



## Policy & Issues Committee Meeting

October 21, 2020

12:00 – 2:00 PM

GoToMeeting

**Attendees:** Vicki Leaderbrand, Jinny Rietmann, Rick Roy, Anne Kilzer, Nicole Swanson, Kay Kammen, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Elena Foshay, Mark Jacobs, Tammy Biery, Mike Lang, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Marc Majors, Carrie Bendix, Anastasia Polda

### Updates from the Department of Labor – Marc Majors

- There has recently been a flurry of meetings on data validation and performance.
- DEED has made a request of the regional DOL office to determine whether a recent Executive Order pertaining to diversity and inclusion applies to their grants. Initially, it seems that it does.
  - Committee members asked follow-up questions, such as the start date for any changes, the source of funding, and what types of trainings would qualify.
  - Marc Majors and his team will send out a memo with the details when more information becomes available.
- Funding: A \$150 million H-1B grant is currently accepting applications. The grant is for training opportunities for mid- to high-level technology and advanced manufacturing jobs.
  - Minneapolis is applying on behalf of the Metro region for IT, specifically.
  - Region 3 is also applying with a proposal that is more focused on manufacturing.
  - Applications are due November 12, 2020.
    - **NEXT STEPS:** Marc Majors will connect with Tammy Biery and Deb Bahr-Helgen about these three applications. His suggestion was that the state only sends one application to avoid creating competition.
- PCs for People has found funding for computer distribution. Ramsey and Hennepin counties are using CARES Act funds for computer distribution. Marc Majors added that Dislocated Worker program funds can be spent on computers for customers.
- Information about the NEG will be shared at the Operations Committee meeting.

### CareerForce Updates – Lorrie Janatopoulos and Mike Lang

- Opening by appointment only is paused. There is no date currently planned for reopening locations to appointment only. The Commissioner, Governor, and MMB are all very concerned about safety.
- DEED has not received official notice of any decisions that have been made regarding continued work-from-home.
- Career Solutions has been partnering with their local libraries to allow customers to check out laptops from the library, since Career Solutions' physical locations cannot be open. Local staff (not DEED staff) from Career Solutions will be going to the library. Although it is outside of the IFA, there is a need for DEED staff to take more time answering phones to free up the schedule for local staff to provide services at the library.
- Questions, comments, and concerns from local areas should be brought to Nicole Swanson to raise at the DEED Return to Workplace Committee.
- Previously, DEED had been considering alternatives for MinnesotaWorks.net. New developments have shown that this process is going to take longer than expected. Therefore, they are renewing their focus on MinnesotaWorks for now.
  - There is an RFP process to replace MinnesotaWorks.net as the labor exchange. The idea is that it will live within CareerForceMN.com somehow – with a completely integrated, single sign on process.

### SNAP E&T Policy Update – Anastasia Polda

- Anastasia provided an overview of SNAP E&T.
- A policy bill was introduced last year in the Legislature. There are minor changes to that proposed bill which will be brought forward again in 2021. It has not yet been proposed.
- The bill primarily does three things:

- Brings state law more in line with federal law.
- Includes tribes who administer SNAP E&T in 100% Fund eligibility.
- Affirms that we are running a voluntary program.
- Tribes currently have zero dollars allocated to them in this program.
- The Legislative Committee will also discuss adding a plank to their platform in support of the policy.
- Anastasia will also present this at the Jobseeker Services Committee meeting in October.
- *NEXT STEPS*: The Policy & Issues Committee advised that this policy be brought up to the Operations Committee to allow all MAWB Directors to participate in a vote about supporting the policy.

#### **Reception and Resource Area Certification Program (RRACP) – Mike Lang**

- The RRACP is out of date and needs to be updated. Mike asked the committee for their thoughts on reinstating a certification for working in CareerForce. This would be online.
- Committee members requested that the “levels” be removed. They also asked for components to be added on equity and inclusion.
- Lisa Snyder at DEED will be returning soon. The project timeline is within the next year.
- The Policy & Issues Committee members expressed their support for this idea.

#### **Governor’s Workforce Development Board – Kay Kammen**

- The GWDB has not met as frequently. They are working on a framework for the 2021 report to the Legislature.
- The State Plan was submitted pre-pandemic. They will include a summary report about the impact of COVID and the steps that the workforce system is taking to address it.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.**