



## MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

April 22, 2021

The meeting opened with an acknowledgement and reflection on current events, including the verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin, former Minneapolis Police Officer who was convicted of the murder of George Floyd, and the recent police killing of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

The Chair called for approval of the agenda and approval of the previous months' meeting minutes. Vicki Leaderbrand moved approval of the agenda. Rick Roy seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved.

### DEED Updates

- **COVID-19 DW/NEG Grant:** DEED received 9 responses which originally came in at a 60/40 split between the Metro and Greater Minnesota. These numbers were revisited and adjusted to a 55/45 split.
- **Workforce One Connect Rollout:** Meeting with an internal team to create a rollout plan. More details will be available next month about the phased approach.
- **IWT Waiver:** Background research continues regarding the suggestion for a statewide waiver on the Incumbent Worker Training 20% cap. Recent meetings have attempted to identify why the cap was originally set. In the meantime, individual waiver requests still need to be submitted.
- **American Rescue Plan Funding:** Staff at DEED have shared a "wish list" of uses for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds ([see this document for a breakdown and summary](#)). DEED's Commissioner sent this list to the Governor. Next steps still to come.
- **Rapid Response:** Jason Wadell, DEED, joined the meeting to discuss changes to the [Rapid Response flowchart](#). Committee members offered feedback:
  - If no WARN notice is given but a local area hears about a closure, can local WDA simply drive to the employer's location and start engagement?
  - Many employers don't know that they need to fill out a WARN notice. Education is needed.
  - Could there be a different path if the WDA didn't plan to compete for a project?
  - The competitive process is often ineffective in Greater Minnesota; often, no one applies but the WDA.
- **Tech Month and Industry Months:** Jackie Buck joined the meeting to share information on April's Tech Month and future industry months in 2021. [See slides.](#)
- **Updates on Unemployment Insurance:** Jim Hegman joined the meeting to share information about Unemployment Insurance in Minnesota. He shared statistics and graphs about the number of UI claims, the amount of funds dispersed, and other metrics from the past year. The workload for the UI office has gone up exponentially over the past year with the COVID-19 pandemic and the workload remains very high. Jim shared some of their challenges over the

past year, including the failure of the federal ICON system which allows UI offices to share data, the complexity of federal programs, and the ongoing issues with imposters, hijackers, and fraud.

- RESEA restarted as phone calls. They have been challenged to call 4,000 people each week. There will also be a paper mailing from UI in April with 200,000 letters being distributed. The letter will remind people that work search is a requirement for UI eligibility and will tie in with CareerForce services.
- Jim will reach out to local areas and get customized information from each WDA which can be sent in follow-up emails to UI applicants in that area.

### **Summary of Guest Presentation**

Denise Felder, Director of CTE Professional Development at Minnesota State, and Mary Rothchild, Senior System Director of Workforce Development at Minnesota State, shared a presentation about a new initiative titled Skill Up Minnesota. The goal of the project is to encourage participation in short-term training at Minnesota State for those who have lost jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The website uses information from RealTime Talent to identify jobs in demand. They are also currently focused on programs that are leading to industry-recognized credentials. In the near future, they will be looking for more information on jobseekers to identify what they need in order to optimize the services/information provided by the site. They are looking to [hire a consultant](#) to help achieve this goal – please share with your networks. Skill Up Minnesota is not currently connected to CareerForce. Work will continue later this spring to identify points of connection.

### **DEED Updates, Continued**

- **IFA information:** IFAs must be in by next week and DEED staff must be tacitly aware of the agreement before it is sent in. DEED-level signatures can be acquired through DocuSign. A list of the necessary DEED signatures will be sent out again so local areas can send documents directly. Alternatively, Sean Bibus ([sean.bibus@state.mn.us](mailto:sean.bibus@state.mn.us)) will coordinate signatures for local areas if requested. Other questions were answered. If you need clarification on anything, contact Sean.
- **RESEA Calls:** Will have made 24,000 calls by the end of the week. They have confirmed connection with 9,000 people. They will soon move to the retail industry for phone calls. Most people who have answered the phone have not heard of CareerForce or MinnesotaWorks.
- **CareerForceMN.com:** They have found a way get a short-term training portal embedded in CareerForceMN.com. Mike Lang will connect with Jeanna to find volunteers to help design what the page should look like. Also working to formalize a CareerForce Systems Help Desk to centralize connections.
- **Job Service:** There are currently five job service supervisor positions available that are posted for internal DEED applicants.

### **Committee & Initiative Reports**

- Leading with Equity
  - Q1 Report is available. Looking for another Co-Chair since Tammy will be moving to Operations in August.
  - It was suggested that a survey should be distributed to gather strategic-level topics with a racial equity focus from members. Focused training could be provided on these topics, and/or they could be incorporated into strategic planning for MAWB.

- US Conference of Mayors
  - See written update.
- GLETA
  - Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. DOL will be in attendance. Send any questions to Jeanna so they can be asked during the meeting.
- WF1 Advisory Committee
  - Soft launch is happening very soon. A Project Owner position is open with the Workforce One team.
- Joint MAWB-CareerForce Systems-VRS-SSB Quarterly Meetings
  - Recent meeting was very successful and had 72 attendees. It is proving to be a valuable opportunity for networking.
- Policy & Issues Committee
  - See notes.
- Jobseeker Services
  - See notes.
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
  - See notes.

#### **Hot Topics**

- Operations Committee will be rescheduled in June since the currently-planned date conflicts with the NAWB conference. More information to come.

#### **Future Meetings/Follow Up**

- More information will be available in May 2020 about the phased rollout plan for DEED with the WF1 Connect App.