

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2008
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
10 N. SENATE AVENUE, ROOM 301 A
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Samuel Schlosser, President; Dave Thomas, Vice-President; Barry Baer; Kevin Tully; Joe Evans; Kent Tolliver; Randy Maxwell, Paula Presnoples, and David Collins. Also in attendance were Teresa Voors, Commissioner; Scott Sanders, Chief Financial Officer; John Ruckelshaus, Deputy Commissioner of Governmental Affairs; Dustin Stohler, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs and Administration; Randy Gillespie, Budget Director; and Gary Abell, Press Secretary. It was noted a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas at 10:05am.

The Board welcomed guests Jerry Conover, Indiana Business Research Center; George Raymond, Indiana Chamber; Gretchen White, Indiana Builders Association; and Attorney.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Ms. Voors began with an update on Indiana's National Emergency Grants. Two grants were received, 1.) ATA workers recently laid-off, \$35 million has been established for the grant which will allow recent ATA workers the opportunity to earn Associate Degrees 2.) Indiana's Dislocated Workers, a grant has been established to employ these workers on clean up crews across southern Indiana in areas in need of clean up from the June flooding. The Indiana Department of Labor has allotted dollars to aid in this grant.

Ms. Voors continued stating that among ATA and dislocated workers, many other Indiana employees have recently been laid-off including a large number of employees who worked in Indiana's RV industry. Due to an influx in gas prices and slowed production of RV's, many workers in this industry have been temporarily laid-off due to an anticipated July 4th lay-off as well as permanently laid-off. This has created a spike in claims. The Department of Workforce Development has established several onsite community centers which will aid workers in resume building and job-search strategies as well as provide them with job fairs and assistance in using online job-search engines such as www.IndianaCareerConnect.com. Ms. Voors also discuss the IndianaCareerConnect website stating it's current marketing strategy is geared toward our customers to increase the number of resumes on the site and eventually will be marketed formally in the following months. Ms. Voors is open to ideas and comments regarding the marketing of the web site.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas asked if all Board members approved the minutes. Mr. Tolliver motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Board members approved.

OPPERATIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Sanders stated the Annual Report is still in its final stages of approval. The report will be released to all Board members in the next few weeks.

Mr. Sanders continued with an update on Extended Unemployment Benefits recently passed by President Bush. Mr. Sanders stated since July 1, 2008 32,000 Hoosiers filed for Extended Benefits and Indiana was among few states who met the Federal deadline. Along with the large number of claims filed for extended benefits came an increase in calls to the call center for Unemployment insurance. Mr. Sanders stated the number of calls are beginning to return to normal numbers though efforts to keep up on the increase number of claims has resulted in twenty new Adjudicators who have joined the claims department along with employees volunteering on Saturdays.

Mr. Sanders continued with clarification to the board on a recent confusion on House Bill 1219 and that efforts are being made to anticipate a large number of retirees in the coming years due to the Baby Boomer retirement.

Mr. Sanders confirmed Mr. Baer's question that 100% of Unemployment Insurance payments are paid onto debit cards to claimants. This allows for the cost of postage and printed checks to reduce the cost of allocating payments; these saved funds are being used for staffing of the claims department and keeping efforts focused on keeping up with the influx of claims. Mr. Sanders also explained to the Board recent debit card and Unemployment Insurance scams have been caught and the Department of Workforce Development is in communication with the Attorney General's office to control and stop these scams. Mr. Thomas proposed the idea to use one debit card for all government monies paid to claimants and Mr. Voors confirmed that Indiana agencies are considering the idea though it would be difficult to expand into the federal government. Ms. Voors stated the debit card will soon be used for those receiving **child support payments**.

Mr. Sanders stated several Indiana **corporations** have been requested to give their input in the Trust Fund solvency. Factors have been given to them to consider and responses are expected back to The Department of Workforce Development by next week. Mr. Sanders and Ms. Voors explained the importance of receiving input from Indiana before moving forward on a plan for the Trust Fund solvency.

Mr. Sanders continued with a Trust Fund Report. The fund was at \$176 million as of July 31st. 2008. Mr. Conover stated the Indiana Business Research Center continues to analyze the Trust Fund. Mr. Sanders explained an example on Michigan's Trust Fund to the Board.

Mr. Stohler gave an update on the Collections contract. Mr. Stohler stated the contract was sent to the Department of Administration earlier in the month and is still awaiting their approval. The contract should finish quickly upon selection of a vendor. The Contract should be returned from the Department of Administration in the next ten days

Mr. Stohler discussed the Directors and Officers insurance with the Board. Mr. Stohler stated in Indiana this will be the first insurance provided for a Board of a state agency in the case of a law suite among a board member. The process therefore is more complicated and extensive underwriting is required. Mr. Stohler expects a response from the firm in the coming days. Mr. Baer recommended seeking approval from the Attorney General's office for the insurance and to seek information on other states that may have insurance for their Boards.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sanders stated Ms. Hulseley the current UI Board Clerk will be ending her role as Board Clerk as of conclusion of today's meeting. A new Board Clerk will be filling in following Ms. Hulseley's departure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baer requested the next Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee meeting be held on August 26th or 27th. Mr. Thomas confirmed there were no additional comments and adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.