



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

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

KATIE DISHNICA
DIRECTOR

DUA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday August 10, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Council Attendees: Richard Marlin, John Drinkwater, Christopher Carlozzi, Sam Larson
EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees: Katie Dishnica, David Gold, John Saulnier, Jeannie Pena, Mavis Smith, Jason Salgado, Sara Bahrehmand, Victoria Ireton, Rena Kottcamp, Emma Hornsby, Wendy Filosi, Houda Amoakuh, Paul Fitzgerald

A virtual meeting was held via Zoom.

Motion was proposed to approve the July 2023, meeting minutes.

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

Katie Dishnica, Director of DUA, noted that the August DUA Advisory Council Meeting was being held on a different virtual meeting platform, Zoom. Feedback is welcome. If council members prefer Zoom over WebEx for the monthly meetings, we can continue using this platform.

Executive update

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

The first update is regarding go live for EMT September 12th. DUA is on schedule. An update on how that process went will be shared at the next Advisory Council meeting.

The second update is regarding the new regulations regarding redeterminations. David Gold, Chief Counsel, provided the update.

In February, the Advisory Council approved new redetermination regulations. They were submitted to A&F for consideration to move forward with rule making. A meeting with A&F was held to discuss this. As of the week before the August Advisory Council Meeting, approval was given to move forward. The next step is a public hearing. A date for the hearing is anticipated for early October. (See the February 2023 Advisory Council meeting minutes for an explanation and review of the new redetermination regulations.)

The third update is regarding grants. Mark Costello, Chief of Staff, gave an update. The grant announced in July is due on August 18th. There are two components, integrity, and modernization. The integrity portion is just over \$2 million dollars, and it has been submitted. This amount includes implementation costs for the USDOL backed ID verification program,

login.gov. DUA will be utilizing their services going forward to verify identities through login.gov and USPS locations. The state has a kickoff meeting next week to review the next steps. An update will be provided at the next Advisory Council meeting. The modernization portion is still being worked on and will be submitted next week. There are some questions under review by the legal department. The dollar amount for the modernization portion is \$11.25 million.

Question by Sam Larson: Is the USDOL portion of the grant SIDES or a different program?

Answer by Mark Costello: It is a different program.

Answer by Katie Dishnica: This is funded by the Department of Labor for identity verification. DUA is interested in leveraging USPS retail locations. One of the reasons for this is accessibility. Claimants will be able to access USPS location to verify their identity.

Comment by Mark Costello: Other states have begun participating in this program. The State Department has been utilizing USPS since the 1970's.

Question by Sam Larson: Is there a name for the program?

Answer by Katie Dishnica: The name of the program is usps/login.gov. As we get closer to implementation more information will be shared. Demonstrations have been viewed and it does appear to be a good program. Other states and agencies that are using login.gov are happy with the program. It will expand access for claimants.

UI trust fund

There is no trust fund update since the report is not available yet.

Discussion Questions

Question by Christopher Carlozzi: Are there any updates regarding the \$2.5 billion?

Answer by Katie Dishnica: It is still ongoing. There are no updates at this time.

Next meeting September 21, 2023, 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Please let Sara or Katie know if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting adjourned