

**NHLWAA
Executive Board Committee
Minutes**

February 20, 2014

Present: Pat Murphy, Denise Greig, Marilyn Cereillo Bresaw, Jackie Whatmough, Charlene Michaud, Sue Benoit, Suzanne Carr, Todd Marsh and Elizabeth Sayre.

Guest: Terry Smith, from NH DFA.

Jackie Whatmough called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 AM. Meeting location was at the Local Government Center. She noted that Bob Mack was on vacation.

1. Terry Smith provided Handout of Food Stamp Reauthorization and the changes in eligibility and benefit rules as well as the Strengthening the Food Stamps Program Integrity. The major change is the utility allowance which previously was allowed as a default and now will require documentation. We may see changes in Food Stamp Eligibility Amounts based on these changes at each recipient's re-determination.

Terry passed out testimony on SB 203 regarding use of EBT cards. After testimony and letters from Landlord Association and organizations like NHLWAA, they decided to eliminate the limitation of withdrawal transaction because it would hinder recipients in being able to pay their rent and utilities.

Terry passed out HB 1299 which would establish a committee to study the cost and feasibility of requiring photo identification on EBT cards.

Terry passed out HB 1213 which would prohibit the purchase of alcohol and tobacco products with EBT cards. There would be a penalty on the client. There was some concern that the penalty applied to the vendor would not be considered enough of a deterrent for the vendor to deny these purchases.

Jackie asked Terry about his chart of applications. Terry did confirm that he did have a chart that showed that since December 2012 there had not been a peak in applications until last month.

Terry did talk about the expansion of Medicaid that passed in the House and most likely will pass in the Senate. If this passes it would start on 7/1/14 but there would be no administration funds and Terry thinks that he would need about 50 more workers.

Terry left the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. NHLWAA business.

Minutes from 1/16/14 was reviewed. Denise Greig made corrections on page 4 in the first two sentences to replace "penalized" to "eligible" in three places. Liz Sayre made a motion to accept minutes with corrections and Charlene Michaud seconded it. Motion carried with no opposition.

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2. NHLWAA business: (continued)
- a. Executive Committee:
 - i. Treasurer's Report. Balance is \$37,129.93. This does not include the expenses for today's meeting and the \$7,500 still due to Seacoast once the Executive Committee approves the final product of General Assistance Program (GAP) Software.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Liz Sayre and seconded by Denise Greig. Motion carried without opposition.

- ii. Next Meeting is March 20, 2014 at Local Government Center.

b. Committees.

i. Technology – NH GAP

- 1. Target approval launch date 4/1/2014.

Liz Sayre summarized her and co-worker's plan for this session to show the NH GAP software in use.

- 2. Documentation/Contract. The Committee discussed issues with confidentiality and security. Pat brought up concerns that the Executive Committee should be reviewing the contract too since we have more clout in negotiating costs and issues than a single municipality will have. Jackie said that she will follow up to see if we can review a contract for the 3/20/14 meeting.

ii. Legislative Affairs.

- 1. Senate Bill 146 APTD/OAA law NHLWAA recommendation posted on web site.
- 2. Senate Bill 203 regarding the use of the EBT card for cash assistance was tabled for study.

4. Conferences/Training:

a. Meetings.

- i. Next General Session- April 17, 2014. Suggestions such as Ethics and Confidentiality, Elderly and DCYF and Medicaid Expansion were discussed. Final decision was to have Companies representing Managed Care do presentation in April and have Ethic and Confidentiality for November Conference Session.

- ii. June Workshop- planning needs to be done and coordinate with NHMA.

5. Other/General Discussion: None

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Murphy, co-secretary.