation, how they would change and what the the value should be. So, all of this, what I was saying earlier on equalizing the energy burden, the way that I see all of this, you could use.

337

david wortman 01:22:35.404 --> 01:22:56.314

These equations to establish what the energy the average energy cost is for, uh, any combination of these 4 dimensions and that average energy cost. Uh, we, we have that data and once you have that, then you start talking about okay what.

338

david wortman 01:22:56.945 --> 01:23:17.465

Are we trying to do with the program? Uh, where are we do we want to make, uh, everyone who receives a benefit from us? Have the same energy burden? Or do we want to have the, uh, a 0 to 50 have a slightly.

339

david wortman 01:23:17.884 --> 01:23:36.784

Um, lower or possibly higher energy burden now higher may sound strange, but if you have 0 income, you can't get someone's energy burden to 5% because they don't have an income. Uh, and the energy burden is calculated with the income on the bottom. So, if the bottom is 0, you can't.

340

david wortman 01:23:38.620 --> 01:23:59.375

Can't do the calculation, but the point here is that we, we have the data and we can decide through the stakeholders here. We can decide what is the goal of the program? Is it to minimize.

341

david wortman 01:24:00.095 --> 01:24:20.915

The differences between groups is it, do we maximize, uh, energy burden for our do we set the energy burden at 1 level? 1st, part of them or try to make everyone have the same energy burden so all of this can be analyzed. This is a couple of years out I.

342

david wortman 01:24:20.919 --> 01:24:41.914

Started with that, that we're at the very start of this system rewrite, and it's going to take us, uh, several 6 months to get a into a contract, and it'll take a couple of years to build the system. So, this equation idea would be a couple years off but, uh, I think that.

343

david wortman 01:24:43.324 --> 01:25:03.004

If if it's a direction that we're going, I think that it's something that we need to know sooner rather than later, because we're going to be building the system but also we're gonna be needing to, uh, start the process of examining the data that we have. And trying to build, uh, this equation so.

344

david wortman 01:25:04.324 --> 01:25:22.954

That's that, uh, let me see the next slide. Maria. Okay. So, before I go on to this, the next topic of, uh, blended state funding, I'm gonna stop and ask if there are any questions about what I've talked about. So far.

345

Nichole Owens 01:25:23.584 --> 01:25:24.364

Hey, David.

346

Nichole Owens 01:25:25.205 --> 01:25:45.485

1st, thank you for taking me back to my calculus days, and just my basic algebra, it's, it's been it's been a while so really appreciate the functions on the slide with the respect to the changes. I think they're fascinating. Will it require us to have any legislative changes or are these changes that.

347

Nichole Owens 01:25:45.520 --> 01:25:48.005

This could be made via the pack. D do you know.

348

david wortman 01:25:48.545 --> 01:26:06.665

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Now, the, uh, the concept of doing combining why he'd been Pip into 1 program would absolutely require legislative changes. And that's when I talk about how complicated this is. I mean, that's like, what order do we do things? We can't make.

349

david wortman 01:26:06.669 --> 01:26:27.364

It changes to the energy assistance act right now, because we're 2 years away from having this. But what, if we build an system that has in mind that we're going to go to a single system? And then we don't get that passed over in the legislature. So we have to have.

350

david wortman 01:26:27.904 --> 01:26:48.934

Buy in here from all stakeholders we have the utilities need to be saying yes, this is a good idea. I think we should move forward with it. The poverty advocates need to, to we need to hear from them and say, yes, we think this is a good idea. We should move forward with it. We need the local agencies. So if we don't if, uh, if there's anyone that, uh, is.

351

david wortman 01:26:49.534 --> 01:27:06.244

Truly uncomfortable and doesn't think this is the right path. We need to have those conversations sooner and not like, in the next month, but in the next 3 to 6 months, we need to know that, uh, stakeholders agree that this is the direction we should move that.

352

Nichole Owens 01:27:09.424 --> 01:27:29.254

That's helpful because the timing is also something I wanted to make sure I was clear on. It's the ability to build sort of the functionality, even if, you know, it may take a couple of years to get this through legislation. But your ask is, let's try to connect this with the same timeline of the I. T enhancements that we can.

353

Nichole Owens 01:27:29.974 --> 01:27:37.354

Less eloquent words, get the plumbing in place if you will in case, you have the opportunity to make the shift. Okay.

354

david wortman 01:27:37.414 --> 01:27:51.004

Right, right yeah. So yeah, I think we're we're probably I would say we're 3 years, because I think it'll take us 6 to 9 months to get.

355

david wortman 01:27:51.034 --> 01:28:11.464

Under contract, and I think this is at least a 24 month ity build. So we're looking at 23 years down the road, but we would need, you know, timing wise. We would need at the right time to have the energy assistance act changed.

356

david wortman 01:28:12.185 --> 01:28:28.535

To reflect what we're building in the system so, you know, we're in 22 right now. So, in program year, 24 or 25, uh, as we have moved to this system, we have the, uh, the language in the law updated to that.

357

Nichole Owens 01:28:31.925 --> 01:28:33.365

Thank you thanks for sharing.

358

david wortman 01:28:34.895 --> 01:28:37.085

Any other comments from the crowd.

359

Karen Lusson 01:28:39.485 --> 01:28:53.045

Hi, David. This is Karen lessen from, uh, thanks for the presentation. Um, and you you thinking through this with everyone um, 22 questions 1.

360

Karen Lusson 01:28:53.494 --> 01:29:14.194

When you say that, um, that the state has had difficulty getting people enrolled in Pip and yes, that's something we all know. Is true. Um, are you mainly referring to the instances where the 6%, um.

361

Karen Lusson 01:29:14.314 --> 01:29:35.344

On Bill sometimes doesn't work out in favor of the customer, because their bills are actually don't the bills actually don't hit 6% when combined electric and gas. And then the 2nd question I have is, um, I don't know about everyone else, but it would really help me to think this through.

362

Karen Lusson 01:29:35.350 --> 01:29:56.495

Who, if you could provide some examples and I'm not saying today, obviously, but just kind of give us some examples that show what would happen under this scenario, versus someone getting the grant, or signing up for PIP.

363

Karen Lusson 01:29:56.499 --> 01:30:00.604

What I'm saying, just to kind of see how the system works.

364

david wortman 01:30:00.934 --> 01:30:01.234

Yeah.

365

Karen Lusson 01:30:01.354 --> 01:30:02.614

As you envision it.

366

david wortman 01:30:03.034 --> 01:30:17.644

Okay, yeah, so the 2nd thing, yes, we can certainly show, uh, some examples of what it is today. And and what I would be looking at under this, uh, this scenario, uh, on your 1st question. Um, the.

367

david wortman 01:30:17.650 --> 01:30:38.795

6% is a goal for Pip, but that's the thing that I showed from 2019 data that and I don't have it at my fingertips but, like, the zeroed a 50% Pip recipients were at, like, 18% or but they, none of.

368

david wortman 01:30:38.824 --> 01:30:59.824

Bins none of the, uh, uh, poverty level bins, got 26%. The closest was 10% of their income and that's just, um, I would have to look exactly but I, I think it's a funding thing, but.

369

david wortman 01:31:00.124 --> 01:31:20.824

On whether or not, we can, um, no matter how we run the program the, uh, the has, uh, has told us that we can't the way that the PIP is set up where we can't use to do the PIP the way we do the.

370

david wortman 01:31:21.845 --> 01:31:42.245

So, we're going to have a lie heap and PIP. Uh, and if we have that, we're always going to have the issue of having 2 systems and not not being able to provide the same benefit to all of the customers.

371

david wortman 01:31:42.484 --> 01:32:03.394

I just think it's a, a goal to have 1 so that everyone has treated the same and try to get the most benefit that we can out of that. And I, you know, I've said this several times. So, I don't need to go on, but that's that's just my thought, but on the 6%, I think I understood your your question.

372

david wortman 01:32:03.400 --> 01:32:06.815

And that's why aren't we hitting the 6% is.

373

Karen Lusson 01:32:09.545 --> 01:32:30.185

No, I recall a slide from your presentation last April, because I was just going through it, because I actually included the slide. You just were talking about where it showed an energy burden both before and after the grant in a, in a presentation I made yesterday and that slide is so helpful. Um, but I also remember you had a.

374

Karen Lusson 01:32:30.189 --> 01:32:51.334

Slide that showed, you know, if a person of a certain income, say, if they were closer to 200% federal poverty level, that the way the benefit worked out, they were better off with heap. That's what I was thinking of. And and my question was, is that 1 of the things that you're.

375

Karen Lusson 01:32:51.339 --> 01:32:55.684

Thinking of when you say, we can't get enough people in the pit.

376

david wortman 01:32:57.454 --> 01:33:12.454

No, no, that if I was saying, you can't, we can't get enough in the PIP. It was more a, uh, um, just the, um, the capacity level the, the fact that.

377

Karen Lusson 01:33:14.075 --> 01:33:14.825

Funding.

378

david wortman 01:33:15.935 --> 01:33:34.925

Right and, uh, local agencies and, um, yeah, so, yeah, but just, this is an anecdote and I don't know, but just this morning, Marie, and I were looking at, I ended up with a phone call to my desk from someone who had been.

379

david wortman 01:33:35.194 --> 01:33:56.164

Uh, didn't recertify and Pip and got kicked off and went back on and Maria, and I looked at the benefit, and the person was getting 13 dollars a month in tip and they would have gotten, like, I I can't remember, I think it might've been like, 600 dollars if they had signed up for life. So I think I've heard Kathy and Mindy.

380

david wortman 01:33:56.199 --> 01:33:58.024

Talk about this, that, uh.

381

Karen Lusson 01:34:00.094 --> 01:34:01.684

Pip because they like.

382

david wortman 01:34:02.284 --> 01:34:08.344

So, why are they doing that? Is it the monthly pay the monthly benefit and I think for this person, it was that.

383

Karen Lusson 01:34:08.614 --> 01:34:08.824

She.

384

david wortman 01:34:08.824 --> 01:34:12.484

Monthly benefits, so, you know.

385

Karen Lusson 01:34:14.794 --> 01:34:17.224

And the certainty, the bill certainty, I think.

386

david wortman 01:34:17.254 --> 01:34:35.224

Right, but I, I think some of it is that you're explaining things they're, you know, it's not it's not extremely complicated, but it's complicated and you're, you're explaining these things and, uh, having a single program that I think that we can get.

387

david wortman 01:34:35.704 --> 01:34:44.404

80, 90% of what you and others like, about Pip into this system. So, you know, that's.

388

david wortman 01:34:47.345 --> 01:34:54.395

That's why I think it's, uh, you know, that this is a good a good thing to, uh, to work towards.

389

Karen Lusson 01:34:55.685 --> 01:34:56.015

Hmm.

390

Sarah Moskowitz 01:34:56.914 --> 01:35:00.184

David at all, this is Sarah Moskowitz from cub. Can you hear me?

391

david wortman 01:35:01.024 --> 01:35:02.194

Yes.

392

Sarah Moskowitz 01:35:02.464 --> 01:35:17.794

Um, thanks for this. This is fascinating to me. Um, and I just wanted to kind of flag for myself and for everybody else, um, many of you probably know that the recently past, um, energy bill from September.

393

Sarah Moskowitz 01:35:18.214 --> 01:35:38.944

um states that the illinois commerce commission before the year two thousand and twenty three is to study whether a low income discount rate for electric and national natural gas residential customers would be appropriate and look into potential designs for that so i just i just want as i as you're talking i'm thinking about

394

Sarah Moskowitz 01:35:41.075 --> 01:35:51.485

Here would kind of interact with that approach to, uh, addressing energy burden for both consumers. So, kind of like, that's just.

395

Deirdre Coughlin 01:35:51.485 --> 01:36:00.275

i didn't mention something david um and something i'm going to talk about next but california has

396

Deirdre Coughlin 01:36:00.334 --> 01:36:14.494

A, I think it's care and a fair, uh, program and they offer discounts in addition to. So I don't think we need to be concerned about the future of, like, if if something like that occur, but just want to drop that in there.

397

Sarah Moskowitz 01:36:16.054 --> 01:36:20.344

Talking about that would render this, uh, you know, moved or anything like that, but it's just.

398

david wortman 01:36:22.024 --> 01:36:22.864

Okay, yeah.

399

Sarah Moskowitz 01:36:23.044 --> 01:36:26.104

There are 2 processes that might want to kind of acknowledge of the other.

400

david wortman 01:36:26.854 --> 01:36:37.054

Yeah, that's good. Thanks, Sarah. And I, uh, you know, Joan from is on, I talked to the folks, uh, quite a bit so, yeah, it is something that they need to pay attention to.

401

Karen Lusson 01:36:39.244 --> 01:36:42.544

I would add to, in California, they're actually because of a.

402

Karen Lusson 01:36:42.634 --> 01:37:01.384

Uh, what we're calling the disconnection, um, sort of avoidance order that was issued by the California commission last June. Um, they're also initiating, uh, a new new program as well. So they're gonna have discount rates, lag, heap and PIP. So, um, you know, more I dunno the more the better.

403

david wortman 01:37:04.774 --> 01:37:23.254

In California, um, Karen, I remember we spoke with that person out in California, and the rates that lower rates. I think the utilities did the clients signed up with the utilities, but the utilities did not do income verification as they signed up.

404

Karen Lusson 01:37:23.524 --> 01:37:24.874

That's right. It is. Self.

405

Karen Lusson 01:37:24.880 --> 01:37:45.875

Certification there, and it's very considered to be a very successful program. Um, just shout out to self certifying to the utilities who are looking at 80%, uh, uh, information related to custom deposits in late fees. You know, it, it turns out you can trust the customer.

406

david wortman 01:37:49.054 --> 01:37:52.834

Okay, anything else uh, before I move on to this next topic.

407

Allen Cherry 01:37:55.084 --> 01:38:05.674

I'm trying to understand how the budget for this would work. Is it moving money around? Is it assuming that the current high levels of funding will continue?

408

Allen Cherry 01:38:07.414 --> 01:38:11.614

How do you envision this play now in terms of your overall budget?

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409

david wortman 01:38:12.514 --> 01:38:28.324

Well, it doesn't really, um, I would say that every year, like, uh, we currently do with the benefit matrix we kind of project how much money we're gonna have. And then how many people we think are going to come in.

410

david wortman 01:38:28.329 --> 01:38:48.034

And we divide the, you know, the money that we have by the people that we come in and then try to design a matrix that gets us to spend as much as as close as we can to the amount that we think we're gonna or the amount that we have budgeted, so this would be done in a similar way. The, the difference here.

411

david wortman 01:38:49.624 --> 01:39:10.624

Feeds into this next topic that I'm going to talk about, is that in the single system, we would be adding the state and the federal, uh, together I won't say in 1 bucket because you'll see with what I'm going to talk about next that it would be separately, but you would still be doing essentially the same.

412

david wortman 01:39:10.630 --> 01:39:31.745

Same thing, and that's you take the federal dollars that you have and divided by the people who are eligible for federal funding, and the state dollars that you have and divided by the people who are eligible for state funding. So, if the budgets go up or down, the, the benefits paid would go up.

413

david wortman 01:39:31.804 --> 01:39:32.884

Down according to that.

414

david wortman 01:39:36.274 --> 01:39:57.154

So that's a good segue into this, this next section that I'm gonna talk about, uh, this is something that I think the utilities should pay close attention to. Because, uh, this is something that is, uh, my my sense is that it's something that they've been trying to get for.

415

david wortman 01:39:57.159 --> 01:40:17.494

For a long time, and our current system doesn't really allow it, but the utilities know what they want. And we're not, uh, this proposal that I'm saying we would be able to do with a new system would make changes. That would be fair.

416

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david wortman 01:40:18.309 --> 01:40:25.144

To all the clients throughout the state, but would be a benefit to the, uh, utilities that pay into the state funds. So, next slide.

417

david wortman 01:40:29.014 --> 01:40:48.514

So this is from the energy assistance act, uh, and it's use of federal funds under this act the department may not cause a disproportionate share of those federal funds to benefit customers of systems, which do not assess the charge provided by this section. So that's saying that we should.

418

david wortman 01:40:50.554 --> 01:40:55.984

Use the state funding to.

419

david wortman 01:41:00.244 --> 01:41:20.344

Hey, disproportion. So I'll just go on that. That is what it says that we shouldn't use this state fund to make it. So people who don't pay into the state fund, get more than they should. So next slide. So, before I start talking about this, I'll just say, right now, no, 1 in the state, who does not pay into.

420

david wortman 01:41:20.350 --> 01:41:40.535

do this date fund gets funding from the state fund so if you're out of utility that doesn't pay into the state fund you can never get money from the state fund we are set up that way there's a sharp line and that would never happen but that doesn't mean that we necessarily follow what was just on that slide so imagine a state that has two counties

421

david wortman 01:41:41.584 --> 01:42:02.344

Both having 10 lighthouse clients next slide and they only get HHS funding. There's no state program. So we get 750 dollars from the federal government next slide. So each county gets.

422

david wortman 01:42:02.705 --> 01:42:23.795

Has the same number of clients, so they both get 375 dollars. So every client gets 37 dollars and 50 cents. So that's fair. Everything's understood easy next slide. Now we decide. Okay. Yep. That's fine. Both counties are the same next slide. Now. We decide to have a.

423

david wortman 01:42:23.854 --> 01:42:44.584

Fund we still have 2 counties county decides to pay into the state fund. Their utility county B decides that they don't want to pay into the state fund. So, uh, that's the way they go. So next slide, the estate fund generates 250 dollars so a total of 1000 dollars collected for the.

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424

david wortman 01:42:45.784 --> 01:43:05.884

Or the likey program next, so the way we currently, we have 1 benefit matrix. So if you get, like, heap in the state, uh, and you're on a here in Springfield that does not paying to the state fund, your benefit is the same as.

425

david wortman 01:43:06.125 --> 01:43:27.245

Someone who's in Cook County that peoples and comment both pay into the state fund. So we have 1 benefit matrix and the way that works out. If you're in county, a, you get 50 dollars per benefit. If you're in county. B, you get 50 dollars for benefit. We have 1 benefit matrix but what does that mean in county?

426

david wortman 01:43:28.684 --> 01:43:48.394

If you look at the benefits, uh, the benefits add up to 750 dollars that's what we get. The state makes, uh, 250. so, the total program is 1000 dollars, but because everyone gets 50 dollars, that means that county.

427

david wortman 01:43:48.425 --> 01:44:09.335

He has 500 dollars and county B has 500 dollars, but look at the makeup of those 2500dollarstony a has 250 and, uh, 250 from state county doesn't get included in the state. So county has 500 of. So you can see.

428

david wortman 01:44:10.024 --> 01:44:30.694

County, uh, B, it's more benefit per person than county a, of the federal dollars. So next slide. So the benefits 1 benefit matrix to everyone in this date gets 50 dollars, but you can see.

429

david wortman 01:44:30.724 --> 01:44:34.204

The makeup of the 2 is, uh, not the same next slide.

430

david wortman 01:44:36.725 --> 01:44:57.395

So, how could you do it? So that every person in the state, they got funding received the same amount of funding the way to do that would be to have a blended benefits is what I call it. So, a person.

431

david wortman 01:44:57.514 --> 01:45:18.634

Would get a benefit according to the portion of, uh, their benefit, but then if they're on a system that pays into the state fund, they would also have a state portion of benefits. So, in this scenario, uh, the HHS benefits would be.

432

david wortman 01:45:18.639 --> 01:45:39.784

That 750 divided evenly between the 2 counties, and then the state benefits would only go to the county that pays into the state fund. So they would be the county a benefits would have and state benefits. So they would actually be.

433

david wortman 01:45:39.789 --> 01:46:00.574

Getting more for a client than county be so my reading of the act says that this is the way that the app was designed and to me, it makes sense and it's fair that this is the way that it should be implemented. But right now with our system, we have a.

434

david wortman 01:46:00.964 --> 01:46:21.244

It was, um, we, we have, um, a single that can be paid to a client per year, so we couldn't do an portion and a state portion right now the way our system is designed. Um, so next slide. Maria. So you see, um.

435

david wortman 01:46:22.235 --> 01:46:42.905

If you equalize benefits across the States, so that everyone that's eligible for HHS gets the same benefit, then clients who are on systems that pay into the state fund, get a state portion of the benefit uh, that would be following the, uh, the act as written next slide.

436

david wortman 01:46:44.884 --> 01:47:00.964

So, what does this mean for, uh, the system and the way that this could be implemented? So, I've talked about doing an benefit equation instead of the benefit matrix. So the benefit equation would be, uh, the light benefit total would equal next slide.

437

david wortman 01:47:03.064 --> 01:47:24.124

This is the same equation that I showed before. This would just be calculated for, uh, everyone in the state. You could, uh, we can look at all those things that I talked about and you would take the funding that we have for that year and divide to get the base benefit and then use.

438

david wortman 01:47:24.129 --> 01:47:45.124

Those coefficients to determine what, uh, the benefit equation would look like for HHS funding and that's what everyone in the state would receive that as a, as the, their likely payment for the year. But then next slide the people who are on systems.

439

david wortman 01:47:45.279 --> 01:48:06.154

That pay into the state fund would then have a state portion of their likely payment. So, uh, that would be calculated in a similar manner as the 1st equation. But it would just be the amount of dollars that you project coming into the state program and.

440

david wortman 01:48:06.665 --> 01:48:26.465

The number of clients that you project from state systems will be, uh, will be coming in that year. So, uh, this would, uh, I think be fair. And I also think that it would, uh, possibly lead.

441

david wortman 01:48:27.934 --> 01:48:48.664

Utilities, they currently aren't contributing to the state system to have a better reason to contribute to the state system. So that is something that I'm fairly certain as we rewrite the system that this type of, uh, system could be put into place. So that.

442

david wortman 01:48:48.729 --> 01:49:09.304

The benefits are according to what the access and and more fair. So I believe that's the yeah the last slide. So, yeah, the next slide is just next steps and, as I said, we're talking to the.

443

david wortman 01:49:10.564 --> 01:49:31.024

The I T contractor right now so, um, and the next few months we'll be, uh, getting to a work scope, uh, budget and schedule. Um, we need to make sure that everything that we do meets with, uh, and we need to.

444

david wortman 01:49:31.029 --> 01:49:51.934

Get comfortable that, uh, all the stakeholders are in agreement so that we know that we can revise the energy assistance act. So that's everything for this. I think Maria, if you want to go back to slides. So, we can look at that, uh, the equation that there might be questions about, um.

445

david wortman 01:49:52.180 --> 01:49:54.815

Last part of the presentation, any questions.

446

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Karen Lusson 01:50:00.304 --> 01:50:18.364

Hi, David Karen lesson again. Um, so so, is it correct then that the current system does not allow you to a portion? Um, or or to award benefits based on the, the contribution.

447

david wortman 01:50:24.305 --> 01:50:24.995

Um.

448

david wortman 01:50:27.575 --> 01:50:44.585

You know, I need to I, I don't want to immediately say that. It's impossible. Uh, it's not the way. Uh, it's it's not the way it's designed. Um, might there be a workaround there may be I, I think it would take.

449

david wortman 01:50:50.614 --> 01:51:08.314

It it, it would take, we would need I don't know whether it's possible. I, it's not the way it was designed. I'll say that. Did we come up with a way to set it up such that it did that maybe but it would be it would be.

450

david wortman 01:51:09.394 --> 01:51:14.584

It would have to be a work around solution that, uh, is not the way the system was designed.

451

Karen Lusson 01:51:19.324 --> 01:51:37.654

Um, and and is it correct to that that this sort of differential in the benefit really impacts to change it to the way you've described it here would impact, um, mainly municipal customers and the.

452

Karen Lusson 01:51:37.985 --> 01:51:41.975

Utilities that are currently contributing into the slide.

453

david wortman 01:51:43.865 --> 01:51:47.705

Yeah, I mean, um, who would it affect anyone.

454

david wortman 01:51:50.825 --> 01:51:59.255

The munis and the CO Ops that don't pay in, uh, their people, they would experience the difference. Uh, the people, uh, I think on pro paying.

455

david wortman 01:52:03.365 --> 01:52:05.315

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they they would experience the difference

456

david wortman 01:52:07.984 --> 01:52:14.824

But, uh, additionally though that the top part of the equation there, like, on propane.

457

david wortman 01:52:20.404 --> 01:52:38.554

The the costs that they're experiencing the fuel source portion of the calculation there, uh, would would partly well, it depends. I guess it would depend on what.

458

david wortman 01:52:38.794 --> 01:52:59.644

The cost for profit. Here's the way I would say it that if you imagine Illinois without a state program, the clients that are on utilities that don't pay into the system would be held the same that they would be. If there was no.

459

david wortman 01:52:59.884 --> 01:53:20.854

Systems, so the people on today are getting, I don't think it's a huge amount more. I haven't done the math, but I think that you'd be looking at some benefit that they're getting is because we have a state system.

460

david wortman 01:53:21.365 --> 01:53:42.005

But, uh, that if we ran up, if we didn't have the state system, they would be getting that amount. And the fact that we have a state system, they're still supposed to be getting that amount. So, if they're if they're damaged from us.

461

david wortman 01:53:42.364 --> 01:53:48.274

Implementing it this way, then they would be back to getting what they should according to the.

462

david wortman 01:54:01.115 --> 01:54:02.135

Any other questions.

463

david wortman 01:54:04.834 --> 01:54:08.584

I thought someone from the utilities might at least say that they thought it was a good idea.

464

Nichole Owens 01:54:12.515 --> 01:54:32.705

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That's fair. This is my goal it would help to do the analysis I think, on the surface is extremely intriguing. I think there's a lot of customer benefit behind it to your point, seeing it for the 1st time having not done the analysis understanding what pros and cons would be. If there's clearly.

465

Nichole Owens 01:54:32.769 --> 01:54:49.744

Pros and cons, um, I think having to get to have some of the data and run some of the scenarios, I think we can make a more informed decision on the surface. It would be difficult to say that doesn't make sense. But, you know, the devils are always in the details.

466

Eric Schrader 01:54:52.594 --> 01:54:52.894

Yeah.

467

Eric Schrader 01:54:54.394 --> 01:55:15.064

People's got shorter perspective, you know, on the surface. Like you said, kind of I'm personally I'm kind of excited about the concept of this rewrite. I'm not going to necessarily comment on the equation per state versus but, I mean, the overall.

468

Eric Schrader 01:55:15.094 --> 01:55:18.154

Of this rewrite sounds like a great idea to pursue.

469

david wortman 01:55:20.884 --> 01:55:41.854

Yeah, and I'll just say, like, we're doing an system rewrite either way what all ends up from what I presented here uh, ends up as part of that, uh, is still up for discussion. Uh, I think it would be silly to do a rewrite and, uh, just, you know, uh, have our, our current system just on a new.

470

david wortman 01:55:41.860 --> 01:56:03.005

to system so i think that now's the time to think big and consider these other things but ultimately where we end up needs to be um everyone needs to be on board and um but two three years from now we need a new system so the rest of this

471

david wortman 01:56:03.009 --> 01:56:16.474

Is to be talked about, but now's the time to start thinking about it. So, uh, 6 months from now, we can 9 months from now we can get underway and start actually doing the rewrite.

472

david wortman 01:56:19.444 --> 01:56:19.714

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But.

473

Deirdre Coughlin 01:56:19.774 --> 01:56:20.434

It it looks like.

474

Deirdre Coughlin 01:56:22.749 --> 01:56:23.614

Okay, sorry?

475

david wortman 01:56:24.454 --> 01:56:38.854

Yeah, but once again, I just want to make clear that the rewrite, like, going along with this slide isn't like rewrites going to happen even if you don't. Exactly agree with this slide is my point Alan did you.

476

david wortman 01:56:47.735 --> 01:56:52.325

Oh, helen's hands down and he's still on mute so maybe not.

477

Allen Cherry 01:56:53.615 --> 01:56:55.835

Well, that was from a while ago I just.

478

david wortman 01:56:55.835 --> 01:56:56.045

Oh.

479

Allen Cherry 01:56:57.545 --> 01:56:58.625

About the budget.

480

david wortman 01:56:59.555 --> 01:57:00.065

Okay.

481

Nichole Owens 01:57:02.554 --> 01:57:02.854

So.

482

david wortman 01:57:02.854 --> 01:57:03.334

Okay.

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483

Nichole Owens 01:57:04.984 --> 01:57:23.374

david just to your point the utilities are still working through a lot of the changes that are headed our way through the from the unclean energy bill right and trying to rapidly work on performance metrics low income

484

Nichole Owens 01:57:23.404 --> 01:57:44.524

New definition, you name it not sure how the timing works out. But, as you think about this, rewrite, is there an opportunity to have some workshops or some working sessions where we can work more collaboratively on the concept and try to think of ways of how we can.

485

Nichole Owens 01:57:44.529 --> 01:58:03.844

And continue to support, think through how sort of your point you've done a lot of work on this, which is great. But how could we lean in timing is of the essence because we do have quite a bit on our plate right now. But I think it would work if we're in the room together and able to work through some of the details.

486

david wortman 01:58:05.254 --> 01:58:05.644

Yeah.

487

david wortman 01:58:06.005 --> 01:58:26.825

I think, you know, as we, as we think about how we need to do this, the work that we're doing right now is kind of conceptual and planning stages and we need to have we need to have.

488

david wortman 01:58:26.854 --> 01:58:47.374

The utilities and other stakeholders, the network and the community action agency folks and, um, we need to have the direction that yes, we think that we should go this way. Now, once the system rewrites starts.

489

david wortman 01:58:48.514 --> 01:59:09.124

There'll be time periods where we actually need, uh, you know, like, you'll be we'll need people from your ity, uh, sitting down with the, the people actually doing the, the writing of the new system. So, uh, but, yes, in the next 6 months. So, I'd say 2 to 4 months from now.

490

david wortman 01:59:09.129 --> 01:59:27.544

Now, we need to have meetings where we talk about the direction that we're heading, and making sure that the people are on board with that. So, and all of that, too we have to we have to build a.

491

david wortman 01:59:30.484 --> 01:59:51.334

Order effectively under this. We're, we're doing this under a master contract that an Oracle ity vendor has with the state. So we have to build a purchase order that's based on our work scope budget and schedule that we put together over the next 6 months. And so just understanding the.

492

david wortman 01:59:51.430 --> 02:00:12.575

Concept of what we're going to build and the direction that we're headed is, uh, what we need in the next few months. So, yes, we will be reaching out to the utilities to the local agencies. And, uh, you know, we may even be looking at today on the phone call that we had this morning. They talked.

493

david wortman 02:00:12.604 --> 02:00:33.694

About the, uh, customer experience. So, uh, we may be asking, uh, local agencies to have their intake worker and talk about how they do things, but actually look at that from the client perspective as well. And we're looking at doing all of that before we finalize the.

494

david wortman 02:00:33.729 --> 02:00:38.284

Language that will be the purchase order under the master contract.

495

Eric Schrader 02:00:41.074 --> 02:00:46.624

David, that larger ity project or budget is that all within.

496

david wortman 02:00:48.754 --> 02:01:08.974

Well, the master contract is, uh, statewide uh, so, like, the weather ization, the contract that we signed to do, the weaponization rewrite was a purchase order under the master contract. Uh, so, um, other agencies, other departments, uh, can have.

497

david wortman 02:01:08.979 --> 02:01:29.644

Their own purchase orders, but for us, the, uh, effectively we will end up with 2. I mean, there it's really contracts, but their purchase orders under the master contract. So we'll have the authorization 1 and then a 2nd, 1 for and PIP.

498

david wortman 02:01:30.514 --> 02:01:51.274

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And really, we're trying to write it. So, it's flexible enough. So, that, uh, when or if a new program, like the water program, that we're looking at now, that we would be able to, uh, use the system to set up a water program as well. So, um, but I, I hope that answers your question.

499

david wortman 02:01:52.204 --> 02:01:52.654

Ours.

500

Eric Schrader 02:01:53.374 --> 02:02:12.424

Purchase it does, it leads into a follow up question and Aaron, you can take me later. Is it possible to think that some various agencies will be able to communicate with each other? So I'm thinking in the standpoint of low income validation.

501

Eric Schrader 02:02:12.454 --> 02:02:13.714

From different areas.

502

david wortman 02:02:14.524 --> 02:02:33.574

Yeah, the Julio who's our chief information officer? He's already mentioned that to me uh, you know, it's early days to, uh, say, but, uh, yes, that would be, um, something that would be great. Uh, I, we haven't gotten far enough on, uh, with our.

503

david wortman 02:02:33.579 --> 02:02:53.224

Conversations with the I. T vendor, but, uh, yeah, if we could have a, even if it's like, um, uh, I dunno an automated behind the scenes, uh, check to make sure that, uh, the income that's being reported is, uh, between.

504

david wortman 02:02:54.729 --> 02:03:05.734

Within 30% of what they say, checked on the ID system, you know, something like that if we could get that that's ideal. That's something that we would love to.

505

david wortman 02:03:16.175 --> 02:03:17.045

Okay.

506

Karen Lussion 02:03:17.285 --> 02:03:35.615

David, Karen, again, I just want to, um, um, well, again, thanks for the presentation, but also reiterate that, that the, um, more you can provide, you know, real world examples of of what these benefits would look like and how they.

507

Karen Lusson 02:03:35.620 --> 02:03:52.205

Would be altered, um, under the new combined program versus a separate Pip and that I think the better it is and it's easier for, um, advocates to kind of wrap their mind around it.

508

david wortman 02:03:52.805 --> 02:03:56.105

Okay, yeah, I will I will work on that. Karen.

509

Karen Lusson 02:03:57.244 --> 02:04:17.914

That'd be great. Thank you. I, I'm also really curious to hear, um, uh, obviously the meetings, um, about 10, but I'd love to figure out a way to get, um, you know, reactions from, from the agency themselves, you know, um, who actually enroll people and.

510

Karen Lusson 02:04:18.754 --> 02:04:24.304

Have the best understanding of what what people really appreciate about each program.

511

david wortman 02:04:35.674 --> 02:04:41.344

I agree Karen, those, that, uh, obviously hugely important part of it.

512

Mindy Browning 02:04:42.154 --> 02:04:53.164

I was gonna say this is Mindy and what I have seen so far I, it scares me to death, but, you know, famous people said, do things every day that scares you to.

513

Mindy Browning 02:04:53.254 --> 02:05:06.364

So, if we could make this work, I think we could really make an awesome program for all of our customers. So I'm, I'm on board, right? At the moment.

514

Karen Lusson 02:05:12.364 --> 02:05:29.824

And, and when hearing, you know, if there's any way to sort of like, you know, send around a survey or whatever, um, I'm not trying to make more work for folks. But, um, you know, it'd be great to hear a, what, what people like about this be what what scares them.

515

Karen Lusson 02:05:29.914 --> 02:05:42.064

As many would say, and and see what they see the failings are of the current 2 prong system, you know, in terms of what's best for the customer.

516

david wortman 02:05:47.015 --> 02:05:47.435

Okay.

517

david wortman 02:05:50.524 --> 02:06:08.014

So, um, yeah, I didn't realize that it was, uh, 3 o'clock before you said that, Karen um, we still have a couple of items. Um, Maria, what's, uh, your letter renewal? What? What do you have on that?

518

Maria Gallardo 02:06:08.464 --> 02:06:08.944

So.

519

Maria Gallardo 02:06:11.105 --> 02:06:31.865

Here chief now, guys to the other business section, so the designee ladders renew, we'll just want to mention to the pack members that the current appointments expired December 31st of this year. So we're gonna be initiating contact.

520

Maria Gallardo 02:06:33.125 --> 02:06:53.015

All of you guys requesting that your organization kind of, you know, confirm your appointment or or or set up a new person to represent your organization in the back. And then the new period would start January 1st of 2022.

521

Maria Gallardo 02:06:53.044 --> 02:07:14.164

When Danny will expire December 31st 2023 so we'll watch out for an email from us and then we'll, uh, initiate the process and I'll turn it back to you, Dave. We added a new agenda item. So I'm going to.

522

Maria Gallardo 02:07:14.554 --> 02:07:19.594

Display momentarily the, the agenda that I think, uh, uh, dear Joel.

523

Deirdre Coughlin 02:07:25.234 --> 02:07:26.074

Thank you Maria.

524

david wortman 02:07:46.534 --> 02:07:47.464

Have you.

525

david wortman 02:07:49.834 --> 02:08:02.464

Do you know, sometimes you're at your, uh, your, uh, Internet is has some issues if you have you ever heard if it is it better if you're not on video.

526

Deirdre Coughlin 02:08:04.534 --> 02:08:10.234

Yeah, I'm I'm going to I just wanted to introduce myself and then I'll jump off the video, but, um, I'm the program.

527

Deirdre Coughlin 02:08:10.654 --> 02:08:31.234

And division manager for, and, um, I just wanted to bring this topic up because it was a recent issue and I know a couple of you were familiar with it. Um, so I'm just gonna go through this idea. It's just in the idea stages, just to prompt some thought, and we can talk later about.

528

Deirdre Coughlin 02:08:31.745 --> 02:08:52.865

We might be able to do about it. Thank you. Okay, so we're looking at the heat act of 2020 and some of these references I did change to this was from the website I did change to, which is how we refer to the alternative.

529

Deirdre Coughlin 02:08:52.895 --> 02:09:14.015

Gas suppliers, and so what this is about is that we have some light heap customers. Oh, customers are prohibited from entering into a 3rd party agreement. So let's walk through what is the heat act? What did it do? And what is the problem? So, the heat act took effect January. 1st.

530

Deirdre Coughlin 02:09:14.044 --> 02:09:35.134

20, the original idea was to protect, like, heap customers from bad companies as it were that were offering gift cards for a low rate. And then a couple months later, they would reduce the rate. I mean, I'm sorry increase the rate. So, according to the part of this act was to.

531

Deirdre Coughlin 02:09:35.194 --> 02:09:39.964

Have these bonds, there's 500,000 dollar bonds and in addition.

532

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Deirdre Coughlin 02:09:42.220 --> 02:09:57.125

Market if they market residential customers, using the in person solicitation, they have to have an additional bond. So I just want to lay that out there that that is the current practice next slide. Please.

533

Deirdre Coughlin 02:10:00.664 --> 02:10:19.834

So, um, in 2 sections of the act, it lists separately, prohibiting likey Pip customers from entering into a new agreement with a 3rd party energy supplier after 120 and it's 2 sections because the 1st, 1 is for electric and the 2nd is repeated for gas.

534

Deirdre Coughlin 02:10:20.764 --> 02:10:41.194

So, the 1st suggestion is well, municipal electric aggregation is allowed for these customers and electric is underlined, um, any 3rd party energy supplier, who wishes to enroll like, people, Pip customers can petition with a public docketed proceeding to consider whether, or not to approve an alternative retailer.

535

Deirdre Coughlin 02:10:41.674 --> 02:11:01.594

Suppliers application to offer a savings guarantee plan. So this is provided for, in the act. Like, customers could only enter it into a new agreement with a 3rd party energy supplier after they have been off of, like, heat for 12 months. So the only way that they could enter into new agreement is to suspend their life.

536

Deirdre Coughlin 02:11:02.674 --> 02:11:23.284

And or Pip, um, Pip customers are also not allowed to, um, and this is the only way that they be able to get a fixed rate, um, gas. There are other opportunities for electric next slide. So, municipal aggregation is not the answer.

537

Deirdre Coughlin 02:11:23.739 --> 02:11:44.884

Invisible gas aggregation, not possible in Illinois and there was a question that come up during my research about. Why isn't there a home rule exemption for gas? Aggregation I don't know the answer to that. I'm still in the beginning of research, and maybe someone else who has a longer history with the program could answer that municipal electric aggregation is available.

538

Deirdre Coughlin 02:11:44.890 --> 02:12:06.035

But that is dependent on whether the image actually has an agreement. So, if your city doesn't have an aggregation program, then you do not have access to that comment has a negotiated 7.79 cents per kilowatt hour rate available for customers to.

539

Deirdre Coughlin 02:12:06.064 --> 02:12:27.184

Into between October through May, so that is not an extended program, and I did do some additional research so I hope I'm not misquoting here. nicor does not offer any fixed rate plan directly to the customer. You can only go through a 3rd party supplier. nicor is rates and this example went up from 20.

540

Deirdre Coughlin 02:12:27.214 --> 02:12:48.274

3 cents per Thurman April to 63 cents per Thurman. September 3rd party is an example direct energy has a fixed rate offered 49 cents per 3rd, 30 months at 7.29 cents per kilowatt hour for 32 months. And I'll go more into, um, other 3rd party suppliers. And and what they're.

541

Deirdre Coughlin 02:12:48.454 --> 02:12:59.764

Because I think the assumption that was made in the act is that all 3rd party suppliers are perhaps bad actors and maybe, you know, out to get their customers next slide. Please.

542

Deirdre Coughlin 02:13:04.235 --> 02:13:24.995

Um, you know, the guaranteed savings plan is, in the act, the companies are welcome to petition the FCC, fill it out and we all know, and I have the the actual wording here, but that involves docketing, intervention discovery testimony. You're talking lawyers, you're talking time and.

543

Deirdre Coughlin 02:13:25.954 --> 02:13:46.114

Is any company going to go to that expense and that time to be able to say, hey, can I have, uh, like, keep them Pip customers? And the answer is none of them have. There's not been 1 to my knowledge company that has said I want to be able to enroll these customers because they don't want to go through the.

544

Deirdre Coughlin 02:13:46.149 --> 02:13:47.224

Trouble next slide.

545

Deirdre Coughlin 02:13:50.644 --> 02:14:11.524

So guaranteed savings plans are not the answer for liking customers. Um, so, again, no company has petition to do this and the savings plan itself could be variable or fixed. And the rules aren't really specific but again, no one's done this yet. Um, and if they did do it, they could offer rate just under that of.

546

Deirdre Coughlin 02:14:11.825 --> 02:14:31.745

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Established company or regular utility, except of course, those rates go up and down, you know, in the market. Um, so I don't know how they would be able to just go right under but they could. So, um, we understand that there is still getting complaints from people about predatory energy suppliers. So, this is still happening after January 1st, 2020.

547

Deirdre Coughlin 02:14:32.704 --> 02:14:53.824

Could be households that are not enrolled in, like, keeper PIP. We don't know. Um, however they are targeting and maybe it's not all low income households. Maybe it's all household. Um, but we're still could be concerned more about people that don't speak English, which again is provided for in the app. So this is still happening.

548

Deirdre Coughlin 02:14:54.574 --> 02:15:00.244

As, you know, they tried to prevent this, it's still happening next slide.

549

Deirdre Coughlin 02:15:03.154 --> 02:15:23.434

So, um, as the light state agency, we represent those customers, and I do want to stay for the record that we were not brought in to the construction of the act. That's neither here nor there. Um, we were informed of it. We told our work about it, and I think we're in the same boat as everybody else. What's that?

550

Deirdre Coughlin 02:15:23.439 --> 02:15:43.474

Actually happening what, what actually was the result of not allowing customers to take on that 3rd party agreement. So, in looking at our liking customers, we have a universe of approximately 275,000 customers who cannot take advantage of lower prices this winter because they really.

551

Deirdre Coughlin 02:15:44.794 --> 02:16:05.734

Of the factors that I just went through, do not have those options available to them. However, this population, as we know nationwide is only about 20% of the income eligible Illinois residents. So if we could have 100%, we would have 1.5 million like customers, which we don't have. It's not helping.

552

Deirdre Coughlin 02:16:05.794 --> 02:16:26.704

All low income, if that was the intent, it's only helping we're supposed to help, like customers, which is 20% of the low income population. So we more people out there. Everyone else is still, um, it's could still be preyed upon as it were according to the intent of the act. So.

553

Deirdre Coughlin 02:16:27.035 --> 02:16:48.035

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The other disadvantage is that a customer is not told, um, they're not aware of the fact that if they remove themselves from their current agreement and break that agreement and then later a few months a year down the road after 1121toenter into a new agreement, they cannot.

554

Deirdre Coughlin 02:16:48.334 --> 02:17:09.183

And they did not know that, or not told that in a regular fashion by whoever would tell them, um, you know, the current energy supplier is not going to say, hey, if you break this agreement, you can't get into it anymore because you're liking customers. So, they're not aware that that's going to be an issue down the road. So the loss prohibiting.

555

Deirdre Coughlin 02:17:10.414 --> 02:17:28.564

Consumers to exercise their right to choose a lower in gas rate while at the same time we've all seen in the news that higher energy prices are coming up. And I'm sure our friends at the utilities is definitely something that we're headed toward next slide.

556

Deirdre Coughlin 02:17:32.044 --> 02:17:51.484

So, um, you know, what are the energy suppliers? Um, this website, Illinois energy ratings, um, aise, energy ratings dot com has an explanation of 3rd party, and they have a rating system. And I, I took the, the language that they have on there. Uh, well, how do they get the ratings they aggregate.

557

Deirdre Coughlin 02:17:51.489 --> 02:18:12.244

From not only complaint statistics, JD power and associate ratings better business, Bureau, telephone, phone and online surveys to make up these ratings. The Eleanor energy ratings recognizes that they don't want to be just looking at complaints.

558

Deirdre Coughlin 02:18:12.815 --> 02:18:33.755

That they're to put in all aspects of all those factors that they list ahead to come up with ratings next slide. So, when you go to this website, you can put in your information. Um, you can choose for electric, you put in your zip code and, um, they will bring up plans for 12.

559

Deirdre Coughlin 02:18:33.789 --> 02:18:54.933

On 36 month, all these different companies, and what they have to offer. Now, this slide here is showing the ratings of all the companies that they track and you can see that it is a 0 to 5 rating. And so you've got, you know, just a handful here, and they have again backed up what the.

560

Deirdre Coughlin 02:18:54.994 --> 02:19:15.933

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Ratings are for many of these are the very same 3rd party suppliers for comment for Ameren for anyone who has 3rd party suppliers next slide. So these are not all bad actors. I think we need to understand that the 3rd party energy supplier does not mean that it's somebody out to get.

561

Deirdre Coughlin 02:19:16.864 --> 02:19:18.154

So, um.

562

Deirdre Coughlin 02:19:20.344 --> 02:19:40.324

Okay, so Sarah just mentioned that they get commission, we can read that, um, that in a minute, but so again, this is all just primary research, if anybody wants to bring out more facts or anything to consider. But the bottom line, whether we take the Illinois energy ratings to heart.

563

Deirdre Coughlin 02:19:41.735 --> 02:19:43.565

The heat act.

564

Deirdre Coughlin 02:19:47.195 --> 02:20:08.255

All these suppliers do have do offer these 12 month, 30 month, 36 month, 24 month rates that are fixed rates. So if a customer says I want that rate, they cannot enter into an agreement and we have prohibited that. So, what do we do.

565

Deirdre Coughlin 02:20:08.314 --> 02:20:29.404

We either have to amend the heat act to reconsider taking that language out to where we're protecting all residents and not just likely presidents from this from being able to enter into agreements or we can. And then that's where the California program comes in. Perhaps we can, we could in addition or separately, go another.

566

Deirdre Coughlin 02:20:29.410 --> 02:20:50.075

Out and look at offering and I understand the is going to be looking into this lower rates for likely customers. If this is allowable in Illinois. I know. Sometimes the law prohibits side of the law would need to be changed next slide. So California's program is such that they enter.

567

Deirdre Coughlin 02:20:50.559 --> 02:21:11.554

By utility, they have to apply through the utility, the care program and then they have another 1 as well where electric customers get 30 to 35% discount on their electric bill and a 20% discount on their natural gas bill. So this would be in addition to, like, keeper Pip, it would not replace the program, but it would.

568

Deirdre Coughlin 02:21:12.424 --> 02:21:32.854

Lower the burden even more for our customers and, um, and I understand there's, you know, this is very simple to just put this out here and a lot would need to go into, um, either adjusting the law or looking into lower rates or a discount for those with lower income I see we have.

569

Deirdre Coughlin 02:21:32.860 --> 02:21:53.795

Some questions, I think that was my last slide. Let me get to some of those questions. So, Sarah says Eleanor energy ratings gets commissions from suppliers for the leads to generate. Do we know that suppliers aren't going through the process to offer to low income customers? Because the process.

570

Deirdre Coughlin 02:21:54.754 --> 02:22:11.284

Yes, we, I understand that no company has applied through the to be able to offer to, like, keep customers. We're not talking low income. We're talking, like heap or are they just unable to do? Not want to offer actual savings? Yes go ahead.

571

Sarah Moskowitz 02:22:11.284 --> 02:22:15.154

My question is, my question is, um, and maybe someone from.

572

Sarah Moskowitz 02:22:15.160 --> 02:22:25.565

I see or maybe who it works with or interacts with the suppliers can tell us is it because those processes are onerous or is it because they don't want to offer those plans.

573

Joan Howard 02:22:30.275 --> 02:22:31.085

I don't know.

574

Sarah Moskowitz 02:22:31.685 --> 02:22:48.995

I I just want to make sure we're not just assuming it's because the process is honourous cause there is a process there. So, if these folks really wanted to gain customers, go through that process and prove that there'll be able to save their customers money, they're actually proving that if they are actually committing to.

575

Sarah Moskowitz 02:22:49.024 --> 02:23:09.844

Guarantee savings and can still make money off of that. I think they would go through the process. I mean, unless the process is truly onerous. So, I would be curious to hear from supplying companies if

they actually really do want to offer a guaranteed savings product. And they just don't be don't because that's a that's that's an honors process or.

576

Sarah Moskowitz 02:23:10.174 --> 02:23:22.774

And this is my suspicion, because the vast majority of these alternative suppliers have Uber, charge their customers by so much in our state over 1,000,002,015 do they just not want to guarantee savings.

577

Deirdre Coughlin 02:23:24.964 --> 02:23:26.764

Joan, did you have a comment about that?

578

Joan Howard 02:23:27.214 --> 02:23:31.294

You know, I did, and I and I was going to agree that I don't know.

579

Joan Howard 02:23:31.299 --> 02:23:31.689

Oh.

580

Joan Howard 02:23:34.119 --> 02:23:45.544

Have any, any idea that that is the reason why they haven't petitioned the commission for approval of guaranteed plan.

581

Deirdre Coughlin 02:23:50.375 --> 02:24:09.335

But I don't think the question is, why haven't they applied because to them, they're still getting customers it's extra work. Um, but I don't think it's even on the radar. But if you have customers who want to enter in agreements, that's coming from the other side that they just can't. So, the law says, well.

582

Deirdre Coughlin 02:24:09.394 --> 02:24:30.514

Yes, they could if your company that you want to enter an agreement with, is gonna do this. I mean, that's just highly unlikely that you're gonna have people on the decide that there's a small pocket that they can't reach. And so they're, they're not, it's not like you have a collective or an association of customers trying to get 1.

583

Deirdre Coughlin 02:24:30.519 --> 02:24:42.394

Company to do this, so you're not getting that action from the customer side to push the company into entering a petition. So that's what I'm trying to bring to light Alan. You said you have a comment.

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584

Allen Cherry 02:24:44.764 --> 02:25:05.764

Often, I do, and I try to be short and we need to go back a long time, uh, maybe 15 years when there was a huge difference between what the regulated utilities in Illinois were charging and what power could be purchased at on the on the competitive markets, so that.

585

Allen Cherry 02:25:05.769 --> 02:25:26.854

Were 2 visions of how to stop this uh, speaker madigan's was the Illinois power authority, and the governors was this competition, and they really should have only been 1. but that was the point when those 2 leaders were barely talking to each other. So.

586

Allen Cherry 02:25:27.935 --> 02:25:48.065

In the short term before the only power authority started buying power for the utilities, there was a big gap in prices that was filled by marketers and by, uh, municipal aggregation, which was the main 1. now, when you say not all marketers were bad. I think.

587

Allen Cherry 02:25:48.124 --> 02:26:08.434

Hub is established that the likey population seemed to find 100% bad marketers. Uh, there were people that lied about rates. There were people that trick people into signing, uh, variable rate contracts and it cost a lot of money.

588

Allen Cherry 02:26:10.175 --> 02:26:29.975

So, I don't know how we, we go forward, I guess, with all these bad experiences with the population I respect your point, but I understand it doesn't bother me that a lie. He'd been a Pip person can't, uh, shop for power. They.

589

Deirdre Coughlin 02:26:30.664 --> 02:26:51.334

Well, some of these same 3rd, party suppliers are have agreements with our major utilities. If these were terrible actors, then, why would they be a 3rd party supplier, um, into comment or, um, you know, into Ameren? I mean, maybe it's that was the, the situation at the time.

590

Deirdre Coughlin 02:26:51.694 --> 02:27:12.664

Um, and I am, I'm certainly not waving the flag of 3rd party energy suppliers and I don't know if the market has changed, you know, it seems like it has changed but I feel like we also need to take a step back and not not think that all low income customers are not smart, or are not.

591

Deirdre Coughlin 02:27:12.695 --> 02:27:33.335

Resourceful and we're limiting a very finite group of people to be able to enter a free market. And again, I don't have the history that all the advocates do. And I see that Karen has another statement. She has.

592

Allen Cherry 02:27:33.335 --> 02:27:33.575

Great.

593

Allen Cherry 02:27:34.264 --> 02:27:54.964

I respect both of the points you made, but it is a, my conclusion is, it doesn't bother me. There are sophisticated, low income consumers. There are legitimate power brokers, but we have a long history and of companies, targeting, non, English, speaking, target.

594

Allen Cherry 02:27:55.175 --> 02:28:07.175

Seniors, and just ripping them off. Uh, so I think if there's a, you know, in your with your system, ideally, it would work. And it, I'm not sure that it would.

595

Karen Lusson 02:28:11.494 --> 02:28:30.154

Hi, this is Karen lesson. Um, agree. 100% with what Sarah and Alan has said and, and it's not a matter of not, um, assuming that low income customers aren't aren't sophisticated or intelligent or anything like that. I can tell you. Um, I mean.

596

Karen Lusson 02:28:32.314 --> 02:28:52.504

The facts speak for themselves, the publishes a report every year that details how much money consumers have lost, who have been on alternative suppliers. And as Sarah's comment points out it's over a 1Billion dollars. Since I think 2015 also, I have been on so many calls with.

597

Karen Lusson 02:28:52.835 --> 02:29:12.815

Consumers, when I worked at the office, who, who were paying exorbitant alternative gas and electric supply rates, it was heartbreaking when they could have been, you know, they were paying, like, in some instances more than 10 times as much as they should have been had they stuck with the default utility rate.

598

Karen Lusson 02:29:13.929 --> 02:29:35.074

And then 2, there are surcharges, um, um, associated quite often with a lot of these alternative supplier contracts. You know, like a 495 surcharge a month. And I understand what you're saying in terms of this year, with the Super high, natural gas prices. Um, you know, that, in, in some instance.

599

Karen Lusson 02:29:35.079 --> 02:29:56.224

This is the this, um, offer for lower price, um, sort of stands out on the other hand. Um, it's, it's also, um, what is the duration of the contract? What's gonna happen to natural gas prices by next spring? We know. For a fact that according to the energy.

600

Karen Lusson 02:29:56.254 --> 02:30:17.374

The Information Administration, um, that, uh, the high prices that we're experiencing now were triggered in part by that bad spring weather and what happened in Texas, and then the sudden increase in demand, which, you know, parcel partially was impacted by.

601

Karen Lusson 02:30:17.644 --> 02:30:38.104

You know, all the changes to our economy do to covet. So it's, it's really a unique year in that regard. And then also too, I would add that, um, you know, what starts out as a good teaser rate. Um, and this was something that the heat act was not able to address because the alternative supply lobby was.

602

Karen Lusson 02:30:38.675 --> 02:30:59.675

Insisted on it, and, um, they, they won on this point and that was that, um, that there would be automatic renewals. You know, those auto renewals really come to harm people quite often. So, you know, I, I agree with Alan, um, you know, while while this month, it may seem.

603

Karen Lusson 02:30:59.824 --> 02:31:13.384

Unfair that people can't shop around who are lie even Pip customers I think boy in the long run, they're, um, it it's the heat act is going to hopefully prove to be a success.

604

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:15.604 --> 02:31:17.554

Okay, thank you Karen. Abby has a comment.

605

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:30.035 --> 02:31:31.385

Abby, do you still have a comment.

606

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:37.714 --> 02:31:37.984

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Okay.

607

Leslie Ann 02:31:38.944 --> 02:31:40.414

Are you okay?

608

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:42.154 --> 02:31:42.574

You said.

609

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:43.174 --> 02:31:45.454

Get on her end. Yeah.

610

Maria Gallardo 02:31:50.195 --> 02:31:50.645

I.

611

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:50.645 --> 02:31:50.975

Sorry.

612

Maria Gallardo 02:31:50.975 --> 02:31:51.425

True.

613

Deirdre Coughlin 02:31:51.425 --> 02:32:02.195

Comments I think that the point I was trying to get it fixed, um, you know, 30 month rates so they say they're gonna have the same rate. I'm sorry, Abby were you able to talk.

614

Deirdre Coughlin 02:32:05.284 --> 02:32:06.364

Not sure that was.

615

Maria Gallardo 02:32:06.814 --> 02:32:10.624

That was me Marie, I tried to.

616

Maria Gallardo 02:32:11.589 --> 02:32:14.884

I tend to see if that helps so go ahead. I mean, if you can.

617

James Agnew 02:32:28.714 --> 02:32:49.504

Here this is Jim Agnew from the commission. I just wanted to make a few observations to the degree. It might be helpful to the rate. You were pointing out with comment before. That is the 1 Allen was referring to. That's that's that's not something that utility offers that is their price to compare supply rate. So.

618

James Agnew 02:32:49.805 --> 02:33:10.805

There's a difference between delivery and supply, and on the utility side of things, the part where these competitive companies are offering something different is on the supply side. So, I, I don't know everything about the new statute, but my supposition is that the, the part that contemplates low income rates is probably looking more.

619

James Agnew 02:33:10.809 --> 02:33:31.954

Or delivery, I don't know that for sure. Maybe there's someone else here who could comment on that. But the other thing is that, you know, if you're looking at a 30 month rate, nobody knows what the market rate that nicor or people's gas, or the other utilities are going to get during.

620

James Agnew 02:33:31.984 --> 02:33:52.354

That full arc of that 3 months. So there, there's no way to say that that is actually going to save that person over time. Maybe it would maybe the market will be higher, but I think you have to take that into consideration. And then we do have some instructions on our site if a company wanted to petition the commission.

621

James Agnew 02:33:53.285 --> 02:34:07.715

And they could even reach out to staff that's very routine. That when companies are thinking about doing something like this, they could reach out to us for guidance on how, how would they potentially structure a petition like that? And we've gotten no such outreach.

622

Deirdre Coughlin 02:34:12.275 --> 02:34:31.055

Okay, Abby, put in her statement um, she wants to add that part of the intention. I'm sorry? Did I miss some of it? No part of the intention of the heat. Acquiesce to defend the liking fund from being depleted too quickly from paying our grants that were much higher.

623

Deirdre Coughlin 02:34:31.264 --> 02:34:52.324

Then, they would have been, at the same customers had stayed with their default utilities this allows the lighting fund to protect the maximum number of customers possible, as opposed to paying larger

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benefits across a fewer number of hassles. Thank you. Okay. Well, I appreciate everyone's time and discussion on the topic.

624

Deirdre Coughlin 02:34:52.329 --> 02:34:59.014

You have anything else you want to add if you want to in the chat. I know we're running kind of long so we can wrap it up.

625

david wortman 02:34:59.914 --> 02:35:13.234

Okay, thank you. dierdra the 1 thing I would just like to add. So I think correct me if I'm wrong here deirdra but she received a call from an individual and I think for that individual who knew her.

626

david wortman 02:35:15.214 --> 02:35:34.624

For cost structure very well that that person may have been improved if she had been allowed to but the, the general conversation I'm hearing from the advocates, and the ACC is that, while it's possible that it could damage, or could put 1 this individual client, who was savvy.

627

david wortman 02:35:35.074 --> 02:35:55.774

In a, in a slightly worse position, the overall impact of the heat act is positive. So that's what I'm getting out of this, that, uh, while you may be able to find this person or that person who would be better off. Uh, because of the the way that, uh, the markers have done.

628

david wortman 02:35:56.915 --> 02:36:02.765

Across the board, uh, it's better to have it in place is what I'm hearing. So I think that was a good.

629

Deirdre Coughlin 02:36:02.765 --> 02:36:16.925

Conversation and it was yeah, it was a customer and I know she reached out to come and to the attorney general's office, but to me, I brought it forward because it's not about 1 person. It's about, you know, the 275.

630

Deirdre Coughlin 02:36:16.929 --> 02:36:27.874

1000 people that we represent, and I wanted to have these questions answered because it is a very nuanced subject. So I appreciate everyone's input. Thank you.

631

david wortman 02:36:28.474 --> 02:36:38.074

Yeah, I think it was a good conversation. I learned some things, uh, listening to it, so yeah, I appreciate it. I thought it was a good conversation. So, uh, we're.

632

david wortman 02:36:38.079 --> 02:36:59.224

Late, so I'll move on to the meeting schedule as always, uh, will send out at the beginning of, I think 1st or 2nd, week of December. What the meeting schedule will be next year, but There'll be quarterly. So, same month, but we'll send out the exact dates in December and.

633

david wortman 02:36:59.314 --> 02:37:20.194

Other that, uh, I think we're done so, uh, thank you everyone for your time we will be in touch, uh, going forward. Uh, I'm sure that, uh, with the ity rewrite and the things that I talked about, I'll be reaching out probably prior to that January meeting, uh, to, uh, maybe the entire group or maybe.

634

david wortman 02:37:20.464 --> 02:37:29.164

Groups to prepare, but I will, we will stay in touch as we move forward on that project. Thank you very much. Everyone and meeting adjourned.

635

Maria Gallardo 02:37:33.064 --> 02:37:33.694

Thank you very much.

636

Leslie Ann 02:37:34.534 --> 02:37:36.184

Thank you. Bye. Bye.