



Minutes of the Employment Advisory Council Meeting
Department of Workforce Services – Virtual Meeting
August 10, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

Council Members Present:	Dave Davis	Employer Representative, Utah Retail Merchants Association
	Steve Van Valkenburg	Employer Representative, Employer Advocates, LLC
	Joey Gilbert	Employer Representative, Associated General Contractors of Utah
	Matthew Hilbig	Employer Representative, OCM/Lee Hecht Harrison
	Sheila Oelerich	Employee Representative, Department of Workforce Services
	Melisa Stark	Employee Representative, Commissioner of Apprenticeship Programs
	Kevin Shingleton	Public Representative
	Candace Daly	Public Representative, CJD & Associates
	Eileen Rivera	Public Representative, Retired
Council Members Excused:	Brian Somers	Employer Representative, Utah Mining Association
	Jeff Worthington	Employee Representative, Utah AFL-CIO
	Todd Bingham	Employer Representative, Utah Manufacturers Association
	Kelly Thornton	Employee Representative, Department of Workforce Services
	Ryan Mecham	Public Representative, Utah Manufacturers Association
	William Starks	Public Representative
DWS Staff Present:	Justin Williams	Director, Unemployment Insurance
	Mike Miller	Chief, UI Contributions
	LeeAnn Madsen	Chief, UI Benefits
	Jolynn Badame	Chief, Programming
	Jon Romero	BAM & BPC Manager
	Bradley Salmond	Program Manager, Unemployment Insurance
	Dan Schuring	Financial Manager II, Unemployment Insurance
	Patrick Frost	Research Consultant, Unemployment Insurance
	Courtney Carrion	BPC Supervisor
	Jared Mendenhall	Department of Workforce Services Communications
Cheryl Christiansen	Administrative Assistant, Unemployment Director	

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome	Justin Williams, Director, Unemployment Insurance welcomed the group.
Approval of Minutes	The Minutes for the December 2022 meeting and Minutes from the May 2023 minutes were approved.
Employment Advisory Council Meeting Members Update	Mr. Williams stated we must have a minimum of five representatives under each category. The Council is short one Employee Representative. He asked if anyone knows anyone who may be a good Employee Representative on the council, please reach out to him.
Economy Update	Mark Knold, Research Consultant III, was unable to attend at the last minute. He will present at the meeting in December.
UI 2023 Trust Fund Overview	<p>Mr. Williams provided an update on the Unemployment Insurance (UI) 2023 Trust Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UI Trust Fund Reserve Factor and Social Cost Calculation (Attachment A). As of June 30th, the Trust Fund had a balance of \$1.1 Billion dollars. As of August 3rd, the balance is \$1.201 Billion. Currently, it is the highest money received since 2012. It looks like the tax rate for next year will probably be unchanged at a reserve factor of 1.1 and the social cost at .003. The official tax rate notice will go out to the employers closer to Thanksgiving. • UI Trust Fund Balance Projections (Attachment B). This is the historical graph since 2000. The two blue lines represent the minimum and maximum acceptable rate. The red line is the Trust Fund balance. These lines tend to dance back and forth depending on what UI is collecting and what is being paid out. Mr. Williams then went on to discuss the chart in more detail. • Contributions vs Benefits Paid (Attachment C) This chart is an indication of what Unemployment Insurance (UI) has paid out and what UI has actually collected. Mr. Williams continued to discuss and explain this chart and the reasoning behind the figures. The question was then asked if Mr. Williams had any indication as to why benefits being paid are going up when the unemployment rate is hovering at one of the lowest rates in the country? Mr. Williams replied that he could only venture a guess and has thrown a couple of theories out in the last couple of days, but he feels that the impact on the Trust Fund and benefits being paid affect this. The maximum unemployment rate in Utah is \$712. Utah is the highest paying rate out of Idaho, Colorado and Nevada. Part of this number is impacted by that. Benefits just cost more. The reason they are higher is because we have to insure a higher amount of wages that are being paid. Patrick Frost also commented, we are seeing higher claims numbers. Especially from last year when looking at the number of claimants collecting benefits. 2022 was particularly low and in 2023 we are seeing a higher number of claimants. We have the unemployment rate and the insured unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is determined by the survey Mr. Williams mentioned. The insured unemployment rate is calculated by the number of individuals filing claims. Mr. Williams then stated

	<p>the unemployment rate can be impacted by claimants that actually get out of the labor market. When they conduct a survey and individuals answer “they are no longer looking for work,” they are no longer part of that statistic. So, you can artificially influence the unemployment rate number. Where the insured unemployment rate is harder to artificially influence. One number is what the public is wanting to do and the other number is what the public is actually doing.</p>
2023 Remaining Meeting Dates	December 14th
Round Table	Mr. Williams called for introductions of the Members.
Adjourn	Mr. Dave Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 pm and Mr. Steve Van Valkenburg seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.