



## MAWB Business Services/Economic Development Committee Minutes

July 8, 2021

### Summary of Special Presentation

Jaimee Meyer joined the meeting to give an update on the statewide tour of manufacturing. [See slides.](#)

### Employer-Related Updates: Items Pertinent to Employers or Employer Services

- Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)
  - Working on conference in Duluth, and working on various diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Trying to get younger people into EDAM.
  
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
  - Most members are working on ARP distribution. MAPCED is also watching the state budget closely to determine impact to broadband and economic development. Also watching workforce issues: King Banaian at St. Cloud State recently did [a weekly segment](#) and mentioned that early data from other states who rolled back UI benefits early have not seen a significant shift in the labor force after those benefits ended.
  
- State Agencies
  - DEED, Liz Jennings
    - July is [Hire a Veteran Month](#). The [Veterans Virtual Career Fair](#) will be on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. There will also be a [weekly event series for employers](#) online, and an Explore Careers event on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - DEED, Jackie Buck
    - Recently hired a Southeast Workforce Strategy Consultant who will start later this month.
  - DEED, Della Ludwig
    - Manufacturing Month in October is a big project. Working to ensure that regional activities are all posted on the main website.
    - Workforce Wednesdays recordings can be [found here](#).
  - DEED, Chet Bodin
    - Work continues with the [Inclusive Workforce Employer \(I-WE\)](#) program.
    - Working on the [Minnesota Marketing Partnership](#), which is a public-private partnership with the goal to promote Minnesota and the economy with marketing campaigns, events, tours, and more.
    - Also working with [Ben Winchester](#) and [Shawn Herhusky](#) to promote [resident recruitment efforts](#). See also, info from U of M Extension and on [Creating Welcoming Communities Toolkit](#).
  - DoLI, Dan Solomon
    - May DEI event slides can be found [online here](#).

- Unfortunately, Minnesota did not receive a grant that the state recently applied to from DOL. [Pipeline 101 event on August 10<sup>th</sup>](#).
- Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD): New and unprecedented amounts of funding [recently awarded to MCCD through the Treasury](#)! It's a grant, not a loan. Funded by ARP. The federal government set a two-year timeline to spend the funds.
- Local Areas
  - Rural Minnesota CEP
    - Open to walk-ins. Participating in events to reach out to employers. Also teaming up with local Chamber to doorknock at businesses in the area.
    - Job fairs have had more of a "festival" feel, with music and food trucks. Employers are especially appreciative of job fairs.
    - A new program has been started to help people receiving Unemployment Insurance learn how to start their own business. Currently have about six virtual participants, including an MFIP participant.
  - City of Duluth
    - Working with local fire department to assist with recruiting: offering scholarships for women and people of color for educational courses, in collaboration with the Firefighter's Union. They are especially interested in hiring people with a medical background.
    - See Duluth's document, [Recruiting Ideas for Employers!](#)
  - Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
    - Bringing the I-WE program to Southeast Minnesota. The program will start in August. WDI will be reopening their Owatonna office and looking at new ways to innovate service delivery.
  - Ramsey County
    - Job fair at Allianz Field was successful. Will continue to hold in-person job fairs.
    - Launching an Inclusive Workplaces Cohort and will provide full scholarships for 20 employers in partnership with the Center for Economic Inclusion.