



## Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee

### Meeting details

**Date:** Friday, February 23rd, 2024

**Time:** 2:00pm - 3:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom

#### Committee members and alternates present

##### Employee Representatives

- Brenda Wiest, Teamsters 117

##### Employer Representatives

- Bob Battles, Association of Washington Business
- Josie Cummings, Avista Corp

##### General Public Representatives

- Anne Paxton, Unemployment Law Project
- William Westmoreland, Pac Mtn WF Dev Council

##### ESD staff

- Joy Adams
- Joshua Dye
- Stephanie Frazee
- Camille Galeno
- Colin Helsley
- Caitlyn Jekel
- Marypat Meuli
- Eve Sheng
- Stephanie Sams
- Daniel Zeitlin

#### Committee members and alternates absent

- Julia Gorton, Washington Hospitality Association
- Tammie Hetrick, Washington Food Industry Association (alternate employer rep)
- Monica Holland, Northwest Justice Project (alternate public rep)
- Sybill Hyppolite, Washington State Labor Council
- Joe Kendo, WA State Labor Council (employee rep)
- Allyson O'Malley-Jones, Northwest Justice Project (alternate public rep)
- Cindy Richardson, UNITE HERE Local 8
- Josh Swanson, Operating Engineers 302

## Summary

### Meeting Recorded

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

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Joy Adams, Director of Employment System Policy and Integrity, ESD filled in for committee chair JR Richards and led the meeting. Joy welcomed everyone and committee assistant Colin Helsley called roll.

### Agenda

Joy Adams reviewed the following agenda items (also see Addendum I)

- Approval of Jan. 26, 2024 meeting minutes
- Rulemaking Update
- Legislative Session Updates
- Adverse Impacts Research
- Public comment
- Adjourn

### Meeting Minutes

Joy Adams noted one typo in the January 26, 2024 meeting minutes: William Westmoreland was listed in both the present and absent columns (William was present at the meeting). No other edits were brought forward, and Bob Battles moved to approve the minutes. Brenda Wiest seconded the motion. All in favor said “aye”. No members were opposed. The January 26, 2024 meeting minutes were approved with one correction.

### Rulemaking Update

Joy Adams handed the meeting over to Stephanie Frazee, Legislation and Rules Coordinator, ESD, to provide a rulemaking update. Stephanie presented information from the following slides.

## Rulemaking



- **Wildfires and Other Disasters** – Formally adopted permanent rules on February 20, and they will be effective on March 22.
- **Expanded Voluntary Quits (HB 1106)** – Officially proposed rules with definitions of “family member” consistent with PFML definitions and incorporating updates from the bill that are effective September 3, 2023. Held hearing on December 8, 2023. Working on formally adopting rules.
- Also working on drafting rules incorporating quitting due to inaccessible care for a child or vulnerable adult and defining a split shift.

## Rulemaking



- **Transportation Network Companies (HB 1570)** – Working on drafting rules concerning relief of benefit charges for part-time workers and potential other rules needed to implement bill.
- **Cross-Program Payment Allocation** – Draft rules sent out for comment on February 8. Comments are due March 1.
- **WAC 192-220-070 Cross Reference Clean Up**– Hearing will be held on April 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

No questions were raised.

### Legislation Update

Caitlyn Jekel, Government Relations Director, ESD presented information from the following slides to provide a legislation update.

## Legislation update



### Agency request legislation

#### HB 1975

##### Pandemic-era overpayment interest

Passed the Senate

Waives interest accrued on pandemic-era overpayment interest (Feb 2020 – Sept 2021). Interest on these overpayments will not resume until Jan 1, 2025.

#### HB 1898

##### Benefit Charging

Senate Rules Committee

Cleans up the benefit charging statutes for clarity. Does not make substantive changes.

#### HB 1901

##### Voluntary Contributions

Senate Rules Committee

Removes the sunset to temporary changes to voluntary contributions program from 2021:

- Removed the 10% surcharge
- Reduced the amount of the contribution required to participate.

## Legislation update



### Bills we are tracking

#### HB 1095 and 5109

##### Creating a wage replacement program for workers excluded from unemployment insurance

Did not advance out of fiscal committee

Study funding included in Senate Supplemental Operating Budget

#### HB 1893

##### Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers

Senate Rules Committee

House amendments include:

- Changes from social to experience rate charging
- Limited to 4 weeks of payable benefits
- Prohibits payment if determined not legal
- Establishes overpayment if back paid

#### HB 2230

##### Economic Security for All (EcSA)

Senate Rules Committee

No questions were raised.

### Adverse Impacts Research

Brendan Moore, Operations Research Specialist, ESD gave an overview of ESD’s adverse impacts research project using the following slides.

## Adverse Impacts Research



- ESD received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from USDOL's UI Equity Grant
- USDOL's Goal: "Promote Equitable Access to UI Programs"
  - *"Equitable access means that state UI agencies are ensuring that all individuals have an effective and meaningful opportunity to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled"* (pg. 4, UIPL 01-24)
  - *"Declining UI reciprocity is an equity issue... low reciprocity has been particularly difficult for historically marginalized groups that experience high rates of unemployment."* (pg. 2, UIPL 01-24)
- USDOL recommends evaluating *"What targeted improvements and affirmative outreach may improve reciprocity rates between different groups? What barriers are preventing claimants from successfully filing for benefits?"* (pg. 15, UIPL 01-24)

## Adverse Impacts Research



- **Problem Statement:** Marginalized workers may not apply for UI benefits because of *inequitable access*.
  - E.g., they do not know about the program, whether they are eligible, how to apply, or the benefits of doing so.
- **Research Question:** Can we increase access to UI among marginalized communities by providing timely information about the program?
- **Outreach:** Notify workers about UI benefits shortly after experiencing a job loss
  - Use ESD's wage records to identify workers with stable employment who then experience a sudden and significant drop in hours during most recent quarter
  - Target low-wage workers in industries with historically lower take-up
  - Must not be near retirement age or receiving UI/PFML
  - Send letter with information about UI program with language from ESD's website

## Adverse Impacts Research



### Timeline:

- March 13, 2024 – **Pilot** (use 2023Q4 records)
- Mid-May – **Main Wave #1** (use 2024Q1 records)
- Mid-August – **Main Wave #2** (use 2024Q2 records)
- Analysis takes place from April-November 2024

No questions were raised.

**Public Comments**

Joy reminded meeting participants that if they would like their comments captured in the meeting minutes to please email them to [camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov](mailto:camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov).

No public comments were made.

**Adjourned**

With all agenda items covered, a motion to adjourn the meeting early was made by Brenda Wiest and seconded by William Westmoreland. All were in favor. Joy Adams thanked committee members for joining and ended the meeting.

**Action Items**

None

**Next meeting:**

March 29, 2024, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Addendum 1



Agenda

Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (UIAC)

Friday, Feb. 23, 2024 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Via Zoom | 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Time	Topic
2:00 pm	Welcome from JR Richards, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support (UICS) Director, Employment Security Department (ESD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Agenda overview</li></ul>
2:05 pm	Approval of Jan. 26, 2024 meeting minutes
2:10 pm	Rulemaking update – Stephanie Frazee
2:20 pm	Legislation updates – Caitlyn Jekel
2:45 pm	Adverse Impacts Research - Brendon Moore
2:55 pm	Public Comment
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 live streamed by TVW. Please be advised that your image and voice will be captured and recorded during the videoconference. Your participation in this videoconference equals consent to be recorded as required by law.*

Addendum II



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**Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee**

**Aug 2023 – June 2024 Meeting Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Aug 2, 2023 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Sept 11, 2023 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Oct 18, 2023 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Dec 6, 2023 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Jan 26, 2024 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Feb 23, 2024 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
Mar 29, 2024 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
May 15, 2024 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting
June 26, 2024 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Zoom	ESD	Recorded meeting