

**Employment Security Advisory Board Meeting
Connecticut Department of Labor
June 14, 2013
Minutes**

Members Present: Mark Sullivan, Eric Gjede, Shawn Coyne, Henry Zaccardi, John Toomey, John Barrasso, Susan Nofi-Bendici

Absent: John Olsen

Observer: John McCarthy

Agency Staff: Commissioner Sharon Palmer, Anne Rugens, Stephen Lattanzio, Chris Gilly, Mark Stankiewicz, Marisa Morello, Christine Paquette, Lynne Knox, Daryle Dudzinski, John Matteis, Susan DeVito.

Introduction

Chairman Mark Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

The Board approved the minutes of the January 25, 2013 meeting.

Anne Rugens referenced the new webpage for the ES Advisory Board, which may be accessed from DOL's main webpage. On the site are scheduled meetings, agendas, and minutes of meetings. John Matteis additionally noted that the DOL main website is in the process of being redesigned.

1. State Legislative Update

Marisa Morello provided an update on the 2013 legislative session, wherein many of DOL's bills went forward, and expressed her appreciation for Commissioner Palmer's support during the session. Heidi Lane indicated that a PowerPoint discussing all 2013 bills will be posted on the DOL website, and also shared the PowerPoint with those attending. Heidi noted that Commissioner Palmer will look at Special Act 13-13 (An Act Concerning Establishing a Tax Force to Study Family Medical Leave Insurance) and that a report concerning this bill is due in October, 2014. Heidi also advised that all DOL Regulations are now available on DOL's website, linking directly to the Secretary of the State's Office.

2. Draft Overpayment Regulations

Anne Rugens provided information regarding the draft overpayment regulations. Any comments by the Board to be provided by June 26, 2013.

3. UI Program Update

Daryle Dudzinski provided an update on UI fraud cases. Daryle referenced the new unit in the Chief State's Attorney office, consisting of one prosecutor and two investigators, which has been created specifically to address employer and claimant unemployment fraud. Board members and DOL representatives discussed the need to have both employer and claimant fraud investigated and prosecuted.

Chris Gilly discussed Sequestration measures taken by mandate from USDOL to reduce EUC by a certain percentage, effective June 22, 2013. Chris noted that the Department had not yet received many calls – but noted that increased calls could occur when the next payment included the reduction.

4. Unemployment Trust Fund & Tax Update

Heidi Lane discussed the UI Trust Fund Update prepared by the Tax Division for the meeting. Heidi noted that this is the third year a Special Assessment tax is to be imposed on contributing employers due to the outstanding federal loan. However, this year's assessment rate is approximately \$15.00 per full time employee, which is a reduction of 23% from last year. Additionally, due to the outstanding loan, employers are subject this year to increased FUTA taxes, in the form of credit reductions. This will result in an additional \$63 maximum per employee due in January 2014.

5. Future Agenda Items

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.