

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2009
Kneip Building, Conference Room #3
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD

Members Present

Pam Roberts, Chair
Carol Hinderaker
Jason Dilges
Homer Harding
David Owen
Mark Merchen
Robert Anderson
Paul Aylward

Members Absent

Bob Riter, Jr.

Others Present

Don Kattke
Pauline Heier
Sharon Schnabel
Dawn Dovre
Shawn Lyons
Nathan Lukkes
Deb Mortenson
Bob Mercer
Julie Johnson
Rep. Susan Wismer
Kathie Volk
Gerry Davis
Monica Harding
Sen. Al Novstrup
Greg Johnson
Gary Krause

Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order and roll call was taken by Pauline Heier. A quorum was present.

Homer Harding MOVED to approve the August 20, 2009 minutes. Carol Hinderaker SECONDED. Motion Carried.

Don Kattke and Chairwoman Roberts gave a presentation on the current financial status of the State UI Trust Fund.

The Council reviewed a draft of the UI Advisory Council's 2009 Annual Report.

Chairwoman Roberts opened the floor for public comment.

Representative Susan Wismer from Britton encouraged the Council, as they look at options for the future, to not recommend across the board increase in UI tax rates. Wismer also stated that users of the UI system should be the ones paying more into the system.

Julie Johnson representing Absolutely! Aberdeen commented some employers who do not routinely utilize the UI system are not aware of the option employers have to buy down their UI tax rate. Johnson believes there may be some interest among employers in using this method to manage their UI tax liability.

Senator Al Novstrup from Aberdeen asked the Council about the philosophy of the UI system in terms of negative account balance industries. He recommended the Council review whether or not one industry should be able to subsidize their UI deficit from other industries.

Chairwoman Roberts closed the floor to public comment and opened the floor to discussion among the Council members.

Homer Harding MOVED to recommend to the Governor and the 2010 legislature that legislation be passed to expand benefits to receive the \$11.7 million in UI Modernization funding by authorizing UI exhaustees participating in State-approved or Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded training programs to receive additional UI payments of 26 weeks and codify current policy of providing benefits to part-time workers. Jason Dilges SECONDED. Motion CARRIED on roll call vote. 7 Yeas and 0 Nays. Paul Aylward asked that it be noted he believes South Dakota could implement all four UI Modernization Option 2 choices and enhance more benefits for layed off workers.

Carol Hinderaker MOVED to approve the 2009 Annual Report as discussed. Robert Anderson SECONDED. Motion CARRIED on roll call vote. 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Paul Aylward MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Homer Harding SECONDED. Motion CARRIED.