

NASWA Winter Policy Forum Presentations

February 17-19, 2010

Washington, D.C.

(click on each speaker's name to access their presentation, if available)

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

NASWA Staff Updates

Legislative Update: *Marc Katz, Congressional, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs Director, NASWA*

Recovery Act Study Update: *Yvette Chocolaad, CESER Director*

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Labor Market Recovery from the Great Recession

Speaker: *Alex Mas, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Labor*

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Employment and Training Administration Policy Update and Outlook

Speaker: *Honorable Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor*

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Employment and Training Service Policy Update and Outlook

Speaker: *Junior Ortiz, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor*

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Office of Disability Employment Policy Update and Outlook

Speaker: *Honorable Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor*

Workforce Policy and Issues

This session will discuss transforming the workforce system to meet the needs of the future. How do the various workforce programs relate and how should they relate in the future?

The “Great Recession” and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) have had a huge impact on the workforce system. How have the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and states responded to the challenges? What changes have been made, and what initiatives have been taken to resolve issues and improve the workforce system for workers and employers?

Presenters will discuss the strategic goals outlined by ETA for the Recovery Act to permanently transform the workforce system. What has been implemented to achieve these goals? How can the system sustain these efforts? What needs to be done to continue transforming the workforce system to meet the needs of today and tomorrow?

Moderator: *Karen Lee, NASWA President and Commissioner, Washington Employment Security Department*

Speakers: *Grace Kilbane, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor*

Roberta Gassman (Unable to Attend), Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Larry Temple, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Unemployment Insurance Policy and Issues

As of early January 2010, state agencies have borrowed more than \$27 billion dollars from the federal government to finance state unemployment insurance benefits. With a current national unemployment rate of 10%, more than 15 million unemployed, and unemployment projected to remain high, future borrowing is projected to reach \$90 billion by the end of 2012. The federal perspective on the unemployment system, trust fund solvency and the recent proposed rule regulating cash flow loans will be discussed. State panelists will discuss solvency and loan repayment issues as well as options available to insolvent states to restore their financial stability, maintain trust fund solvency and avoid borrowing to cover benefits. Such options include not only raising taxes and cutting benefits, but also include reducing overpayments and rapidly reemployment unemployment insurance claimants.

Moderator: *Rochelle Webb, Administrator, Employment Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security*

Speakers: *Gay Gilbert, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor*

Cynthia Lorenzo, Director, Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Reemployment Policy and Issues

This session will provide a snapshot of federal and state activities regarding Reemployment Services (RES). Attendees will gain an understanding of where the nation is as a whole; hear about the federal government's past and current activities as well as future plans; and learn of specific program approaches states are using with RES.

The session will begin with a presentation of the results of a recently conducted NASWA survey on how state workforce agencies are spending RES-targeted Recovery Act funds. Next participants will hear from the US Department of Labor on its activities and policy direction to states. Finally, the audience will hear from two state workforce agency directors who will discuss how RES funding has been used both programmatically and for new supporting technologies. The focus will be on why certain programmatic approaches were selected over others, why certain technologies were selected to support such program approaches, and how those have worked, especially in connection with UI systems.

Moderator: *Laura A. Fortman, Commissioner, Maine Department of Labor*

Speakers: *Helen Parker, Region III Regional Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor*

Bonnie Elsey, Senior Administrative Officer, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development

Karen Coleman, Director, Workforce Development & Training, New York State Department of Labor