



## Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee

### Meeting details

**Date:** Friday, January 28, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

#### Committee members present

- Robert Battles
- Julia Gorton
- Tammie Hetrick
- Sybill Hyppolite
- Josh Swanson
- Jerry VanderWood
- Brenda Wiest

#### Committee members absent

- Cindy Richardson
- Joy Emory

#### ESD staff

- Joy Adams
- Nick Demerice
- Joshua Dye
- Wendy Goldmark
- Matt Klein
- Scott Michael
- Jeff Robinson
- Dan Zeitlin

## Summary

### Meeting Recorded

This meeting was [recorded](#).

This meeting was also [livestreamed](#) by TVW.

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Employment Security Department (ESD) Director, Dan Zeitlin, welcomed everyone and asked Wendy Goldmark to take roll call. All committee members were present except Cindy Richardson and Joy Emory.

### Agenda

Dan Zeitlin reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if anyone had any questions. (See Addendum I.)

### Meeting Minutes

Dan Zeitlin requested that everyone review the meeting minutes for December 16, 2021 and provide their feedback. Brenda Wiest made a motion to approve the minutes and Josh Swanson seconded the motion. Dan asked for all members in favor to say, “Aye.” All members responded, “Aye”. Dan asked members that oppose to say, “Nay.” No one responded. The December 16, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

### Opening Discussion

Dan Zeitlin opened the meeting discussion with a slide presentation and highlighted the below topics to be covered.

- UI State Legislative and Rulemaking Update/Discussion
- UI Program Implementation Update

Dan Zeitlin handed the meeting over to Scott Michael, ESD Legal Appeals and Rulemaking Manager, to continue the discussion.

## UI State Legislative and Rulemaking Update

### 2022 New Bills of Interest

- HB 1612 – Technical corrections to unemployment tax rate statutes.
- SB 5783 – Re-establishing the underground economy task force.
- SB 5873/HB 2031 – Across the board reduction in social tax cap in 2022 and 2023; social tax cut for small business in 2023.

Projections based on current state

|                                     | CY 2022           | CY 2023           | CY 2024           | CY 2025           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Avg. Tax Rate</b>                | 1.45%             | 1.56%             | 1.56%             | 1.43%             |
| <b>Total Tax Payments</b>           | \$1,830.4 million | \$2,046.0 million | \$2,116.9 million | \$1,988.5 million |
| <b>Trust Fund Balance</b>           | \$2,431.9 million | \$3,296.6 million | \$4,142.1 million | \$4,795.9 million |
| <b>Months of Benefits Available</b> | 4.9 months        | 6.6 months        | 8.3 months        | 9.5 months        |

Projections with SB 5873

|                                     | CY 2022           | CY 2023           | CY 2024           | CY 2025           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Avg. Tax Rate</b>                | 1.30%             | 1.51%             | 1.56%             | 1.43%             |
| <b>Total Tax Payments</b>           | \$1,645.8 million | \$1,987.2 million | \$2,112.2 million | \$1,988.5 million |
| <b>Trust Fund Balance</b>           | \$2,245.9 million | \$3,043.3 million | \$3,880.6 million | \$4,527.8 million |
| <b>Months of Benefits Available</b> | 4.6 months        | 6.0 months        | 7.7 months        | 8.9 months        |

Difference

|                                     | CY 2022          | CY 2023          | CY 2024          | CY 2025          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Avg. Tax Rate</b>                | -.15%            | -.05%            | 0%               | 0%               |
| <b>Total Tax Payments</b>           | -\$184.6 million | -\$58.8 million  | \$0              | \$0              |
| <b>Trust Fund Balance</b>           | -\$186 million   | -\$253.3 million | -\$261.5 million | -\$268.1 million |
| <b>Months of Benefits Available</b> | -.3 months       | -.6 months       | -.6 months       | -.6 months       |

### **Additional UI Bills of Interest**

- HB 1486 – Changes to voluntary quit laws and able/available standards targeted at caregivers.
- SB 5438 – Unemployment benefits for undocumented workers. *Note:* Implementing a 2021 proviso, ESD completed a [report](#) on the topic to the Legislature.

### **Rulemaking Agenda**

- Making phase 1, 3 and 4 of emergency rules permanent.
- January 2022 Rulemaking Agenda will be posted shortly and will be made available on the agency rulemaking [site](#).

Dan Zeitlin handed the meeting over to Joy Adams, ESD UI Quality Assurance Manager, to continue the discussion.

### **UI Program Implementation Update**

#### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance November Northwest WA Flooding**

- On January 5<sup>th</sup>, President Biden declared a major disaster for the November floods and mudslides in the northwest corner of Washington.
- Affected areas include:
  - Clallam County
  - Whatcom County
  - Skagit County
  - Lummi Nation
  - Nooksack Indian Tribe
  - Quileute Tribe
- Workers who live or work in these areas and are unemployed as a direct result of the disaster may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance or DUA.

#### **What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?**

- DUA provides income support to workers who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance.
- This can include workers who do not have enough covered employment to qualify for a claim, those who have exhausted their regular UI eligibility, or other reasons related to the disaster.
- This program is very similar to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which expanded eligibility for income support benefits during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Help Spread the Word!**

- We do not yet have a timeline for when we will be accepting applications for DUA, but we expect to have information available on our website in the next couple weeks.

- As we begin to implement this program and provide communications, we will be asking you to help amplify our message to reach everyone who may need this assistance.
- We also would appreciate your feedback on specific needs and outreach we can provide to ensure everyone has equitable access to the benefits.

### Help for Impacted Businesses

- You can ask for relief of benefit charges if your employees received unemployment insurance as a direct result of the disaster. Information at [esd.wa.gov/about-employees/relief-of-benefit-charges](https://esd.wa.gov/about-employees/relief-of-benefit-charges)
- Laws passed in 2021 affected your tax rates to help with recovery from the pandemic. More information available at [esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19-employer-information](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19-employer-information)
- This page has information on programs that can affect your employees' benefits and your bottom line: [esd.wa.gov/unemployment/temporary-layoffs](https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/temporary-layoffs)
  - SharedWork
  - Standby
  - Partial employment

### Other Upcoming UI Program Implementation

- Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)
- [UIPL 16-20, Change 5](#), which expanded PUA eligibility to include three COVID-19 related reasons under which an individual may self-certify:
  1. Individuals who refuse to return to work that is unsafe or to accept an offer of new work that is unsafe;
  2. Certain individuals providing services to educational institutions or educational service agencies; and
  3. Individuals experiencing a reduction of hours or a temporary or permanent layoff.

### Next Meeting

Dan Zeitlin noted that the next meeting during the legislative session is February 25 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

### Public Comments

Nabz - Claimant

### Adjourned

Dan Zeitlin thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, then ended the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

### Next meeting

The next Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 25, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

## Addendum I

### Agenda

#### Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (UIAC)

---

Friday, January 28, 2022 | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

#### Agenda Items

| Time    | Topic  |
|---------|--|
| 2:00 pm | Welcome from Dan Zeitlin, Director of Employment System Policy & Integrity (ESPI) Division, Employment Security Department (ESD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Agenda Review</li></ul> |
| 2:05 pm | Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes  |
| 2:10 pm | UI State Legislative and Rulemaking Update/Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Scott Michael, Legal Appeals and Rulemaking Manager, ESD</li></ul>                                 |
| 2:30 pm | UI Program Implementation Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Joy Adams, UI Quality Assurance Manager, ESD</li></ul>  |
| 2:45 pm | Open Discussion/Next Meeting Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dan Zeitlin, Director, ESD</li></ul>   |
| 2:55 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Public Comments</li></ul>  |
| 3:00 pm | Adjourn  |

For more information, please visit the UIAC website at <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/UIAC>

#### RECORDING DISCLAIMER:

**This meeting is being recorded and will be broadcast by TVW. Please be advised that your image and voice will be captured, recorded and broadcast during the videoconference. Your participation in this videoconference equals consent to be recorded and broadcast as required by law.**