

DUA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 2022

MINUTES

Council Attendees: Richard Marlin, John Drinkwater, Christopher Carozzi, Sam Larson

EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees: Connie Carter, David Gold, John Saulnier, Marie-Lise Sobande, Katie Dishnica, Martha Wishart, Wendy Savary, Jeannie Pena, Paul Fitzgerald, Mavis Smith, Eric Hansson, Jason Salgado, Meghan Tucker, Maria Caira

A virtual meeting was held via Webex.

Motion was proposed to approve the June 16, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

Acting Director Carter, DUA Update:

The UI Modernization Project kickoff meeting was held on July 20, 2022. All DUA Staff and Fast Enterprises staff came together for an overview and to set up goals and expectations.

- As a follow-up from that last meeting, Acting Director Carter spoke to Richard Jeffers about having information from the project. In terms of the contract, it is a public record.
- The Modernization Project has its own oversight council, and it will be participating along in the project.

With respect to the Bond Financing and Forward Bill, the House passed the bill that included the \$300 M. The Senate in their language has only included \$100 M and it was being taken up for vote today (July 17, 2022), so still more to occur there and we expect that there will be an agreement on the amount, and hopefully at the higher level. As we talked about last time, the passage of this bill and the funds that they provide will affect the size and structure of the bonds that release.

- In response to the recovery rate question from last month's meeting, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (USDOL, ETA), publishes that information from reports that all state workforce agencies and the Commonwealth are required to file with them. The US DOL ETA, calculates the rate based on the data that we file with them. During calendar year 2021 the recovery rate was at its lowest point at 1.56% and at its highest at 9.26%. For the first quarter of this calendar year, it has returned to nearly 35%. The June quarter is not available yet.

Mr. Larson requested that a link be provided to all of the council members.

Acting Director Carter indicated that the link would be provided to everyone.

[Performance, Employment & Training Administration \(ETA\) - U.S. Department of Labor \(doleta.gov\)](https://doleta.gov)

UI Trust Fund Update:

- Eric Hansson, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Research, provided an overview of the June 2022 UI Trust Fund balance, contributions and benefits and provided a link to the UI Trust Fund Reports should anyone wish to review the current or any prior reports: [Labor Market Information | Mass.gov](https://labor-market-information.mass.gov)
- Mr. Marlin: Questions: So the 100, 300, whatever they come up with, I believe you said we are holding off on the bond until, we know what that is, so, is it the intent of the administration to whatever the number is, pay off the debt like they did with the first 500 M which would impact how much we borrow or would that money be going into the trust fund?
- Mr. Hansson: Answer: The net proceeds from the bond sale, the goal for that is to repay the outstanding loan as well as accrued interest and also fund a deposit to the UI Trust Fund.

- Acting Director Carter indicated that the Mr. Marlin would be provided with a final answer on his question.

Bonding Update: Martha

- Martha Wishart, Chief Counsel, Department of Unemployment Assistance, provided an overview and current status on the overpayment waiver regulations.
 - Mr. Marlin asked Ms. Wishart what the timeline was.
 - Ms. Wishart provided an overview of the timeline.
 - Motion was proposed to vote on the overpayment waiver regulations during this meeting by Richard Marlin. Mr. Carlozzi seconded the motion.
 - Vote on motion: Two members were opposed, and two members were in favor.
 - Mr. Drinkwater asked Ms. Wishart for a little more detail about what the timeline and the length of the public comment period was, and where in the 90 day window they would be after they vote on the regulations, go through the public hearing notice and then the public comment period, and if they would be cutting it close?
 - Ms. Wishart provided a more detailed overview of the timeline.
 - All Advisory Council members agreed to hold the next meeting on August 11, 2022, which is a week earlier than usual, at which time they will vote on the overpayment waiver regulations.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: August 18, 2022, at 9:30am. (moved after the date of these minutes)