

**Employment Security Advisory Board Meeting  
Connecticut Department of Labor  
October 24, 2014  
Minutes**

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

**Absent:** John Olsen

**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, Sue Crabb, David Ricciuti, Ken Petow, John Matteis, Marisa Morello, Ram Aberasturia, Amy Kulig.

**Observer:** Rich Siegel, UTMC, via Conference Call, George Wentworth

**Approval of Minutes**

Mark Sullivan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:25. The minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Agency News**

Mark Sullivan introduced Dave Bosco as the new Advisory Board member. Dave spoke on his thirty year tenure with Local 1199.

Anne Rugens noted that Daryle Dudzinski has been promoted to UI Director.

**Discussion on Proposals:**

Andy Condon discussed the research his Unit had conducted at the request of the Advisory Board, and provided a hand out. Andy supplemented the handout with an additional chart pertaining to scenario #6 in the handout and noted that #7 and #9 of the handout are the same scenario.

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.

Ken Petow discussed analysis CTDOL had done into the savings to the UI Trust Fund should the statutory language rendering non-allocable severance pay conditioned upon

a release of statutory or common law rights be removed. Ken indicated that analysis indicated that savings could reach as high as \$50 million per year.

The members discussed and added the severance pay savings item to the items on Andy's handout.

The Board members in attendance took a vote on six of the proposals discussed during the meeting. When making the votes, a motion was made and seconded to treat the following four proposals as intertwined, and not stand-alones.

- (1) Increase the taxable wage base from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in 2015 and by an additional \$1,000 each year thereafter until it reaches \$26,000 in 2021.
- (2) Freeze the maximum weekly benefit rate for three years – from 2015 through 2017.
- (3) Change the rules regarding the allocation of severance pay such that all severance pay is allocable (claimant not entitled to collect while receiving severance pay) effective 2015.
- (4) Increase the minimum base period earnings required for eligibility from \$600 to \$1,000 effective 2015. This increases the minimum weekly benefit rate from \$15 to \$25.

Based upon that premise, the Board members then took votes on each proposal.

Proposal (1) – Seven members voted aye; one member (Eric Gjede) voted nay.

Proposal (2) – All 8 members voted aye.

Proposal (3) – All 8 members voted aye.

Proposal (4) – All 8 members voted aye.

Board members additionally considered the following two additional proposals:

- (5) Waiting week
- (6) Increasing the taxable wage base with indexing.

However, the Board members were unable to reach a consensus on either proposal (5) or proposal (6).

**Meeting Dates:**

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014 at 9 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.