



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

DUA Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026
Meeting Minutes

MAURA HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LAUREN E. JONES
SECRETARY

KATIE DISHNICA
DIRECTOR

Council Attendees: Richard Marlin, John Drinkwater, Chris Carlozzi, Sam Larson

EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees: Katie Dishnica, David Gold, Josh Cutler, Lisa Hemmerle, Jeannie Pena, John Saulnier, Jason Salgado, Mark Costello, Paul Franzese, Hannah Tanabe, Anne Berlin, Wendy Savary

A virtual meeting was held via Zoom.

A motion was proposed to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes.

Note: The March meeting was cancelled.

- Motion was seconded.
- Vote on Motion – all in favor to approve.

Executive Update

Katie Dishnica, Director of DUA, provided an executive update.

The first update is regarding the pilot program with the call center being closed on Fridays. The pilot program has been extended at least through the end of this fiscal year. DUA has decreased the number of actionable issues by 65%.

The next update is regarding technical assistance with USDOL metrics. We are encouraging USDOL to review the metrics they use to improve performance measures.

The next update is regarding the DUA Board of Review positions. In the February 2025 Advisory Council meeting we discussed the fact that all three DUA Board of Review members terms had expired. The DUA Advisory Council is statutorily responsible for submitting to the Governor a list of recommended candidates to fill a vacancy on the Board. The Advisory Council voted to form a sub-committee which includes Katie Dishnica, Sam Larson, John Drinkwater, and LWD General Counsel Ali Boren. The sub-committee has completed initial screening of applicants which included interviews. The names of the recommended candidates are now before the full council for consideration. They are Martha Wishart, as chair, Michael Albano, as member, and Andrew Levrault, as member. Each applicant must receive favorable votes from the majority of the quorum of Advisory Council members present to be recommended to the Governor.

To make a recommendation to the Governor, the statute requires that the council rate each candidate as highly qualified, qualified, or unqualified.

A motion was proposed by Rich Marlin to vote on each member as highly qualified.

- The motion was seconded by John Drinkwater.

All council members present, Rich Marlin, John Drinkwater, Sam Larson, and Chris Carlozzi voted yes.

UI Trust Fund Update

Lisa Hemmerle provided the UI Trust Fund April 2026 Quarterly report for first quarter of 2026, ending March 31, 2026.

- First quarter employer contributions through March 31, 2026, are estimated to be nearly \$125 million with a 2026 year-end total estimated to be \$1.81B.
- First quarter benefit payments through March 31, 2026, are approximately \$747M, with a 2026 year-end total estimated to be \$2.53B.
- The balance of the UI Trust Fund on March 31, 2026, was \$889M on a cash basis

We are still in Schedule E for 2026, Schedule F 2027, and Schedule G for 2028-2030.

mass.gov/info-details/unemployment-insurance-trust-fund-uitf

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18 at 9:30 am (May meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum).
Please let Katie or Sara know if you are unable to attend.**