



MAWB Policy & Issues Committee Minutes

July 14, 2021

Chair Barb Chaffee added an item to the agenda, “DEED’s New Approach to Workforce Development Fund (WDF) Reform.”

Job Service Staff in Local Areas

- Job Service staff are working on a plan with Commissioner Grove to return to in-person services. According to a letter that Commissioner Grove had sent to local area leaders in late June, “DEED will pilot the return of one Job Service team member at each of the 16 comprehensive CareerForce Centers across the State, beginning on August 2. These team members will center their in-person work on appointment-based counseling (including for walk-ins).”
- It was announced during this committee meeting that the one Job Service team member in each comprehensive center would be working 20 hours per week.
- The two regional Job Service managers will be reaching out to local area leaders to discuss further logistical plans.
- Local Directors raised a concern that IFAs had still not been signed. Since the return is planned to commence in about 2.5 weeks, more details are needed ASAP on how costs will be shared.

Adult Programs

- A new TEGL recently came out regarding the CAREER Grant for Dislocated Worker. More information will be coming from DEED by the end of the week on this grant. DOL has requested to meet with five Workforce Development Areas, which DOL selected, to consult with them about making a statewide plan for the grant.
- The peacetime emergency ended on July 1. The Adult programs team is looking at policies enacted during COVID-19 and assessing their impacts before reverting to previous procedures.
- The team is also evaluating the Dislocated Worker policy. It was last updated five or six years ago.

Governor’s Workforce Development Board Updates

- The P-20 Alignment Summit with the GWDB is taking place on July 15th.
- Once Ben has language from DEED legal about requirements for the elected officials on Boards, he will send it out to MAWB to help with consistency in the bylaws across the state.

ACP Changes

- There have been some new forms released by the Adult Career Pathways program, but these documents have not impacted eligibility requirements. However, the ACP team is always willing to discuss creative ideas on how to improve eligibility to better serve customers. Anyone with ideas should contact a member of the ACP team at DEED to share their thoughts.

New Approach to WDF Reform

- A letter was released on the morning of the committee meeting indicating that there had been a 2.5-year engagement process with 52 metro-area nonprofits. The results of this engagement informed DEED's approach to the proposed WDF reforms during this past legislative session.
- Discussion ensued on the benefits and disadvantages of a competitive grant approach. Expanding the percentage of the WDF that would have been distributed by competitive grants was one of the adjustments proposed to the WDF by DEED during the legislative session.