

2020.07.14 - TF. Unemployment Insurance Mtg. Notes

Present: Meena Agarwal, Albert Turner, Roy Prather, David Merkin, Judge Lou Becker,

Next Meeting: undecided

The subcommittee started with brief introductions.

Committee Initiatives:

1. Legal Aid Funding for Public Benefit Recipients
 - Funding for legal aid initiatives from the CARES Act is available. This subcommittee will try to obtain some funding for organizations that assist with unemployment insurance claimant needs.
 - To do so, subcommittee members must:
 - Determine the amount of money these organizations need and determine what the organizations would do with the funds if given.
 - This is not a guarantee that the organizations will get the funding and subcommittee members should stress that when reaching out to organizations.
 - The Legal Aid Funding Committee will draft and send a letter with funding requests from all Task Force committees. It is the job of this committee to send along recommendations to the Legal Aid Funding Committee so that the letter can be drafted and sent.
 1. This is the most time pressing issue of the three initiatives, so subcommittee members will begin working on this initiative this week and hopefully have recommendations by the end of the week
 2. This initiative will involve all subcommittee members via email
2. Education and Outreach
 - This initiative will involve preparing educational materials with easy to read information and graphics.
 - There are also possibilities involving clinics and pro bono advice through courthouses when courts reopen.
 - Subcommittee members should be mindful of technological and language barriers.
 - This initiative will have a separate work group.
3. Advocacy to Program Administrators
 - From the administrative law side, deadlines should be extended. Claimants have been denied benefits without notice or reason. If notice is received, there is no information about the appeals process.
 - Conni and Meena are working on finding a copy of a notice to see what can be added to rectify these issues. The notice will be distributed to the committee to examine.
 - These issues with solutions can be directed to Gov. Hogan and AG Frosh.
 - This initiative will have a separate workgroup.

Upcoming:

- Meena will be assigning work groups this week and will reach out to members to notify them of their assignments.
 - Members should email Meena if they have a specific initiative they would like to work on.
- This week members should begin working on the first initiative by reaching out to organizations and getting an idea of what funding is needed, where it is needed, and what it will be used for.
- Next meeting date is undecided.