

Oregon Employment Department Advisory Council Legislative Session Update Meeting							
Date/time:	March 15, 2023 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.						
Location:	Zoom platform						
Attendees:	A – Absent P – Present						
P	Catie Theisen, Chair	P	Tom Cusack	P	Rebecca Nance		
P	Haley Alves	P	David Gerstenfeld	P	Perla Brambila-Arechiga		
P	Kurtis Baker	A	Laurie Westenberg				
P	Robert Camarillo	A	Royce Williams				
A	Marc Chrismer	P	David Genz				

MINUTES - DRAFT

	Topic	Minutes	Presenter
1.	Welcome, self-introductions of Advisory Council members & OED staff	Chairperson Catie Theisen called the first quarter meeting of the Oregon Employment Department Advisory Council (Council) to order at 2:07p.m. Catie asked Council members, OED staff, and guests to introduce themselves.	Catie Theisen
2.	Legislative Measures of Note & Session Update	<p>Session is very busy and it has been an impactful time. Over 2,000 bills have been introduced the department is tracking 560 of those bills right now. Thirty of these bills are high priority for us. Friday, March 17 is the deadline for work session to be scheduled. To stay in play bills must be scheduled for work sessions no later than April 4, 2023. We expect an uptick in activity because of these deadlines.</p> <p>Key bills include: HB 3331, Rep Holvey will be carrying the bill. There are three Paid Leave work sessions this week, SB 912 and 913. public hearings have been held for both. There are amendments for each of these Paid Leave bills.</p> <p>Unemployment insurance Work Share program expansion (HB 3331) was heard on March 13, and the work session to move the bill out of committee will be held on March 20.</p> <p>.</p> <p>We are watching HB 2008 closely, it would increase exemptions for those who owe debts. This legislation would increase the exemption threshold. It would have impact on us on garnishing wages to recover overpayments.</p> <p>HB 2290 (Paid Leave information sharing), and SB 5507 (OED Budget Bill) are in a holding pattern. These bills will discussed would be in Ways and Means later in the session.</p> <p>No questions from council members.</p>	David Genz
3.	Supplemental Employment	The council may want to take a position on the policy package (#115) that would increase the amount that would move to the State Employment Department Administrative Fund (SEDAF) . Most of the	David Gerstenfeld

<p>Dept. Admin. Funding (SEDAF)</p>	<p>programs that OED administers are supposed to be federally funded. SEDAF was created to augment department funding to ensure we have an adequate workforce to provide services to the public - it has been updated from time-to-time since its creation. Current federal funding is not sufficient, particularly in the unemployment insurance (UI) program. The last time the SEDAF formula was addressed was in the early 2000's. In our agency request budget, we included a policy package requesting state general fund dollars to provide adequate staff levels. The funding source was changed in the Governor's request budget from general fund to an increase in SEDAF as the funding source..</p> <p>If this change to SEDAF is approved, it will have no impact to employer tax schedules. It is, however, an important funding source that will allow the department to provide services to workers and businesses.</p> <p>David Gerstenfeld shared this with council, in hopes of their support. Although the unemployment rate is low, we have lost over 555 UI employees because federal funding declines post pandemic; the agency is still performing pandemic work although we are not longer receiving funding for the work being done.</p> <p>Question from Haley Alves: we know the impact of losing 55% of employees is; do we know what impact reductions have had on the customer end?</p> <p>Answer: Weve been watching this closely, service levels have slipped, we have focused on having benefit payments go out quickly to claimants and look at whether adjudication is needed. For nearly a year, we were answering 95% of calls in 5 minutes, in the Fall that slipped to 45% to 55%. Unless this package is adopted by the legislature, we will lose about 100 employees at the end of June 2023.</p> <p>Question from Tom Cusack: When collections are made from fraud does that money go back into the trust fund?</p> <p>Answer: When we recover money from fraud, penalties and interest go into a separate account; these funds are then used to combat fraud. The remaining monies go back into the UI trust fund to pay for benefits in the future.</p> <p>Cannot vote on this today, there is no employer representation present. A vote may be taken via email, and then the vote may be memorialized at the next quarterly meeting of the council.</p>	
<p>4. Future Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>Rebecca reported that internal Outlook calendar invites disappeared for the year on departemtn calendars, theremaining 2023 meeting schedule</p>	<p>Rebecca Nance</p>

		<p>was reviewed. Perla will send out meeting invitations for the remaining meetings to council members.</p> <p>Both the July and October meetings will be in person. We would like to get a sense of hosting an in person meeting. Kurtis volunteered to host the next in person meeting, the members supported this, so the July meeting will be held at the Siletz Tribal offices.</p> <p>Catie Thiesen and Haley Alves signaled support of in-person meetings by giving a thumbs up.</p>	
5.	Public Comment	No public comments were offered.	Public
	Adjourn	Adjourned at 2:43 p.m.	Catie Thiesen

ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned	Date Due	Completed
Email to be sent for voting on SEDAF, and vote will be revisited at next Advisory Quarterly meeting	Rebecca	ASAP	3/27/23

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Action	Assigned	Date Due	Completed
Rulemaking promulgation at quarterly meetings	Rebecca Nance		

Minutes submitted by Perla Brambila-Arechiga 3.15.2023