

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: JUNE 6, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
LOCATION: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS, 19 STANIFORD STREET, 1ST FLOOR
BOSTON, MASS. 02114.

Advisory Council Members Present: Nicholas Anastasopoulos, Jodi Ross, Denise Casey, Bryan McMahon, Sheryl Pace-Webb, David Lucchino, Michele Heffernan, Jay Siegel, Philip T. Roberts (ex-officio).
Department of Labor Relations Staff Members Present: Jane Gabriel, Joan Ackerstein, Marjorie Wittner, Edward Srednicki, Kimberly Eustace.

Advisory Council Members Absent: Katherine Shea

1. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
Director Philip Roberts informed the Council that Marjorie Wittner official was sworn in as Chair of the CERB for a third term.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 4-22-19 MEETING – The Council reviewed the minutes. Jodi Ross moved to approve the minutes and Bryan McMahon seconded the motion. Minutes approved.
3. STAFF UPDATING - Director Philip Roberts updated the Advisory Council on staffing. William Hayward has officially resigned from his Advisory Council position. We now have 3 open vacancies. (1) management, (1) labor, (1) neutral. Sheryl Pace-Webb offered to look into John Mann’s status. Denise Casey asked if members can solicit colleagues and peers for potential replacements. Nicholas Anastasopoulos **indicated this would be permissible**. Jordan Maynard from the Governor’s office is our contact to fill vacancies. Also, Director Philip Roberts announced that the Department of Labor Relations has asked for additional funding for the hiring of a Hearing Officer, ideally would like to tighten up the time frame between investigations to hearings to decisions.
4. UPDATE ON AUDIT OF DLR – Director Philip Roberts forwarded Advisory Council members a link, via email, to a copy of the Audit Report. The State Auditors found 4 findings at the DLR that need cleaning up: (1) no time standards for certain type cases. (2) the cases with time standards did not meet time standards that are set forth in the Green Book. (3) the DLR annual report was for FY2017 and FY2018 was not filed with the legislature in timely fashion (4) there were deficiencies with the DLR’s Internal Control Plan. Director Philip Roberts said that DLR has reviewed these findings and is hopeful that, with the Advisory Council input, appropriate time targets can be established, and new ways of tracking cases can be developed, either with new case tracking events in our current system or through a new case tracking system. We will follow through with remedies for each of these findings. Director Roberts thanked former Executive Secretary Srednicki for all his efforts and continued hard work through this process.

5. DLR TRAINING INITIATIVES – Director Roberts announced that the DLR will be holding internal Mediation Training for one and a half days with an outside Mediator here in the Boston office. Also, some DLR Staff Members will be attending the ALRA Conference this year in Albany New York. Denise Casey addressed the feedback on the survey for DLR training that she drafted. With some many new Town Managers, HR Directors etc., this will be helpful training or just a refresher training for people who come before the agency. She asked the Council to review the survey and give her their input. Some of the Advisory Council members expressed concerns regarding accountability, interpretation of the law, joint Labor/Management training and exclusion of Public Safety matters (JLMC) etc.
6. 11:25 am. Meeting is adjourned. Next Meeting Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.