

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2009
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
10 N. SENATE AVENUE – ROOM 301A
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Dave Collins; Joe Evans; Randy Maxwell (via phone); Sam Schlosser; Kent Tolliver and Kevin Tully. Also in attendance from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development were Teresa Voors, Commissioner; Mary Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Unemployment; Michelle Marshel, Deputy Commissioner Communications; Scott Sanders, Chief Financial Officer; and Dustin Stohler, General Counsel.

Mr. Schlosser called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and recognized that there was a quorum present.

Mr. Schlosser welcomed guests from the Department of Workforce Development and asked each to give a short introduction: Jennifer Chappell, the Director of Unemployment Insurance Tax department; Lauren Bogan, an Attorney for the Legal Department and works primarily on Unemployment Insurance and Tax; and Greg Vollmer, Deputy Commissioner Field Operations.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Voors began with an update on the Unemployment Rate that was just released. She stated it has leveled off in the last several months in the high to mid nines. There are 190,000 claimants on all levels of unemployment right now. Initial claims were dramatically reduced which is a good sign as manufacturers are going back to work. We are seeing an increase in auto manufacturers as the 'Cash for Clunkers' program is in progress.

Commissioner Voors asked Michelle Marshel to provide an update on the Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee meetings. She stated that they have discussed the benefits and appeals processes in the past meetings. Their third and final meeting is this coming Monday and they will be discussing the tax side of UI. The new tax rate for employers begins in 2010 based on HEA1379.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Schlosser asked if all Board members had reviewed the previous meetings minutes. A motion was made by Kent Tolliver to accept the September 23, 2009 minutes, which was seconded by Joe Evans and unanimously approved.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Mary Johnson began with unemployment insurance performance metrics. She directed everyone's attention to the hand out, Indiana Claims from January 2008 to September 2009. She stated there was a decrease in initial claims; therefore, there are less new claimants on UI. There has been some preparation for the implementation of EUC 3 but no effective date has been set. There could potentially be 13 additional weeks for states with 8.5 or greater UI Rate. So far 17 states fall in this category. DWD has been doing some preliminary work to be prepared with it does go into effect.

The Unemployment Rate went out today at 10 am showing that we have remained stable and there are no significant hikes.

The next handout refers to Appeals Caseloads to help everyone understand their process. This process is maintained in an efficient manner so a claimant can not jump in line. Our main focus is on adjudication and we have reworded forms so they are easier to understand.

Mr. Sanders moved on to the Trust Fund update. He directed everyone's attention to the next handout review of that states that are currently borrowing. The projection for end of the month is a total of 24 states borrowing. By 2012 the Department of Labor prediction is 40 states will be borrowing.

Mr. Sanders moves on to the Penalty and Interest fund update. He gave a status report on Vincennes University and Ivy Tech Community College who have revamped their budget proposals to comply with the recent resolutions passed in the previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

At this time, Mr. Schlosser opened the floor to new business.

Lauren Bogan, Legal Tax Attorney, introduced a resolution that repeals the resolution adopted on August 18th, 1993 and May 4th, 2005 by the Unemployment Insurance Board stating that the board shall consider the Commissioner's determination binding and shall report to the board on monthly basis waivers of interest or rate recalculation pursuant to the statutory provision identified herein. Attachment A listed reasons and conditions that are included in this resolution.

Mr. Schlosser entertained a motion to adopt the resolution, Dave Collins motioned for approval and Kent Tolliver seconded the motion. Motion approved.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

The next board meeting will be November 18, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Schlosser adjourns the meeting at 11:50am. Meeting adjourned.