

Director's Report

Time period: January-February 2021

Priorities/Initiatives:

- The Director's past month has been focused on the current legislative session including attending committee hearings, watching bills, connecting with stakeholders, and working with the AMC government relations team representing policy areas of Economic Development, Workforce, and Housing issues. Highlights include:
 - DEED Budget bill introduced: SF1098/HF1342
 - Workforce Development Fund
 - Coordinating ongoing meetings with DEED leadership on changes
 - Analyzing bill language to better understand impact to local boards
 - State DW Program Flexibility
 - Legislative Committee developed list of suggested changes; bill language includes some of the recommended changes MAWB submitted to DEED to increase program flexibility
 - Will be working with DEED DW team on next steps
 - HECAP elimination—Discussion with DEED, outreach to Chairs Noor and Pratt, developing talking points for legislator outreach, and other next steps TBD
 - AMC Legislative Conference and General Government Policy Committee Meeting on February 18
 - Legislative Advocacy Speaker Series continued with sessions on Local Government Engagement and Overview of the Minnesota Legislative Process
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
 - Director held focus group for new ABE board representatives
 - Co-presented with Rick Roy and Barb Chaffee at ABE Career Pathways Professional Development Training
- MAWB Committees—Working with committee chairs on Leading with Equity initiative

Upcoming:

- WDF Workgroup Meeting with DEED on 2/26
- MAWB Meeting with DEED on 3/2 (Executive Committee and Directors)
- Native American Veteran Project Meeting on 3/4
- Equity Alignment Meeting with DEED on 3/12
- Speaker Series:
 - March 2, Deep Dive into the WDF and MJSP Board with Anne Kilzer
 - March 16, Advocacy 101 with Ron Painter