



Policy & Issues Committee Meeting

November 18, 2020

12:00 – 3:00 PM

GoToMeeting

Attendees: Barb Chaffee, Jeanna Fortney, Anne Kilzer, Sean Bibus, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Elena Foshay, Jinny Rietmann, Kay Kammen, Mike Lang, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Mark Jacobs, Marc Majors, Ben Baglio, Rick Roy, Vicki Leaderbrand, Becky White

DEED Initiatives

- [Jobs in Demand](#) and [#GoodJobsNow](#): Reminder that these initiatives are still in progress.
- Commissioner's New Focus – DW Enrollments in Minnesota. Data from MinnesotaWorks has shown low DW enrollments across the state, and the Commissioner of DEED wants to focus on increasing those numbers.
- New COVID-19 Directives from Governor Walz: announcements will be made at 6:00 PM today (November 18th, 2020) regarding new restrictions to help curb the spread of COVID-19.
- Question: Would DEED support re-issuing the Minnesota OSO Waiver to the DOL ETA in 2021 under a new administration?
 - Answer: Lorrie Janatopoulos and Sean Bibus will be attending a DOL training tomorrow, and they have another meeting set up with them early next week. More information will be available later next week.
- Discussion –
 - Elena Foshay, Duluth: Local areas are serving more clients than appear in MinnesotaWorks reports due to a variety of factors, including MFIP employment and training services and bypassing of Job Service staff when formerly exited individuals contact job counselors directly.
 - A loss of reemployment sessions is a contributing factor because many referrals came from those sessions.
 - The biggest factor is probably the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. Employers are not always providing appropriate safety strategies for their workers, and employees are afraid to work in an unsafe environment. COVID-related closures of schools and day cares are also straining the workforce.
 - Other committee members agreed that it is a combination of factors that currently contributes to low DW numbers across the state.
 - Mark Jacobs, Dakota-Scott: People seem to be “hunkering down” right now, in terms of job searching, compared to the Great Recession of 2008.

Education and Training Updates: Marc Majors

- Updates from the U.S. DOL ETA
 - There is a State Leaders meeting on Friday, November 20th. Marc requested that they discuss performance (whether COVID will be accounted for in performance numbers) and flexibility on waivers.
 - NEXT STEPS: Anyone with other agenda items to add for this meeting with DOL should send them to Marc by the end of the day today, November 18th, 2020.
- Grants and timelines
 - NEG: Meetings are set up for next week to discuss next steps on distributing the first \$2.5 million. The second application for another round of NEG funding was sent to the federal DOL office.
 - Opioid: Marc's team is still waiting to hear from the federal DOL office.
 - H1-B: DEED submitted a proposal for \$9 million. There is a portion for manufacturing in Central Minnesota, and a portion for Automotive Technician Service training. The application was done in partnership with Polaris and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, opening the door to potential future partnerships like Incumbent Worker Training.
 - Region 4 (Metro) also applied for an H1-B grant to build out the TechHire program.
- Policy clarification: entering support services into WF1 – Jinny Rietmann

- Some local areas have not been entering support services into Workforce One and have been written up for this on monitoring visits. The policy on whether to enter support services into the system is unclear.
 - NEXT STEPS: Marc hopes to have next steps in place for this question by next week's Operations Committee meeting. A small group of MAWB volunteers, including Jinny Rietmann, Vicki Leaderbrand, possibly Carrie Bendix, and the financial directors from a few local areas are interested in working together with Marc to resolve this issue.

CareerForce: Lorrie Janatopoulos & Mike Lang

- US DOL ETA Updates
 - DOL Monitor Reports Update & Systems Coordination: No updates.
 - Wagner Peyser: Implemented Regional Job Service strategy. New individuals will likely be engaging with MAWB from the regional team.
- CareerForce Updates: Currently in a holding pattern with reopening. There is no planned date for reopening by appointment only.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the various forces applying pressure to local areas to close or open their offices.
- What is the deadline for completing OSO RFPs in 2021? Is there an updated list of documents that directors should complete and send to DEED in 2021?
 - NEXT STEPS: Sean Bibus will have updates on both of these items for the Operations Committee meeting next week.

IFA Discussion

- Mark Jacobs mentioned that the timeline of completing IFAs by December 31st will be extremely difficult for most areas. Other committee members agreed that the timeline was problematic and they, in some cases, have already been receiving pushback from Board members.
- Sean replied that all concerns regarding the timeline of IFAs should be brought to DEED Leadership, which in this case is Lorrie Janatopoulos. However, the DOL is monitoring DEED on this, and the regulations are pretty clear-cut as to how the timeline needs to work. If the IFA is not completed, the State Funding Mechanism will be utilized.
 - NEXT STEPS: Sean and Lorrie will raise the question of IFA timelines to DOL and will hope to have an answer by next week's Operations meeting.

GWDB – Ben Baglio & Kay Kammen

- The GWDB is including an enhanced recommendation from the Disability Equity Committee in its 2021 Legislative Report regarding e-learning modules for DEED staff and workforce partners who work with adults with disabilities. The e-learning modules are [available here](#).
- Jodi Yanda with DEED VRS was part of the task force that developed the modules with US DOL ETA.
- Lisa Snyder, DEED/CareerForce Training Specialist, has uploaded the modules to the [CareerForce platform](#). A person needs a CareerForceMN.com account and needs to be a proud partner or staff to access the Staff and Partner section to access the training.
- The GWDB Disability Equity Committee met earlier this month. The Racial Equity Committee has not met recently.
- A survey has been distributed to GWDB and other Board members. This survey was also distributed by MAWB.
- The GWDB Executive Committee has drafted a Legislative Report for 2021.
 - NEXT STEPS: MAWB will share their Legislative Priority document with Ben for him to review.

New Business – Barb Chaffee

- Developing the Mission, Vision, and Goals for the Policy & Issues Committee in 2021
 - NEXT STEPS: A small group including Barb Chaffee, Anne Kilzer, Vicki Leaderbrand, Jeanna Fortney, Rick Roy, and potentially Lorrie Janatopoulos will work on this in the next month.
- Election of a Vice-Chair for the Policy & Issues Committee
 - Rick Roy volunteered, and was elected, Vice Chair of the Committee. He will manage the meeting if Barb is not available.
- What steps do we need to take to work more closely with Native American communities?

- Discussion ensued. It was recommended that this question be raised to the Equity Committee at the Operations Meeting.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM.