



## MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

March 25, 2021

The Chair called for approval of the agenda and the previous months' meeting minutes. Tammy Biery moved approval of the agenda. Diane Halvorson seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved.

### DEED Updates

- Marc Majors
  - Working with DHS on the Workforce One Connect App rollout. DEED will also be working with VRS and SSB to coordinate. Rollout will be phased, so more details to come on the exact timeline.
  - The NEG RFP was announced for the initial \$2.2 million. Applications are due back on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their goal is to score the applications quickly and begin grants immediately.
    - According to the federal office, the worksite employer who provides temporary disaster relief employment is required to pay wages.
    - Employers need to understand the requirements around healthcare.
    - Supposedly there is no cap for temporary subsidized employment dollar amounts, but in some unofficial conversations \$20,000 was mentioned as a cap. The Federal Program Officer is looking into this to get final confirmation. If anyone has positions that would go beyond this number, apply anyway.
    - DEED is planning to submit by tomorrow afternoon (March 26<sup>th</sup>) for an additional \$4 million for this grant. Waiting to submit until later will slow down the process.
    - DEED will send examples of grantee/employer documentation.
    - TEGL 12-19 has additional details.
    - DEED is also checking to see how receiving NEG disaster relief employment may impact UI payments.
  - Minnesota Economic Recovery Jobs program is for young adults, ages 18-25. The goal is to provide career readiness and then work experience. Four organizations will be providing these services.
  - Shannon Rolf was recently hired as a new supervisor for monitoring. Monitoring will return to a centralized system.
- Lorrie Janatopoulos & Sean Bibus
  - Sean Bibus sent an email last week with more specifics about IFAs. Recently had long meeting with DOL to clear up confusion. The IFA is just one part of the OSO budget, which is all part of the MOU. The IFA itself and the required partner contributions have to go to the brick-and-mortar costs of the one stop system. Contributions from required partners can *offset* costs.
- Mike Lang
  - MinnesotaWorks RFP is out. Hoping to begin reviewing in April, with the goal to have MinnesotaWorks replaced in 2021.

- RESEA calls are going well. Hearing anecdotes that they are mainly reaching hospitality workers right now. Local areas are encouraged to reach out to people who are referred to them and remind the individual about services.
  - Reporting data will be incomplete because many people are not in MinnesotaWorks.
  - DEED is working with the Minneapolis Federal Reserve to administer a survey to one-on-one participants to get qualitative data about barriers to employment.
  - Referral database will soon be formalized. Mike can check to make sure that career pathways contacts are in there.

### Hot Topics

- Annie Tietema joined the committee to give an update on the Workforce One Connect App. User Acceptance Testing has finished and was successful. They are working on creating user guides with screenshots and instructions.
  - Trainings will be all virtual and will be recorded. Trainings will be divided into a few groups based on previous familiarity with the app and will be staggered to coincide as closely as possible with the phased rollout plan.
  - Currently looking for 15 organizations to volunteer for a soft launch of the app.
  - They will also eventually ask for local resource content to populate into the app.
- Oriane Casale joined the committee to give a presentation about Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASUs). [See slides.](#)

### Committee & Initiative Updates

- Leading with Equity Initiative
  - Plan to update the Operations Committee quarterly. Ling Becker and Tammy Biery met recently with Maureen Ramirez and Anisa Hajimumin from DEED to discuss next steps. DEED seemed interested in employer relationships.
- NACo
  - Currently holding their legislative conference. Mark Jacobs will forward the notes from their most recent committee meeting.
- US Conference of Mayors
  - Jinny will send email notes.
- GLETA
  - No report.
- WF1 Advisory Committee
  - See updates provided previously in the meeting. DHS is funding much of the original development of the app. Later maintenance will include contributions from various programs that participate in the app.
- CareerForce Return to Workplace Task Force
  - Will meet next week. Jeanna sent a survey to local areas via email – please respond.
- Training Work Group
  - Considering a proposal for future trainings. More to come.
  - An invitation to CareerForce Communications training was distributed.
- Joint MAWB-CareerForce Systems-VRS-SSB Quarterly Meetings
  - Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> will be led by Veterans Services/CareerForce Systems.

- Policy & Issues Committee
  - [See notes.](#)
- Jobseeker Services
  - [See notes.](#)
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
  - [See notes](#) and [presentation from Steve Hine, DEED](#), on the future of work.
- Legislative Committee
  - See Director's Report.

### **Director's Report**

- Several items were presented for discussion.

### **Leading with Equity**

- Minneapolis and Dakota-Scott presented their slides on equity successes and challenges since they were not able to attend the last meeting.
- Committee members discussed their takeaways from these presentations (and the presentations from January and February). Topics included: integration with human services, working with employers on best practices around retention, construction industry challenges, land acknowledgements, and analyzing internal policies.
- It was suggested that the Operations Committee revisits this topic of local resources and hold a discussion on ideas and best practices quarterly.

### **Next Steps**

- If MAWB has an interest in getting a blanket waiver for the IWT 20% cap, contact Lensa Idossa to see about next steps. Otherwise, submit waiver requests individually.
- MAWB should send an email and include Marc Majors, Tammy Biery, Lensa Idossa, and Nancy Omondi to discuss a waiver for credentialing. Marc's team will do an analysis on the impact before coming back with a response.
- Marc Majors will send out a letter detailing the changes to Rapid Response.
- Annie Tietema will send the press release regarding the Workforce One Connect App.