



**NASWA UI Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
June 23, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Chair:** Beth Townsend (IA) **Vice-Chair:** Jamie Suber (SC)

**Members:** Cliff Napier (AK), April Dunlap (AZ), Darrell Dudzinski (CT), Kierston Howard (CO), Phil Spesshardt (CO), Wendy Castle (FL), Jamie Dattoli (FL), Denise Beckwith (GA), Christina Steen (IA), Michael Johnson (ID), Doug Werth (ID), Justin Brissette (IL), Gina Ashley (IN), James Hampton (KS), Eunice Peters (KS), Amy Selm (KS), Laurel Klein Searles (KS), Rick Jeffers (MA), Dayne Freeman (MD), Laura Boyett (ME), Kimberly Berry (MI), Paul Martin (MT), Spencer Clark (MO), Jeanette Canady (NC), Antwon Keith (NC), Darren Brostrom (ND), Richard Prince Jr. (NE), Ron Marino (NJ), Nancy St. Clair (NV), Marilyn Delmont (NV), Jim Konicki (NY), Justin Smi (NY), Frank Padula (NY), Julie Smith (OH), Jim Polly (OK), Lisa Schriever (OR), Lindsy Leahy (OR), Kathy Catanzaro (RI), Pauline Heier (SD), Melissa Owens (TN), Clay Cole (TX), Chuck Ross (TX), Justin Williams (UT), Kevin Burt (UT), Bill Walton (VA), Stacy Middleton (WA), Dan Zeitlin (WA), Joy Adams (WA), Mark Reihl (WI), Jason Schunk (WI), Kris Funk (WY), Marva Humpal (WY), Guy Hadley (WY)

**USDOL Staff:** Jim Garner, Michelle Beebe, Jeff Fitzgerald

**NASWA Staff:** Lou Ansaldi, Ben Bakas, Amy Banicki, Ben Peirce, Chris Paquette, Cindy Morris, Hillary Hewko, Jerry Pectol, John Quichocho, Julie Squire, Judy Mattinson, Maria Noble, Randy Gillespie, Emily Savard, Brett Flachsbarth, Jenn Hawkins, Yuefeng Fan, Nellie Spangler

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Beth Townsend**, (IA), *Chair of the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee*

**Jamie Suber**, (SC), *Vice-Chair of the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee*

## **PRESENTATION.**

### **U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Update**

**Jim Garner**, *Administrator, Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, USDOL*

**Michelle Beebe**, *Division Chief, Division of Legislation, Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, USDOL*

- **American Rescue Plan Act**
  - **USDOL Tiger Teams:** USDOL contracted with Grant Thornton to deliver intensive technical assistance to state UI agencies. The technical assistance will focus on preventing fraud, ensuring equitable access to UI programs, and timely delivery of benefit payments. States interested in the opportunity were encouraged to contact USDOL.
  - **Identity Proofing Blanket Contract.** USDOL issued a request for quote for an identity proofing blanket purchase agreement.

- **Grant opportunities for equity innovation & fraud prevention:** UIPLs for the grant opportunities will be released by mid-July.
- **UI Modernization:** USDOL will continue to work with the US Digital Service on UI modernization activities.
- **UI Fraud Efforts**
  - **Account Verification Service.** A new service will be offered to states through the UI Integrity Data Hub to verify the authenticity of financial institution accounts for UI claimants.
  - **Incarceration Data:** USDOL will continue its efforts with the Social Security Administration to provide prisoner data available to states through ICON.
  - **Bank identified fraud payments:** USDOL will assist banks with the return of funds that were identified as fraudulent to states.
- **President's Budget**
  - **Proposed adjustments to UI administrative funding:** Additional \$400 million to administrative UI Funding.
  - **Continued funding for Integrity Center:** \$9 million for FY22
  - **ICON Modernization Funding:** \$6 million for FY22
  - **Continued funding for RESEA:** \$250 million for FY22 (\$50 increase in funding)
- **OIG Audits**
  - **Active Audits:** USDOL provided information responses for 6 active audits.
  - **OIG alert memos:** Suzi Levine shared the OIG alert memos with state administrators. State transactional UI data will be made available to the OIG for investigation and audit purposes.
- **Recent Guidance**
  - **[UIPL 10-20, Change 2:](#)** Unemployment Compensation (UC) for Individuals Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Short-Time Compensation (STC) for Reopening the Economy
  - **[UIPL 13-20, Change 2:](#)** Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Division D Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 (EUISAA) - Review of State Compliance for Receipt of Emergency Administrative Grants and Clarification on Benefit Offset Requirements
    - States must use the Form MA 8-7 to submit the required information to the Department by August 2, 2021. States should e-mail submissions to [covid-19@dol.gov](mailto:covid-19@dol.gov).
    - States that received Allotment I of emergency administrative grants were reminded to submit a report on UC reciprocity rate to USDOL and congressional committees. The deadline for the report was March 18, 2021.
  - **[UIPL 19-21:](#)** Benefits Held by Banks and Financial Institutions as a Result of Suspicious and/or Potentially Fraudulent Activity and the Proportional Distribution Methodology Required for Recovering/Returning Federally Funded Unemployment Compensation (UC) Program Funds
  - **[UIPL 12-01, Change 2:](#)** States' Ability to Exercise Flexibility in Staffing Models for the Performance of Certain Unemployment Compensation (UC) Administrative Activities
- **Upcoming Guidance**

- Factors for states to consider when ending the emergency program flexibilities authorized under EUISSA. [[UIPL 13-20, Change 3](#) was released following the meeting on July 1, 2021]
- Guidance on ending the federal pandemic unemployment programs.
- Grant opportunities for equity innovation and fraud prevention.
- UIPL 16-20, Change 6.
  - Major revisions were made to the upcoming guidance based on feedback from the NASWA UI Policy Subcommittee.
- UIPL 16-21, Change 1.
- **Q&A with Members.**
  - A member raised concern with the new requirements proposed in the draft IRS Publication 1075. Jim Garner encouraged states to submit comments.
  - A member requested that USDOL support an extension to the congressional waiver on interest for trust fund loans. Julie Squire announced that NASWA plans to urge Congress to extend the waiver through the end of September 2021.

### Knowledge Exchange Library Update

Jennifer Hawkins, *Project Manager, Knowledge Exchange Library, NASWA*

- **Library Overview.** The Knowledge Exchange Library is a managed collection of resources and information on Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Workforce Technology.
- **Live Demonstration.**
  - Library Homepage: <https://library.naswa.org/>
  - [Tip Sheet: UI Directors](#)
  - States can contact library staff an email to [librarian@naswa.org](mailto:librarian@naswa.org).

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

### Subcommittee Updates

- **UI Interstate Benefit Subcommittee: Vice-Chair Kathy Catanzaro (RI)**
  - The UI IB Subcommittee met on April 30, 2021. There were 31 participants. Agenda items included: USDOL Update, ICON Update, and 2022 UI IB Training Conference Discussion.
  - The UI IB Subcommittee will meet virtually on Friday, June 25, 2021.
- **Policy Subcommittee: Chair Chuck Ross (TX)**
  - On May 3, 2021, the Policy Subcommittee met with USDOL staff to discuss UIPL 16-20, Change 6, UIPL 14-21, and PUA guidance. The feedback provided by states will assist USDOL to revise upcoming guidance.
  - Legislative Priorities: NASWA released FY 21 Legislative Priorities:
    - States were asked to consider priorities for FY22.

### NASWA Update & Resources

Julie Squire, *Vice President, Policy and General Counsel, NASWA* [jsquire@naswa.org](mailto:jsquire@naswa.org)

- NASWA held a call with congressional staff & states [Rick Jeffers (MA), Michael Johnson (ID), Clay Cole (TX), David Gerstenfeld (OR)] to discuss the interest waiver on the trust fund loans and continued flexibility for merit staffing. Julie encouraged members to reach out to federal delegations on these topics.
- **Meeting Schedule:**
  - **Committee Meeting -Virtual:** Friday, September 24, 2021 at 2:00-5:00 PM Eastern
  - **Committee Meeting In-Person:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in Austin, Texas
  - **NASWA Summit- In-Person:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in Austin, Texas
    - Julie requested that states send workshop topics for the NASWA Summit on December 8, 2021.
- **Review of NASWA Website Resources:**
  - [Unemployment Insurance - COVID-19 Resources](#): Legislation and UIPL links
    - [Member-Only Resources](#): CARES Act Extensions Implementation Tracking, States' COVID-19 Operations Tracking, 2021 State UI Tax Legislation, and COVID-19 Playbook on Continued Assistance Act - Overpayment Waivers and MEUC.
  - [Unemployment Insurance – Committee Page](#): Meeting Minutes & Presentation, Committee Member List, and Resources.

### **PEER-TO-PEER DISCUSSION.**

Topics included: USDOL Tiger Teams, state notifications to end federal pandemic UI programs, lawsuits federal UI pandemic programs, and MEUC documentation/outreach.

### **ADJOURN.**