



Operations Committee Meeting

Date: November 25, 2020
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Location: GoToMeeting
Attendees: Jeanna Fortney, Diane Halvorson, Carrie Bendix, Tammy Biery, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Kate Probert, Nicole Swanson, Becky White, Barb Chaffee, Rick Roy, Elena Foshay, Dan Wenner, Ling Becker, Janelle Wald Kovar, Carol Turner, Mark Jacobs, Marie Domiano, Anne Kilzer
DEED: Marc Majors, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Mike Lang, Ben Baglio, Jackie Buck, Christen Pentek
Guests: Jeralyn Jargo

MEETING MINUTES

Tammy Biery called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Agenda – Barb Chaffee moved approval of the agenda. Diane Halvorson seconded. The agenda was approved.

Minutes – Barb Chaffee moved approval of the September minutes. Diane Halvorson seconded. The minutes were approved.

DEED Updates

Updates – Marc Majors

- National Emergency Grant (NEG): The state originally applied for \$7 million. \$2.5 million was received. They were then offered the opportunity to apply for a second round of funding. DEED applied for an additional \$4.5 million. This application is now with the federal office after about four weeks of back-and-forth with the regional DOL. It has been said that the Legislature is expecting a report about how the funds will be used, which may be part of the motivation behind extensive assessment by the regional and federal offices. Marc and Jennifer Anderson recently met with the small group of MAWB representatives who worked on the original application to discuss next steps for distributing the \$2.5 million. The state will be running an RFP process to distribute the funds. Only WDAs can apply. 50% is allocated to the metro and 50% is allocated to Greater Minnesota. The total amount that can be applied for will be announced on the RFP application.
- Rapid Response: After receiving feedback from MAWB and other stakeholders, they are making some changes to do more proactive outreach to businesses moving forward in an effort to connect with employees before the businesses closes and loses contact with them.
 - NEXT STEPS: Marc's team will put together a draft and present it to the MAWB small group in the future (the same small group that had sent comments to DEED regarding the Rapid Response issue).

Updates – Lorrie Janatopoulos

- The CareerForceMN Proud Partner idea was originally meant to be part of the broader effort of CareerForce branding. Local areas can visit CareerForceMN.com to see which partners are included.
- The unified CareerForce system hasn't solved all issues related to name recognition and connections between different aspects of the workforce systems. CareerForce will be looking at possible next steps to identify how to approach remaining issues, including internal conversations with VRS and ETP. These conversations will be continued in the CareerForce leadership meetings. Updates will be provided to MAWB as they become available.
- Local and Regional plans are products of the WIOA State Plan. The deadline for the Regional plans was extended and DEED is reviewing the template. They will be looking at how things changed due to COVID and altering the plan based on those factors. Questions about equity and DEED's own specific initiatives on equity will be incorporated.
 - NEXT STEPS: DEED will continue to notify MAWB of any changes to the template. The draft plans are due to DEED by April 30th, 2021, to be implemented starting July 1st.
- Sean has been answering questions about IFAs: the full document can be [found here](#). Other IFA resources can be [found here](#). Concerns continue to be raised regarding the very short timeline of IFAs. DEED is talking with DOL about an extension.
 - NEXT STEPS: Dan Wenner asked who needs to sign for ABE partners. Lorrie will pass this question along to Sean Bibus.

Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Presentation – Christen Pentek, DEED

- [See presentation](#).
- WIOA certification means that the training includes a credential, as long as the credential meets the federal definition.
- At present, Coursera does not meet the requirements for ETPL. This may change in the future.
- Elena Foshay asked: "If it's a local decision to only support training that is WIOA certified, in what situation would it be acceptable to spend WIOA dollars on training that is not WIOA certified? I thought this was a federal requirement."
 - NEXT STEPS: Christen suggested that Elena reach out to Lensa Idossa on this question.
- Christen talked about ETPL's efforts to reach out to various groups, including registered apprenticeships and cosmetology boards, about ETPL. They need to opt-in in order to be on the list so they cannot be added automatically.

Updates – Mike Lang

- Working to advertise healthcare jobs. There is a desperate need in the sector for workforce right now during the pandemic.
- Job Service has implemented a regional strategy. Joan Berning and Reggie Worlds have been made regional managers. They are still currently managing their local areas as well, although eventually separate supervisors will be hired for the local areas.
- After Thanksgiving, everyone can expect to see a massive outreach effort to drive Unemployment Insurance recipients to CareerForce via the CareerForce helpdesk. They are preparing for all of Job Service to be on deck to assist the helpdesk. The hope is that the outreach push will start on November 30th.
- Tech issues with RESEA have pushed the timeline to December, when notifications and sessions will resume.

- They are working on the ability to add searchable careers to CareerForceMN.com.

Updates – Jackie Buck

- Long Term Care facilities have a desperate need for workers. To help raise awareness, DEED is launching a new campaign to assist with the healthcare workforce. This includes setting January as “Healthcare Month,” similar to efforts with Manufacturing.
- They will also be holding regional virtual hiring events that focus on healthcare.
- Virtual roundtables with Commissioner Grove (DEED) will facilitate conversations between healthcare facility operators and DEED leadership.
 - NEXT STEPS: The dates of these sessions will be shared when they become available.
- Workforce Strategy Consultants have been asked to provide a list of healthcare providers in their local area.
 - NEXT STEPS: Please send any pre-existing lists of healthcare providers to your local Workforce Strategy Consultant.

Updates – Ben Baglio

- The Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the December joint GWDB-MAWB meeting and the draft Legislative Report. Thanks to all for distributing the survey among local Board members.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Presentation – Jeralyn Jargo

- [See presentation.](#)
- Discussion ensued about necessary updates to the Career Wheel. This process is also happening at the federal level. The timeline for these updates was originally going to be two years, but state directors pushed for a quicker pace.
 - NEXT STEPS: Jeralyn offered to come back in the future to provide updates on this and other topics related to CTE.

Hot Topics

- Anne Kilzer reviewed the draft [Legislative Platform for MAWB](#).
 - NEXT STEPS: Anyone who has changes for the platform can bring them to the December 9th MAWB-GWDB meeting.
- Jeanna Fortney asked about what local areas are doing to address the “digital divide.” Directors shared anecdotes and summaries of their efforts.
- Jeanna also shared some federal legislative updates. The proposed Senate relief package was announced recently, and it is much smaller than the House HEROES Act. The Senate version does not extend UI payments or offer stimulus checks. Although there are talks about renewing conversations between the House and Senate, a fourth stimulus package will probably not pass until February or later. The United States Workforce Association (USWA) talked about scheduling virtual visits at the federal level and advocating with a more simplistic message.
 - NEXT STEPS: Jeanna will send notes from the USWA to Jeanna about advocating for a stimulus package at the federal level for the City of Duluth leaders that are planning advocacy efforts.

Committee Reports

- **NACo:** [See notes](#). Hosing continues to be a major discussion topic.
- **US Conference of Mayors:** [See update](#). Jinny will share more regular federal reports with MAWB via the website.
- **GLETA Report:** No report.
- **CareerForce Return to Workplace:** No updates.
- **Training Work Group:** Series of mini sessions will begin December 15th. Announcement will be sent on Monday. Jinny Rietmann will be the Chair of this committee.
- **Policy & Issues Committee:** See minutes. Rick Roy was elected Vice Chair of the committee.
- **Jobseeker Services:** See minutes.
- **Equity Committee:** The Equity Committee will be reassessing how this work will happen in the future. Local areas are asked to bring a short, 5-minute update on equity in their area to the December Operations Committee meeting. This may be done regionally if areas prefer to do so.
 - NEXT STEPS: Local areas should plan to inform Jeanna and Becky about how they are filling out these slides by December 7th. Slides should be sent by December 11th.
- **Business Services/Economic Development:** See minutes/read Top 10.
- **Legislative Committee:** Review proposed [2021 Legislative Platform](#) and bring comments to December 9th meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:12 PM.