



## MAWB Business Services/Economic Development Committee Minutes

January 14, 2021

**Summary of Special Presentation:** Elena Foshay presented on Duluth's work around equity. They will be holding a kickoff on January 21 at 10:00 AM to announce their new toolkit. The guide will be available online one day before the event.

**Plan of Work Discussion:** Discussion ensued about how the Business Services/Economic Development Committee can effectively share resources around the state. Suggestions included:

- Developing a LinkedIn group or a Twitter
- Sending Top 10 list in a pre-formatted newsletter that coordinates with CareerForce and MAWB branding
  - Anything that goes in the Top 10 list can be shared widely
- Inviting entrepreneurship stakeholders such as the Latino Economic Development Center and/or business associations

### Employer-Related Updates: Items Pertinent to Employers or Employer Services

- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
  - Visit their website to learn more about the [Business Education Network](#).
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
  - Focusing on state business relief grant distribution. Counties have some flexibility on who receives these grants. There have been some efforts to provide grant funds to nonprofits and other employers that were previously ineligible for aid through CARES and other programs.
- State Agencies
  - DEED, Liz Jennings
    - January is [Healthcare Month](#). [Explore Careers](#) series on Tuesdays. VRS Bite-Size Learning Modules for Employers are still in progress.
  - DEED, Jackie Buck
    - Working to plan a roundtable event with Commissioner Grove for Healthcare Month. The link will be sent when it becomes available. A proposal for industry months in 2021 will be presented to the Commissioner and a decision will be made sometime in January about future months in 2021. April will be Technology Month.
  - DoLI, Dan Solomon
    - [Apprenticeship Funding Opportunities](#), [Pipeline Industry Forums](#),

- Local Areas
  - Rural Minnesota CEP
    - Adding services to their Business Policy. If approved, they will rework into a guide which can be distributed.
  - City of Duluth
    - Career exploration one-pagers help jobseekers discover new career options. Construction Careers Working Group is now housed on [218 Trades](#). Duluth will be partnering with nonprofits to provide a Digital Navigator role as part of their work on the Digital Divide. Grant with the [Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging](#) for healthcare will fund a new website on healthcare careers.
  - Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
    - IWT applications are coming in more steadily. Healthcare Career Exploration Zoom Panel will be held in collaboration with local schools.
  - Career Solutions
    - Collaborating with CMJTS on the Healthcare Career Exploration Zoom Panel. MDH recently presented to their HR Networking Group and would be happy to replicate this in other areas. Working with local libraries to deliver career services.
  - Southwest Minnesota
    - Updating regional plan and intentionally creating bridges between employers and school districts. They are planning for a Drive-Thru Job Fair for April or May.
  - Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
    - Was recently awarded a grant related to opioid crisis which will provide training and support funds for people interested in addiction specialist careers. Helping to advertise [Mayo Clinic virtual job fair](#) and other sessions – they currently have 1,150 jobs open. Southeast Minnesota has a large Karen community and recently helped a Karen community member become a licensed in-home childcare provider.
  - Anoka County
    - Recently held a healthcare event on Easy Virtual Fair. Also collaborated with library about equity and jobseekers – could bring update to a future meeting.
  - Dakota-Scott
    - Dakota-Scott is holding their own virtual job fairs, trying to make things easier for employers and increase jobseeker engagement.