



**NASWA UI Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
September 24, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Outgoing Chair:** Beth Townsend (IA) **Incoming Chair:** Jamie Suber (SC)

**Members:** Sandra Canez (AZ), Cliff Napier (AK), Patsy Westcott (AK), Daryle Dudzinski (CT), Kierston Howard (CO), Phil Spesshardt (CO), Monnika Madison (DC), Darryl Scott (DE), Wendy Castle (FL), Christina Steen (IA), Michael Johnson (ID), Doug Werth (ID), Justin Brissette (IL), Ashley Hawkins (IN), Gina Ashley (IN), Troy Bell (KS), Laurel Klein Searles (KS), Rick Jeffers (MA), Dayne Freeman (MD), Laura Boyett (ME), Suzan McKechnie (ME), Liza Estlund Olson (MI), Anna Hui (MO), Rachel Bawden (MT), Spencer Clark (MO), Jeanette Canady (NC), Antwon Keith (NC), Darren Brostrom (ND), Richard Prince Jr. (NE), Michael Burke (NH), Ron Marino (NJ), Nancy St. Clair (NV), Stephen Geskey (NY), Lars Thompson (NY), Justin Smi (NY), Frank Padula (NY), Julie Smith (OH), Pete Shipman (OK), Lindsy Leahy (OR), Heather George (PA), Kathy Catanzaro (RI), Melissa Owens (TN), Jason Stalinsky (TX), Clay Cole (TX), Chuck Ross (TX), Justin Williams (UT), Beryl Todman (VI), Cameron Wood (VT), Mark Reihl (WI), Jason Schunk (WI), Criss McCauley (WV), Kris Funk (WY)

**Guests:** Jim Garner (USDOL), Michelle Beebe (USDOL), Ryan Nunn (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), Libby Starling (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)

**NASWA Staff:** Lou Ansaldi, Ben Peirce, Chris Paquette, Cindy Morris, Hillary Hewko, Jerry Pectol, Julie Squire, Judy Mattinson, Maria Noble, Emily Savard, Brett Flachsbarth, Nellie Spangler Evan Littrell, Amy Hiltunen, Zoe Vaughn, Amy Smith, Dianne Spears, Jim Van Erden

## **WELCOME & PASSING THE GAVEL**

**Beth Townsend**, (IA), 2020-2021, *Chair of the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee*  
**Jamie Suber**, (SC), 2021-2022, *Chair of the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee*

## **PRESENTATION.**

### [Economic Update](#)

**Ryan Nunn.** *AVP for Applied Research in Community Development and Engagement, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*

Topics from the presentation included:

- Labor statistics during the pandemic
- Labor force and caregiving
- Labor market tightness
- The effects of pace hiring

- Policy response to the recession
- Considerations for the Unemployment Insurance Program

Detailed information with charts can be found in the PowerPoint presentation posted to the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee page on the NASWA website and directly linked above.

## **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*

- **USDOL Staff Update**
  - Angela Hanks has joined USDOL as the Principal Secretary Assistant of Employment and Training Administration.
- **Proposed FY 2022 President Budget for FY 2022**
  - **Proposed adjustments for UI administrative funding:** A provision to update factors for calculating state unemployment insurance administrative funds is included in the proposed budget.
  - **ICON Modernization Funding:** \$6 million for FY 2022
  - **Continued funding for RESEA**
- **American Rescue Plan Act**
  - **[New Office of UI Modernization](#):** Yvette Meftah was appointed as director to lead the new unit's UI modernization efforts.
  - **USDOL Tiger Teams:** The Tiger Team Grants will be announced soon.
  - **Fraud Prevention Grant:** USDOL extend application date to October 31, 2021. As of the meeting, 45 states had submitted applications.
  - **Equity Grant:** USDOL released [UIPL 23-21](#) on the availability of up to \$260 million for activities that promote equitable access to unemployment insurance programs. Deadline for the grant is October 18, 2021.
    - Members requested that USDOL extend the deadline for the Equity Grant to give states additional time to adequately analyze data metrics and develop state proposals.
- **UI Modernization and Fraud Efforts**
  - **Identity Proofing Services:** USDOL recently awarded Blanket Purchase Agreements with multiple vendors to provide critical identity verification and fraud protection services (ID Proofing) in support of a State's UI programs, with the goal of minimizing UI identify fraud nationwide. More information is available on [WorkforceGPS](#).
  - **UI Modernization:** USDOL started work with U.S. Digital Services (USDS) to develop a service delivery blueprint for UI modernization projects. As of the

meeting, USDS met with 9 states/territories to understand the needs and capabilities of the state systems.

- **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.

- **RESEA**

- **30% carryover limit:** USDOL is considering changing the RESEA allocation formula by delaying implementation of the 30-percent carry-over limitation for FY 2022.
- USDOL reminded members that beginning in FY 2023 states will be required to use no less than 25 percent of the grant funds for interventions or service delivery strategies with high or moderate causal evidence ratings that show a demonstrated capacity to improve employment and earnings outcomes for program participants.

Member requested USDOL support the development of virtual services for the RESEA program. USDOL encouraged states to pursue virtual services delivery methods and conduct evaluations to determine if the strategies meet the high or moderate causal evidence ratings.

- **Audits**

- USDOL informed members of the 10 active audits at USDOL on the following topics: nonprofit reimbursement; payment of the first week. IT System response to claim volume, staffing demands.
- States will receive letters about the Annual Financial Statement Audit from USDOL soon.

## Recent Guidance

- [UIPL 12-01, Change 2](#): States' Ability to Exercise Flexibility in Staffing Models for the Performance of Certain Unemployment Compensation (UC) Administrative Activities
- [UIPL 24-21](#): Additional Planning Guidance for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Unemployment Insurance (UI) State Quality Service Plan (SQSP)
- [UIPL 4-17, Change 1](#): Requirement for States to Refer Allegations of Unemployment Compensation (UC) Fraud, Waste, Abuse, Mismanagement, or Misconduct to the Department of Labor's (Department) Office of Inspector General's (DOL-OIG) and to Disclose Information Related to the Coronavirus Aid,

Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to DOL-OIG for Purposes of UC Fraud Investigation and Audits

- [UIPL 14-21, Change 1](#): State Responsibilities After the Temporary Unemployment Benefit Programs under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as amended, End Due to State Termination of Administration or When the Programs Expire.
- [UIPL 16-20, Change 6](#): Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program: Updated Operating Instructions and Reporting Changes

### [NASWA Learning Update](#)

Amy Smith, Director, NASWA Learning, NASWA

- **NASWA Learning Homepage:** <https://www.naswa.org/learning>
- **NASWA Learning Overview.** NASWA Learning provides courses and certifications custom designed for workforce development professionals. Learning opportunities are available on-demand and through scheduled virtual and in-person instructor-led training events.
- **Overview of Currently Available Curricula and Resources**
  - **Link to Course Catalog:**  
<https://learning.naswa.org/public/searchresults?q=&at=T&ty=ML.BASE.DV.SearchAnyWords&ln=>
  - **UI Certificate Programs:** UI Program Leadership, UI Fraud Investigations, UI Operations Integrity, UI Tax Integrity, UI Data Analytics, and Business Analysis Boot Camp for UI SMEs
  - **UI Specialized Bundles:** New Hire Bundle, “This Is UI” Video, Adjudication Bundle, BAM Investigator Bundle, Federal State UC Legislative Seminar, UI Lower Authority Appeals, DUA, PUA
  - **Claimant Communication Resources:** Model UI Claimant Handbook, UI Claimant Education video, UI Claimant Guides
  - Members were encouraged to provide feedback to [Learning@naswa.org](mailto:Learning@naswa.org) on the following questions:
    1. What are the current training challenges facing the states?
    2. What do you foresee as future training needs?
      - What is the best way to meet state training needs? eLearning, Virtual Instructor Led Events, and In-Person Instructor Led Events.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS.**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jamie Suber asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June meeting. A member moved to approve the minutes; Chuck Ross (TX) seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

## Subcommittee Updates

- **UI Interstate Benefit Subcommittee: *FY 2020-2021 Chair Patsy Westcott (AK)***
  - The UI IB Subcommittee met on June 25 and August 12, 2021. Agenda items included updates from USDOL and the NASWA UI ICON followed by state roundtable discussions.
  - The 2022 UI Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs Training Conference will be held on May 10-12, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. Led by NASWA's Unemployment Insurance Interstate Benefits Subcommittee, this training is designed for both new and experienced state employees who work with interstate benefits and/or federal unemployment insurance benefit programs.
  - Kathy Catanzaro (RI) will serve as Chair of the NASWA UI IB Subcommittee for the new Association Year.
- **Policy Subcommittee: *Chair Chuck Ross (TX)***
  - The Subcommittee will work with NASWA to draft the legislative priorities for FY 2022. Input on the legislative priorities will be discussed at the next committee meeting in December.
  - Members were asked to consider participation and leadership on the NASWA Policy Subcommittee.

## Upcoming Meetings

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

- **Meeting Schedule:**
  - ***Committee Meeting In-Person:*** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in Austin, Texas
  - ***NASWA Summit- In-Person:*** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in Austin, Texas

## PEER-TO-PEER DISCUSSION.

Members answered the following questions during the peer-to-peer discussion:

1. What is your state doing with ID verification?
2. Do you have any plans you can share with the group relating to the equity grant opportunity?
3. Do you have anything you can share that you think would help other states overcoming adjudication backlogs?

## ADJOURN.