

MINUTES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2007
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
10 N. SENATE AVENUE, ROOM 301A
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Members present were Samuel Schlosser, Vice-President; Barry Baer (via phone), Tom Hargrove (via phone), Joe Evans, Randy Maxwell, Kevin Tully and Kent Tolliver. It was acknowledged that there was a quorum present. Also in attendance were Teresa Voors, Commissioner; Scott Sanders, Chief Financial Officer; and John Ruckelshaus, Deputy Commissioner of Government Affairs.

The meeting was called to order by Sam Schlosser at 10:02 am.

Scott Sanders began the meeting by going over a new Organizational Chart that was given to each of the members, a copy to be included with the Minutes. Mr. Sanders explained that with Mrs. Voors moving into the position as Commissioner, he would be taking over the Unemployment Insurance issues and Mr. McCoskey was moving into the role over Legal Affairs and Administration. Cindy George, the Board Clerk, will email the new Organizational Chart to the board members that were unable to be present.

Mr. Schlosser welcomed Commissioner Voors to the meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Voors reported that she was excited to be at the meeting in her new capacity as Commissioner. She reviewed a copy of a handout that is the home page of the new DWD website (www.dwd.in.gov). She invited the board members to try it out and report back their views of its use. It is made to be more user friendly and welcomed the board's comments. She reiterated that Mr. Sanders will be handling the UI Board Meetings. Commissioner Voors said that she and the rest of the Lead Team have set what they call BHAG's, big hairy audacious goals. One of the first goals is in regards to UI claims and having a process in place to handle temporary layoffs coming through the holidays and into the new year. Mr. Schlosser said that the board was very happy to be working with her as Commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Schlosser asked if everyone had reviewed the prior meetings minutes and a motion was made by Mr. Tolliver to accept the minutes from the September 5, 2007 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hargrove and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ruckelshaus reported the last board vacancy should be filled by next month's meeting. The last candidate is going through the process with the Governor's office and should be at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sanders reported on UI performance metrics. He noted that the agency is looking at ways to find out how we are doing and what can we do in the future. Mr. Sanders explained that you can look in the past to see where the future might be. Mr. Sanders reviewed a graph of Initial Claims from 1999 to 2007, a copy of which is included in the Minutes. The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Project has made it easier for individuals to file for unemployment insurance.

Mr. Sanders also reviewed a Total Claims graph, a copy of which is included, showing people that have continuing claims from 1999 to 2007. He reported that the agency may start outbound calling to people that have claims for four weeks or longer to try and help them in their search for new employment.

A third graph reviewed, a copy of which is attached, shows Intrastate Exhaustions which is individuals that have been staying on unemployment for 26 weeks and have wiped out their unemployment benefit. This is not good for our economy or good for the individual.

The final graph introduced by Mr. Sanders shows the percentage of claims filed each day of the week. 59% of all claims are filed on Sunday. He explained that they are working on moving claims deputies to a 4 – 10 hour day schedule Monday through Thursday or 4 – 9 hours days Monday through Thursday with a half day on Friday. With this change we can better meet the needs of our customers. This will improve our turn around time for our customers. We are reviewing all the options to bring better service to our customers. Mr. Ruckelshaus is working with the Call Center to possibly change work hours to be able to offer better service times.

Mr. Sanders informed the board he will be reporting on federal metrics each month. Two of the main goals are to 1) provide federal metrics for 21 day turn around; and 2) provide quality control and definitions of the metrics. Mr. Sanders opened the floor for questions. Mr. Baer asked that the charts be emailed to those on the phone.

Mr. Sanders handed out a press release from September 25, 2007 on Indiana Employment Report for August, 2007. This report shows the not seasonally adjusted employment, so the board members can check their areas. This will help the agency know that the information is accurate. It also shows jobs by major category. This information should be helpful for the board members.

Mr. Sanders reported the unemployment rate did pick up from 4.6% to 4.9%. This shows the economy is struggling and we need to make sure people being laid off are getting the training needed. Mr. Ruckelshaus interjected that Indiana is still doing very well for the Midwest region. Indiana is well below the other states except for Minnesota. Mr. Sanders said that he will send this chart out as well.

Mr. Baer voiced his appreciation for what Mr. Sanders is doing to get this information to the board. Mr. Sanders reported that he is working on a Dashboard and will be rolling it out in the coming months. This will include WIA and TAA information as well as UI. Mr. Schlosser said that ultimately once the data is available, it will help the board in the decision making process.

Mr. Sanders reviewed the status of the Penalty and Interest Fund, a copy of which is attached. He noted that the other piece they are trying to change with Marty Morrow coming in as the Chief Operating Officer is looking to see where the return is for our dollar. He will be doing a score card for our business so that we know where changes need to be made.

Mr. Sanders reported that the Trust Fund balance is at \$396 million and we are seeing it decline. The large percentage of funds comes in around April and May, in the first and second quarters. The balance will begin to decline through the end of the year into next year. Mr. Sanders opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Schlosser moved to the election of new officers. At last months meeting Mrs. Voors asked Cindy George, the Board Clerk, to send out an email to all Board members telling them that the election will be held at this month's meeting. Therefore, he opened the floor for nominations. After some discussion as to the length of certain member's terms, Mr. Baer nominated Mr. Schlosser as President and Mr. Thomas as Vice-President. Mr. Hargrove seconded and it was so moved.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Schlosser opened this as an opportunity for all the board members to make comments, ask questions or raise issue. Mr. Baer added that he was looking forward to seeing the Dashboard that Mr. Sanders is going to put together. He is still looking for ideas as to where the money can be used and Mr. Schlosser agreed. There was some discussion that followed by Mr. Tully and Mr. Sanders regarding conditions in northwest Indiana and the data on that area. Mr. Ruckelshaus asked whether they were seeing more involvement at the high school level to get kids interested in their trades and Mr. Evans said that in his area they are seeing interest in trade schools for carpentry. Mr. Ruckelshaus mentioned that the Major Opportunities Program is available now.

Mr. Schlosser asked Cindy George to send out updated contact information to each of the board members.

The next board meeting will be November 7, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Schlosser moved to adjourn at 10:52 am and it was approved.