
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, July 7th
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: Department of Health
Room 128
Cannon Office Building
288 N 1460 W
Salt Lake City

Call In: 1-800-474-2077

DWS:

2:30 Welcome and Introductions

2:35 Follow Up Items:

1. State Energy Sector Partnership Grant

1,400 people to be placed, starting in August for training

2. PCN open enrollment application data

Numbers being finalized – have them tomorrow. Overall applications, somewhere in the 5,000 range. June applications = 47,000 new programs added (not unique apps), 23,823 new medical applications, 13,562 new FS applications, 7198 new financial, 2365 new CC apps.

18,544 online apps

Been hovering around 25,000 – 30,000 apps, about half are now coming in online. [CONGOS – eRep report system]

Want to have one source of data – moving to relying solely on eRep. Issues with programs vs. applications.

3. eRep - All cases are supposed to be out of PACMIS by June 30th, is the transition complete?

Transition complete for eRep!! All staff are trained. A few stragglers with long-term care cases – co-matched in PACMIS and eRep. Working on follow-up training. Now in maintenance mode. Notices, correspondence, tasks, functionality. Next 6-12 months of planning. Are opening up email access point through e-query (Mycase – have about 35,000 customers on this right now) on Aug. 2nd. Now is phone and office. Can email questions to eligibility staff and not just have to call in and leave voicemail.

Survey a few years ago found 60% of customers have high speed internet access.

Sheila – wait times – still 45 minutes. And then number gets disconnected. Communication is not matching up to what is actually happening.

DWS: - had a meeting about this today – learning curve regarding what is supposed to go in the system, if not correct stuff goes in, eRep will close case and send worker a task, and send closure to customer. Cases are getting closed before getting clarifications. Customers may be getting case closure letters and then can't get in through phone lines.

Hoping that the email response system will be able to more specifically address customer concerns.

2:55 WDD Organizational Update

How will regional workforce councils and other partnerships look after the transitions?

Regional Workforce Groups moving to Advisory Groups Roles – under state statute have 7 econ service area councils. Must have 32 members each and 16 must be from business sector, and there have to be quorums. Time and money to support these and staff them. Councils involve the community, educ, public service, want to make sure that these directors include community partners in these groups. How will the new econ service areas maintain representation on the SWC board. Will be a rep on the State board. By law have to interact with partners.

Needs statutory change, but right now would not specifically say in the statute about community partners. Do want to continue partnership.

WDD went live July 1st.

3:05 Unemployment Insurance

- I. UI Trust Fund – the solvency challenge and ideas being entertained to deal with it

See Handout. UI Trust Fund – things have been improving last few months, so projections may not be as bad as we think. May have better revenues next year than we projected. Working with EAC to have recommendations to legislature.

Average weekly benefit in Utah is \$321.

2. Update on the Federal Government and UI – jobs bills, sunsets, extensions, etc.

Federal jobs bill still not passed, about 2,000 Utahns a week coming off benefits. DWS has not been taking applications this time while waiting for the extension.

3. Outreach Workers and other Frontline staff not knowing about Unemployment Insurance/Training Need

DWS is planning on doing a training on UI for all their frontline staff, including outreach. They are aware that there are a lot of people coming in with questions about UI and it has always been a separate department, but want to at least give them a basic understanding of the program.

4. Will Utah's Back to Work Initiative and other programs targeted at reemployment be affected if HR 4213 (American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010) doesn't pass?

Utah's Back to Work Initiative – the jobs bill not extending this – more people would have been eligible, but if not coming on, not being targeted by this program.

-- Soft sendoff on July 1st. 3 months subsidized work program for unemployed adults and youth. Only with ARRA dollars can go up to 24 for youth. Have great connections from SIPP program last year. Are taking referrals for this program. UI will be sending out notices to UI claimants to people new onto unemployment.

-- about 2,500 can participate in this program.

3:30 General Assistance

- I. Open Application Period - Quick review, discussion of outreach plan, etc.

Open enrollment – have never done this before. Helen – want as many people as are in need to apply. If we go way over capacity for caseload, won't open up again until caseload decreases. This population is more likely to come in to the offices, can apply online though.

Best thing community can do is assisting people to apply outside of the office as much as possible. Will be hard to see how many people have applied just for GA because people apply for all financial. Will operate it just like PCN. If are under, will open up another enrollment. Want to serve as many people as have money for.

Have sent out letters to all of the medical facilities and physicians who have turned in the GA form and to expect an onslaught of requests for a Form I.

2. Plans for Interim Session – Study Item

At this point it is not on the agenda, just watching for it.

3:40 FEP Redesign

DWS has indicated it is in the process of redesigning the FEP program to better respond to the population that is on FEP and to be more targeted to the needs of customers than the work hour requirements of the program.

-- Workgroups: retention, more career focused, child support, assessments, non-participation process

Job club – Kathy Carrey – workshop presenter, designing model and curriculum.
Supported work search.

Participation does not = outcomes.

GED study is on the SRI website***

TCA study – (transitional cash assistance)

70% of customers have high school diplomas

Changing profile of FEP customer

Over 50% are coming in because they lost their job (and not because spouse lost their job)