



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

February 25, 2021

The Chair, Nicole Swanson, took a few moments to acknowledge Black History Month. Committee members shared resources for additional reading.

The Chair called for approval of the agenda. Barb Chaffee moved approval of the agenda. Carrie Bendix seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

The Chair called for approval of the previous months' meeting minutes. Anne Kilzer moved approval of the minutes. Barb Chaffee seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

DEED Updates

- Deputy Commissioner Blake Chaffee and Deputy Commissioner Hamse Warfa
 - RESEA services will be restarting soon, although the format will be different than usual.
 - Unemployment Insurance (UI) applicants will receive a letter in the mail. There is a two-week lag between the letter and receiving a screening phone call. There are 3,600 phone calls scheduled as of right now.
 - Screening calls will be kept brief. UI, Job Service, and Veterans Employment departments will all be working on this project. DEED will track data and share directly with local areas.
- Jackie Buck and Adesewa Adesiji
 - [See slides regarding April's Tech Month.](#)
- Rita Beatty
 - [See slides regarding April's Tech Month and CareerForce communications.](#)
- Lorrie Janatopoulos and Sean Bibus
 - IFAs came up on a recent call with the DOL. There is some confusion around semantics, specifically on what qualifies as compensation and how the MOU fits with the operating budget.
 - The current understanding is that even non-colocated partners must contribute to the infrastructure costs. More clarity is needed regarding forms of compensation other than cash.
 - Based on the current confusion, DEED is advising that IFAs should be put on hold until further clarification is received. Sean Bibus offered to attend Board meetings to help mitigate possible reactions to this news.
 - DEED will be sending out written communication shortly regarding the pause on the IFA process.
- Ben Baglio
 - The GWDB is planning an event with the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership, tentatively scheduled for July 15th. It will be held virtually in the afternoon.
 - Next GWDB meetings are April 28th, September 15th, and December 15th.

- There will be a round of new appointments to the GWDB in March.
- There has been no guidance received from the DOL regarding the state plan yet.
- Mike Lang
 - Changes to Wagner Peyser performance measures reporting. Performance measures are negotiated and have been rising. Wagner Peyser performance metrics are tracked in MinnesotaWorks. Local managers can help retrieve data as needed.
 - RESEA restart/phone screenings: focus on skills and skill-building. This is a major project and takes precedence over other work.
 - [Referral database is in development.](#)
- Marc Majors
 - Call tomorrow for Opioid Grant recipients. Once the grant activities have received the full green light, they must meet a 40% expenditure rate before they can start conversations to apply for additional funds.
 - Rapid Response small group met recently. DEED team unveiled new activities to shorten the time between the Warn period and contact.
 - NEG and RFP: putting finishing touches on the RFP for the first \$2 million. This will be released next week. It is only open to WDAs.

Summary of Guest Presentation

Ron Wirtz, Regional Outreach Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis shared a new project to focus on understanding economic conditions from a labor/worker perspective. An improved understanding will help the Federal Reserve maximize employment. They are looking for qualitative and quantitative insights and are working with many “intermediaries” with jobseekers such as MAWB. They are trying to capitalize on existing databases such as WorkForce One and are working with DEED. Anyone with ideas on how to coordinate should reach out to Ron Wirtz at ron.wirtz@mpls.frb.org.

Director’s Report: [See report.](#)

Local Area Equity Successes and Challenges Presentations, WDAs 8-18: Follow-up from last month’s Operations Committee meeting. [See slides.](#)

Hot Topics

- The Chair, Nicole Swanson, raised the idea of adding a Committee Chair rotation into the MAWB bylaws given the upcoming retirement of Diane Halvorson who has served as the Chair or Co-Chair of the Jobseeker Services Committee for around 16 years. There were no comments or feedback from any committee members on this suggestion. Carrie Bendix offered to Co-Chair the Jobseeker Services Committee following Diane’s retirement.
- Representatives from each local area shared an update on their marketing and budget for the Dislocated Worker program, sharing creative ideas around advertising and promoting services. The City of Duluth has used a utility bill insert for outreach, Anoka has placed banners in their local libraries, and many people have distributed flyers through food/job fair boxes and at events such as free tax clinics.

Committee & Initiative Updates

- Leading with Equity: Meeting with DEED planned for early March to discuss next steps.
- NACo
 - No report.
- US Conference of Mayors
 - See written updates in email.
- GLETA
 - Discussion on COVID recovery efforts, sector partnerships, and youth enrollment.
- WF1 Advisory Committee
 - Not meeting until next week.
- CareerForce Return to Workplace Task Force
 - Have not met: no updates.
- Training Work Group
 - Have not met. Legislative Advocacy mini sessions continue.
- Joint MAWB-CareerForce Systems-VRS-SSB Quarterly Meetings
 - Planning for next meeting.
- Policy & Issues Committee
 - Discussed DW eligibility policy, local monitoring policy. Rick will draft a sample letter.
 - Ben Baglio shared that the GWDB will be updating their “high performing workforce boards” guidance.
- Jobseeker Services
 - Presentation from ETPL, ASU update.
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
 - No report. See Top 10 and minutes.
- Legislative Committee
 - Legislative Advocacy mini sessions continue, will soon be digging deeper into federal policy.

Leading with Equity

- The Operations Committee finished local area reports on equity successes and challenges.

Future Meetings

- The Chair asked Deputy Commissioner Chaffee if a DEED representative could send an mail update mid-March regarding the RESEA restart/phone screening initiative at DEED to MAWB.
- Lorrie Janatopoulos and Sean Bibus asked the DOL to attend a future MAWB meeting to speak directly to local areas about IFA questions.
- MAWB asked to receive a copy of the script for the UI/Job Service/Veterans Employment screening phone calls.
- Marc Majors can send diagram of revamped Rapid Response process in advance of next meeting – MAWB should send specific questions in advance as well.