

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING
MAY 18, 2011
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
10 N. SENATE AVENUE – CONFERENCE ROOM 19
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Paula Presnoples, President; Kevin Tully, Vice President; Dave Collins (via phone); Joe Evans; Kent Tolliver and Randy Maxwell. Also in attendance from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development were Joe Frank, Manager of Customer Communications; Valerie Kroeger, Director of Communications; Michelle Marshel, Deputy Commissioner of Communications; Ron Miller, Deputy Commissioner Ethics and Compliance/General Counsel/Interim Deputy Commissioner of UI Operations, Scott Sanders, Deputy Commissioner Systems Information and Analysis and Brenda Summers, Director of Government and Legislative Affairs.

Ms. Presnoples welcomed guests Dax Ramsey, Joree Richards, Jim Patterson and Dewey Pearman with Indiana Plan; Teresa Hess and Craig Fry with Ivy Tech; David Tucker, Jim Russell and Jennifer Bozek with Vincennes University; Kaylene Smith and Claude Street with ABC (Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.) and Brad Nemeth, former employee.

Ms. Presnoples called the meeting to order at 10am and recognized a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Everson was unable to attend last month's board meeting as he attended the State JAG Conference. He began this month's discussion with a brief background on JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) and was very pleased with the program's outcomes. He then gave an update on recent management changes with the agency. Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations, Greg Vollmer will be taking on a new position with Indiana's Economic Growth Region 2 in North Central Indiana as President and Chief Executive Officer, overseeing workforce development initiatives. Dennis Wimer will be taking over as Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations. Mr. Wimer has served on the State Workforce Innovative Council since 2008 and will be a solid addition to the DWD team. Deputy Commissioner of UI Operations, Mary Johnson has resigned to pursue other opportunities and Ron Miller will assume the role of Interim Deputy Commissioner of Unemployment Insurance Operations.

Commissioner Everson stated that the next launch date for the unemployment insurance modernization system will be Labor Day as modifications need to be made due to changes in the law passed during the last session.

The April unemployment rate will be released on Friday and Indiana should still be below the national average.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Michelle Marshel gave an update on state legislation to the board. She stated that the legislature passed a bill allowing employers, who require pre-employment drug tests, to report to DWD if the individual fails or refuses to take the test. This report would allow the department to deny UI benefits to those individuals.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Presnoples asked the members to review the minutes from the April 20, 2011 meeting. Joe Evans motioned for approval of minutes as amended and Dave Collins seconded the motion, motion approved unanimously.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Sanders directed the board's attention to the Unemployment Insurance Rate map which showed Indiana at 8.5% unemployment rate for April 2011. Next, he showed the Initial Claims chart which showed a slight increase that was a result of the slowdown in production of automobiles from Japanese manufacturers due to the tsunami and earthquake. Mr. Miller commented on the Benefit Processing chart. He stated that with the help from the IT staff and Mr. Sanders' team they will work on more efficient management. He also met with the U.S. Department of Labor on DWD's appeals process and they stated our numbers are leading the nation. DOL stated overall we have had the best results they have seen in 10 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Indiana Plan came before the board in continuation of their budget review. Dax Ramsey gave further information on their budget review and brought along their CPA firm to assist with any further questioning. The board discussed the importance of obtaining accurate information and keeping accurate records so next budget review will go more smoothly. Jim Patterson expressed to the board the positive outcome Indiana Plan has brought to many minorities and the positive feedback he hears from all who have gone through the program. Mr. Collins motioned for approval from the board to grant Indiana Plan the second half of funds for the fiscal year. Mr. Evans seconded the motion and set parameters for next years funding request. Motion was approved.

Teresa Hess came before the board to present Ivy Tech's annual budget update. She gave a background on the program stating it is a 5 year program where the student will earn a two year associates degree along with their Journeypersons certification. Joe Evans motioned for approval for Ivy Tech to receive the remaining funds for the fiscal year and Randy Maxwell seconded the motion, motion approved.

Dave Tucker with Vincennes University came before the board to present their annual budget report. After hearing their report, Ms. Presnoples gave Mr. Tucker advice for next year on what data to bring with them. She stressed that determination of goals was important and once that is accomplished then it will be easier to produce the metrics for their report. Randy Maxwell motioned for approval for the remaining funds of the fiscal year and Kent Tolliver seconded the motion, motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one had signed up for public comment.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

The members of Vincennes University, Ivy Tech and Indiana Plan all agreed to come back in July to provide presentations for 2012 funding.

The next board meeting will be June 15, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Presnoples adjourned the meeting at 12:25pm.