

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 09, 2014
Kneip Building, Conference Room #3
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD

Members Present

Marcia Hultman, Chair
Robert Anderson
Tim Fitzgerald
Carol Hinderaker
Don Kattke
Shawn Lyons

Members Absent

David Owen

Others Present

Julie Johnson
Bob Mercer
Deb Mortenson
Mark Anderson
Pauline Heier
Julie Albano
Amber Mulder
Dan Thielsen
Scott Geffre
Sharon Schnabel
Dawn Williams
Dawn Dovre
Morgan Ness
Lindsay Riter
Melisa Forest
Mary Grode

Chairwoman Hultman called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken by Julie Albano. A quorum was present.

Shawn Lyons MOVED to approve the October 02, 2013 minutes. Rob Anderson SECONDED. Motion carried.

Chairwoman Hultman and Pauline Heier reported on legislation passed by the 2014 legislature. HB1045 revised the unemployment insurance contribution rate structure to reduce revenue from employer contributions. HB1143 repeals the extended approved training 26-week benefit effective February 1, 2015. Eligibility of this program was limited to those who separated from employment in a declining occupation and enrolled in training for entry into a high-demand occupation. SB69 revised the provisions regarding good cause for voluntarily leaving employment. Corporate officers who exercise substantial control in decisions on behalf of a corporation who have no other alternative than to leave employment with that corporation will be considered to have left employment with good cause and therefore, be entitled to unemployment benefits.

Discussion was held by the Council on the current financial status of the State UI Trust Fund.

Chairwoman Hultman reviewed items for Council consideration in 2014. The list included the work-share program and common paymaster agreements. The work-share program would allow employers to reduce hours worked, rather than lay off workers. Affected workers would be eligible to receive a partial unemployment insurance benefit payment. Common paymaster arrangements would allow two or more related corporations who employ the same individual at the same time to be considered a single employer for tax purposes.

Deb Mortenson commented on the work-share program and suggested surveying employers to gauge interest in adopting a work-share program.

The agenda for the next UI Council meeting will include a presentation and discussion of both topics. The Council will also consider interest from the business community and administrative impact.

Chairwoman Hultman updated the Council on filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Paul Alyward.

Carol Hinderaker MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Shawn Lyons SECONDED.