

**Employment Security Advisory Board Meeting
Connecticut Department of Labor
November 19, 2014
Minutes**

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

Absent: John Olsen, John Barrasso

Agency Staff: Commissioner Sharon Palmer, Deputy Commissioner Dennis Murphy, Carl Guzzardi, Daryle Dudzinski, Andy Condon, Stephen Lattanzio, Anne Rugens, Heidi Lane, Maria Hagen, Celeste Valakos, Ken Petow, Marisa Morello, Amy Kulig.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Sullivan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. The minutes of the October 24, 2014 meeting were approved, with the request by Sue Garten to replace the following sentence in the October 2014 minutes - "In regards to the waiting week, Sue Garten noted that the waiting week had more impact in "good economic times versus "bad" times since in "good" times the average number of weeks an individual collects is generally shorter in duration" - with this sentence: "Sue Garten referenced her disappointment that the Agency was not able to provide data of the effect of different proposals on different tiers of claimants (based upon the amount of benefits received on a weekly basis)."

Discussion on Proposals

The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Board considered the best path to discussing the Proposal with the General Assembly, should the opportunity exist. The Deputy Commissioner noted the value of the Board's participation with the General Assembly at that point. The Board and Agency staff expressed ideas regarding presenting the Proposal. While it was raised that a consensus had not been reached on the Proposal, Heidi Lane noted that the Board had agreed upon the Proposal by a very strong majority of the Board. Among the ideas expressed, Henry Zaccardi noted that the Proposal does constitute a tax increase, although in the long run not taking any action will cost a lot more. The concept of "moving backwards in order to move forward" was broached. Carl Guzzardi noted that the Proposal represents a balanced approach to bring solvency to the Trust Fund and fix a flawed system. The Commissioner expressed her gratitude to the Board for its dedicated efforts and perseverance. Mark Sullivan expressed his hope that this Proposal was just the beginning.

Closing

Next meeting scheduled for January 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.