

**Employment Security Advisory Board Meeting
Connecticut Department of Labor
December 15, 2017
Minutes**

Call to Order

Mark Sullivan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Attendees

Members: Mark Sullivan, Shawn Coyne, Sue Garten, Dave Bosco, Robert Niedermeier, Eric Gjede, John Toomey.
Agency Staff: Deputy Commissioner Kurt Westby, Marisa Morello, Lynne Knox, Carl Guzzardi, Mike Lucente, Daryle Dudzinski, John Matteis, Kathy Marioni, Theresa Peterson, Anne Rugens, Steve Lattanzio, David Ricciuti, Sue Crabb, Susan DeVito.

Approval of Minutes and Discussion

The minutes of the September 22, 2017 meeting, modified to remove a statement inaccurately attributed to Robert Niedermeier, were approved by unanimous vote. The Board agreed that future meetings could be recorded if necessary for purposes of the minutes.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division Updates

Carl Guzzardi provided a UI Tax Division update, noting that, while the Trust Fund has some funds, it is far from solvent and the Agency remains extremely vulnerable in the event of a recession. The Division has implemented payment allocation changes within the Division. Decreased federal funds and the extremely high fringe benefit rate for state employees has placed a tremendous strain upon Agency and Tax Division staff.

Daryle Dudzinski provided a UI Benefit Update. Operational resources are strained by the reduced staff in the Agency, as staff numbers continue to decrease, while the claim load remains consistent. It remains extremely important that claimants avail themselves of the assistance provided by Agency online services. Hearings will soon be shifted to a paper/questionnaire process as the Agency transitions in the next couple years to the modernized system. Security remains a major concern at the American Job Centers.

John Matteis provided an update to the UIM effort as the Agency works toward the modernization of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system. The effort has recently entered its 2nd phase of the pre-modernization efforts.

Open Discussion

Discussion centered on the Agency crisis presented by decreased budgetary funds and high fringe rate and a legislative concept proposed by Sue Garten on fraudulent overpayment criminal penalties.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:50 a.m.