



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

MAURA HEALEY  
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LAUREN E. JONES  
SECRETARY

KATIE DISHNICA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

**DUA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday January 19, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

**Council Attendees:** Richard Marlin, John Drinkwater, Christopher Carlozzi, Sam Larson  
**EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees:** Katie Dishnica, David Gold, John Saulnier, Wendy Savary, Jeannie Pena, Mavis Smith, Jason Salgado, Meaghan Tucker, Sara Bahrehmand, Victoria Ireton, Rena Kottcamp, Lisa Hammerle, Eric Hansson, Laura Santiago, Wendy Filosi, Paul Fitzgerald, Katelyn Kelly

A virtual meeting was held via Webex.

Motion was proposed to approve the September 2022, meeting minutes.

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

**Executive update**

Katie Dishnica, Acting DUA Director explained there have been changes with the new administration in MA and to staff at DUA. Secretary Acosta has left her position and Lauren Jones will be the new Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. Connie Carter was Interim Director of DUA, and she has decided to retire as of December 2022. Katie Dishnica has assumed the role of Acting Director of DUA. It is unclear how long she will be in this role. Marie Lise Sobande has left her position as Director of Revenue for DUA. A search is currently underway for her replacement as well as several other key positions at DUA.

There have been updates to unemployment benefits. The Minimum Base Period wage requirement has increased to six thousand dollars to account for the increase in the minimum wage. The agency is in the process of issuing 1099G forms. If an adjustment is needed claimants can request one by completing a form on mass.gov. It will then be reviewed by an adjuster and any changes that are warranted will be made.

**UI trust fund**

Lisa Hammerle, Department of Economic Research, provided update and link for the December 2022 report <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/UnemploymentInsuranceTrustFund>. The report is through the end of December 2022. She is working on adding historical data. If there is any feedback, please email her.

**Questions**

Mr. Larson stated he was receiving questions from his members regarding COVID assessments and being able to defer portions of their UI bill. Laura Santiago, Revenue, explained that due to a bond agreement, deferrals are for federal payments only. DUA will send information to council members in writing. Mr. Carlozzi asked about overpayment waivers and the official amounts waived. To clarify, he is looking for the amounts waived when emergency regulations were in

place and specifically anything from the State Fund. Mr. Marlin asked if overpayment waivers were still available. Acting Director Dishnica explained that one-click waivers that were related to the emergency regulations were not available any longer, but general waivers are available. Claimants have always had the option to apply for an overpayment waiver. Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting February 16, 2023, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**