

DUA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

September 15, 2022

MINUTES

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

EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees: Connie Carter, David Gold, John Saulnier, Marie-Lise Sobande, Katie Dishnica, Wendy Savary, Jeannie Pena, Mavis Smith, Eric Hansson, Jason Salgado, Meghan Tucker, Maria Caira, Sara Bahrehmand, Hannah Tanabe, Victoria Ireton, Houda Amoakuh.

A virtual meeting was held via Webex.

Motion was proposed to approve the August 18, 2022, meeting minutes

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

Executive update

Acting Director Carter provided a program update on DUA. DUA's workloads are returning to pre-pandemic levels or below, except with appeals, where there is still a high workload level, but appeals are on schedule for what is projected in order to resolve that workload.

A new Director for the Program Integrity Department will be announced within the next few days and that person will be on board by the end of the month. And, while Program Integrity has been running full force, it will give DUA the opportunity to reinforce, refocus and emphasize and put in place new controls and new ideas as they emerge across all the states about ways to ensure that we are paying these benefits out to only the individuals that are intended to receive them.

The new Director will be working with NASWA through their Integrity Center and will be continuing our efforts there and escalating all of our operations and providing a closer focus on that. Also, we are continuing to staff in other areas where we have had staffing vacancies so we can return to that level.

The new UI online system currently referred to as EMT, will soon be formally renamed via a naming contest. This new UI online system will replace DUA's current online system.

Mr. Larson asked Acting Director Carter if there was a rough timeline for when it will be fully operational? Acting Director Carter indicated that yes, the EMT would be operational, the component under development is revenue, and that is scheduled for a go live date of June of next year and will immediately continue with the launch of benefits component and that is scheduled somewhere in 2024 is the target date right now. Two months into it, it launched the first of July, Rick would report out to us, that it on schedule and on budget. There is some really good work coming out of that.

Mr. Larson indicated that he would love to see some top line numbers on the budget. Acting Director Carter indicated that they would be keep that for an agenda item.

UI trust fund

Eric Hansson, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Research, provided update and link for the September 2022 report (<https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/UnemploymentInsuranceTrustFund>).

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: October 20, 2022, 9:30am -11:30am