

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 16, 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; Joe Evans; and Randy Maxwell. Also in attendance from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development were Mark Everson, Commissioner; Randy Gillespie, Chief Financial Officer; Mary Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Unemployment Insurance; Nancy Manley, Budget Director; Michelle Marshel, Deputy Commissioner Communications; Ron Miller, Deputy Commissioner Ethics and Compliance/General Counsel; Scott Sanders, Deputy Commissioner Systems Information and Analysis and Greg Vollmer, Deputy Commissioner Field Operations.

Ms. Presnoples welcomed guests Timothy Downey with Unemployment Compensation League out of Kokomo, Joshua Richardson with the Governor's office, Dax Ramsey, Labor Coordinator and Joree Richards, Gary area Director, both with Indiana Plan.

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

#### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Everson gave an update on the Unemployment Insurance Bill stating it has passed the House and the Senate. He stated it met the Governor's principals and we are pleased it has gone through.

Notices have been sent out to employers notifying them of their new rates. There were 3,000 employers that received a slight increase in their rates. Instructions for employers have been posted to our website.

Commissioner Everson stated the new Unemployment Insurance rate is 9.1 which is a .04 decrease from last month. Initial claims are back to levels that have not been seen since 2006.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

Ms. Marshel gave an update on legislation and stated the only other bill affecting unemployment insurance is the drug testing bill that has passed through the House and the Senate. There was a short discussion regarding the process and procedures that will take place with this pre-employment testing.

She also handed out a copy of the letter that went to merit rated employers for the boards review.

Ms. Marshel announced that the WorkOne Achievement Ceremony will be held at the State House on April 6, 2011. She encouraged the members to attend and see the benefits WorkOne has on individuals.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Presnoples asked the members to review the minutes from the February 16, 2011 meeting. Randy Maxwell motioned for approval and Joe Evans seconded the motion, motion approved.

## **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

Ms. Johnson began the update on the UI Metrics. She stated that the national unemployment rate is 9.0 and Indiana's rate is 9.1. She directed everyone's attention to the slide with the initial claims through March 5<sup>th</sup>. She pointed out the slight increase which was due to 300 layoffs in Bloomington. The current numbers are starting to match our numbers from back in 2008 which is a positive sign. She discussed the claims paid chart and stated that 47% percent of claims being paid are State and 53% are Federal. She also mentioned there were averages of 78,000 claims being paid every week.

Mr. Gillespie discussed the Trust Fund. He stated \$90 million was paid out in February which is a substantial decrease to the \$170 million that was paid out in February of 2009. Claimants are receiving payments within 14-21 days from filing their vouchers. There was a short discussion regarding the annual spike of claims that occurs every March. Ms. Johnson stated it always occurs every year and is the result of holiday shutdowns, deductible incomes and construction lay-offs.

Mr. Gillespie discussed our appeal process and stated that our review board is now in the top 5 in the nation which is a huge improvement compared to 2009. We are continually looking at ways to improve our processes and timeliness.

Mr. Gillespie directed everyone's attention to the states borrowing map and stated Indiana is still #9. Next he discussed the board report and stated we should start seeing the trust fund balance decrease as we start receiving first quarter payments from employers. He then reviewed the P&I funds with the board.

Ms. Presnoples asked Mr. Richardson for status on the new members for the board. Mr. Richardson stated he would push to get this through and Andrew Norris is working on it as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dax Ramsey with Indiana Plan presented their annual update to the board. He explained the process of their program. Indiana Plan recruits pre-apprentices that consist of minorities and women who earn less than \$20,000 dollars a year or have been unemployed for four weeks or more to begin training in the construction field. Once these candidates have been chosen IN Plan will then get them certified in OSHA, train them on interview skills and provide them with aptitude tests and preparation for the job. Once they have been hired into the workforce Indiana Plan tracks their progress for one year. Those who are interested in applying can visit their website at [www.indianaplan.org](http://www.indianaplan.org).

Mr. Ramsey handed out their audit report and discussed their annual budget. The board had several questions that were not in the presentation. Ms. Presnoples entertained a motion to have them break down the numbers more accurately and provide more data to the board. Randy Maxwell seconded the motion, motion approved. Indiana Plan was scheduled to come back at a later date for a second budget update to the board.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Presnoples directed everyone's attention to Mr. Downey who signed up for public comment. He had a few questions regarding the board's annual report, overpayments and other claimant issues. Ms. Presnoples suggested he meet with Mr. Gillespie at a later date for further questions.

#### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

The next board meeting will be April 20, 2011.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Presnoples adjourned the meeting at 11:50am.