

**Employment Security Advisory Board Meeting
Connecticut Department of Labor
September 22, 2017
Minutes**

Members Present: Mark Sullivan, Shawn Coyne, Sue Garten, Dave Bosco, Robert Niedermeier, Eric Gjede, John Toomey

Absent: John Olsen

Agency Staff: Commissioner Scott Jackson, Deputy Commissioner Kurt Westby, Marisa Morello, Lynne Knox, Nancy Steffens, Carl Guzzardi, Mike Lucente, Daryle Dudzinski, Ken Petow, John Matteis, Kathy Marioni, Theresa Peterson, Brian Richards, Anne Rugens, Steve Lattanzio, Maria Hagen, Carolyn Treiss.

Introductions

Mark Sullivan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Approval of Minutes and Discussion

The minutes of the September 22, 2017 meeting were approved, with modifications. The State Legislative Update was modified to read as follows: “Marisa Morello provided an update to the short legislative session. Marisa noted the session placed emphasis on reemployment. Comprehensive reform attempts were made, but ultimately there was a divide that could not be breached.”

The Board agreed that future meetings could be recorded.

UI Trust Fund and Tax Update

Carl Guzzardi provided a UI Trust Fund Update. Carl noted that the Trust Fund is still short 950 million in order to be solvent. The Board discussed the ramifications of a recession to the Trust Fund in the event no Trust Fund reform occurs. Carl noted that the Department will not reach 50% solvency until 2022 – if there is no recession. Robert Niedermeier questioned the need for solvency if there is no recession, and Commissioner noted the importance of Unemployment Insurance as an insurance program.

Unemployment Benefits and Employment Services/AJC Update

Daryle Dudzinski provided a UI Benefit Program Update. Daryle noted that staffing levels are extremely low, due to the reduction in force in 2015 and a large number of retirements. Daryle noted that staff have been transferred to meet program needs as much as possible, and to

focus staff on UI overpayments/program integrity. Daryle provided an update on comprehensive and affiliate American Job Centers within the State.

Future Agenda Items

Mark Sullivan noted that it is time for the Advisory Board to bring topics and information to future Board meetings. Commissioner Jackson noted that it is necessary for Board members to encourage industry partners large and small to adopt policies to keep workers within the State of Connecticut. Deputy Commissioner Westby mentioned that increased coordination between the Department and industry partners to bring increased federal funding into the State remains relevant. John Toomey questioned the possible role of the Apprenticeship Division in future meetings. Dave Bosco noted that community colleges and the Department could work together to change the focus of training to jobs that are in need, and noted the value of blue collar jobs. Sue Garten discussed the relevance of looking at the underemployed and those with criminal records, and the need to assist such individuals in removing barriers to training and education.

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.