

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) BOARD MEETING

Date: September 6, 2006

Time: 10:15 A.M.

Location: 10 N. Senate Avenue, Room 301A
Indianapolis, IN 46204

PRESENT: Bob Dickerson, President; Brent Schoolcraft, Vice-President; Tom Hargrove (phone participant), Samuel Schlosser, Sean Seyferth, and Dave Thomas—Members. Also in attendance were: Kristi Musall, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Employment Growth; Monty Combs, Deputy Commissioner Finance/Controller; Teresa Voors, Chief Legal Counsel; and Laura Merrion, IDWD Staff Attorney.

- Called to order by Brent Schoolcraft
- Quorum was present
- Guests present: Beverly Korobkin, Collection Enforcement Unit Supervisor; and Libby Manship, IDWD Marketing Director.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

- Mr. Combs noted that the Commissioner was in a Boise, Idaho. However, Mr. Combs noted he had wanted to pass on that in the last couple of weeks UI has hit timeliness measures on Adjudication, Appeals, and Review Board decisions—something that has not happened in as far back as records show.
- In addition, Mr. Combs noted that the Commissioner has been invited by the US Dept of Labor—at its expense—to attend an Asian-Pacific conference in Vietnam in late September.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The minutes of the August 2, 2006 meeting were unanimously adopted on a motion by Mr. Schlosser, with a second by Mr. Thomas. All members present signed the official Minute Book.
- Mr. Combs noted that the agency anticipates having the debit card program “up and running” completely by the end of the year, although it could happen as early as the first part of November. This in part, Mr. Combs continued, is due to an excellent job on the part of the vendor. Mr. Combs then introduced Ms. Manship who gave a brief presentation on the program. Ms. Manship reported—
 - The final card design had been approved;
 - That a trial run using twenty-five (25) claimants would be done in October;
 - That there were several marketing tools which would be used prior to roll-out. Including but not limited to—several mass mailings (beginning in October) introducing the program, posters in the WorkOne's, brochures available at the WorkOne's, and a dedicated portal on our website. Among things these tools will reference is how to use the cards, ATM safety, and fee information.

Mr. Combs added that the vendor had established its call center for this program in Gas City—which will employ nine to ten full time employees and could expand

depending on other agency's joining the "program". Mr. Schlosser asked how the cards would "roll-out". Mr. Combs replied that it would basically be a one week roll-out, as cards would be issued on the same schedule as checks currently go out—which happens six days a week.

- Revisiting Buehler LLC's request for the Board's approval to have its 2006 merit rate recalculated—which was tabled at the Board's August 2nd meeting—Ms. Korobkin gave some additional information regarding the situation. The Board then discussed the pros and cons of setting a precedent based on the circumstances involved in this case. Mr. Seyferth asked what the agency's recommendation was. Ms. Korobkin noted that her recommendation would be to allow the recalculation in part because the agency did not necessarily follow of our internal procedures in this particular case, although it could also be said that the employer was partially responsible for not listing IDWD as a creditor in their bankruptcy. On a motion by Mr. Seyferth, with a second by Mr. Thomas the Board's decision was made to deny Buehler LLC's request to have its 2006 merit rate recalculated.
- In regards to the possibility of Ivy Tech hosting a Board meeting at one of its campuses in October, Ms. Voors, noted that she had been in contact with Ivy Tech and had tentatively set up a visit to its Lawrence (Fort Harrison) campus.
- Ms. Voors turned the floor over to Ms. Musall to update the Board on its *Annual Report*. Ms. Musall noted that the *Report* was going through some minor revisions and Ms. Valentine was drafting a cover letter for the Commissioner. The current plan Ms. Musall concluded was to issue the *Report* electronically within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Dickerson stated that as the Board had approved a version in May and it was now September, with the Board's consent he would like to look at it once the revisions had been completed and issue a final approval on their behalf, to which they concurred.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Referring to her handout Ms. Merrion noted that at the end of July IDWD had some 18,000 employers in a delinquent status, which brought the total outstanding liability to around \$66 million. Of that total \$40 million was tax, \$19 million was interest, and \$7 million was penalty—42% of these are estimated billings—Ms. Merrion stated. Total payments collected in July was around \$1.5 million, Ms. Merrion stated, adding that in 2006 (through July 31st) they had collected nearly \$14 million—which was nearly \$2 million more than the same time last year. As of July 31st, Ms. Merrion noted that there were 149 accounts in legal status owing approximately \$7.8 million. As a milestone, Ms. Merrion concluded by noting that on September 1st the agency received a settlement of \$123,000.00 from an employer, which was its largest settlement.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

- There was no topic of discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

REVIEW OF MEETINGS: Next meeting is October 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Ivy Tech's Lawrence/Fort Harrison Campus, located at 9301 W 59th St, Indianapolis IN 46216.