



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

July 22, 2021

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

Leading with Equity Initiative

The committee members broke into three small groups and discussed questions related to digital equity.

DEED Updates

- Released Youth at Work announcements last week. Received \$17.7 million in applications for \$3.8 million in funding.
- Also received \$74 million over two years in state allocations. The team is currently writing RFPs to be released over the next two months. The RFPs will include the Pathways to Prosperity (P2P), new programs for Southeast Asian communities and African Immigrant communities, WESA, and Supportive Services.
 - These RFPs will include requests to connect with local Boards, so local areas should expect to receive calls.
 - DEED is not automatically rolling back policies and procedures that were put in place during COVID-19/emergency orders. They will be assessing the impact of these changes over the next quarter.
 - DEED had information posted online about inviting community members/organizations to be grant reviewers. That invitation is still open and will likely stay open until the RFPs close.
- New TEGL 25-20 announces the availability of up to \$43 million for the CAREER (Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment through Equitable Employment Recovery) National Dislocated Worker Grants. Award amounts up to \$3 million. Multiple players from the same state can apply. DEED will provide letters of support for anyone who wants to apply.
- IFA renegotiation process will be moved forward by Lorrie Janatopoulos for this round. After this round, AFS (DEED financial services) will manage the IFA process. AFS is under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner for Operations, Evan Rowe.
- OSOs have been received for local areas 4, 6, 7, 16 and Region 3. Since this is a legally binding agreement, they must go through DEED legal. If your area is not in the above list, please re-send your OSO. Guests from the AFS office at DEED will attend the September Operations meeting to explain this process in greater detail.
 - DEED can still obtain some local signatures for OSOs using their Docusign account.
- Job Service Regional Managers Joan Berning and Reggie Worlds joined the meeting to reintroduce themselves to the group. They will be main points of contact as DEED continues to

develop their plans for offering in-person services in the 16 comprehensive centers starting August 2.

- Ling Becker, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions at Ramsey County, expressed two concerns about the current reopening plan: first, the hours of available appointments are inconsistent across locations which will make it difficult to communicate from a marketing/advertising standpoint. Second, if a customer is coming in for an in-person appointment at a location, the doors of the center should be open. Closed doors are another barrier.
- Elena Foshay, Director of Workforce Development at the City of Duluth, asked how DEED would be marketing the appointments and said that front desk staff should be trained on how to book appointments on the website.
 - DEED will start the rollout of these appointments by using referrals from the Good Jobs Now calls.
- Nicole Swanson, Director of the Anoka County Job Training Center, asked how DEED decided on 20 hours per week for appointments instead of 40 hours.
 - The 20-hours-per-week is a pilot. This decision is part of the Commissioner's vision for proactive outreach. Upcoming sessions will inform next steps. There will be a phased expansion of the appointments, but plans are still to be determined.
- Dee Torgerson, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at DEED, joined the meeting to discuss the VRS plan for phased return to in-person services. See slides.
 - Committee members encouraged clear and consistent between VRS and local staff as this phased return is implemented, so everyone is on the same page regarding who is currently in a location.
 - Pre-ETS contracts will be renewed, although the current status is TBD – will follow up.

Update on Worker Experience Initiative – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

- The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis visited an Operations meeting a few months ago to introduce their research project to gather reports from workers and jobseekers to better understand their perspective on the current economic situation.
- Two surveys have been administered since that time. Initial data and preliminary interpretation are now available. See slides.
- Committee members asked follow-up questions on the structure and questions on the surveys.
- The data will be used to inform the Federal Reserve Bank's approach to economic recovery strategies.
- A committee member mentioned that reaching out to individuals who struggle with mental health and addiction would provide valuable insight to the questions asked. Some local workforce Boards and centers may be able to assist with coordinating.

Hot Topics

- Discussed WF1 Connect App rollout at the Jobseeker Services Committee yesterday. Committee members shared where their local area is currently at with the app rollout.

- Local areas have still not heard back about subsequent designation. DEED is still trying to determine whether this will end up with AFS (financial services) or the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) moving forward.
- Local and regional plans are still being coordinated by the Director of CareerForce for now.

Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Updates

- P-20 Alignment Summit was held recently and was successful.
- Relaunching the Operations Committee next month, and also transitioning to new Chairs for each committee.
- Working on a Green Jobs Task Force.
- New partnership with [Google Career Certificates](#). There is a consortium of employers who hire directly out of these programs, which is great – want to work on getting Minnesota employers in that group.

Committee Updates

- NACo
 - See written updates.
- US Conference of Mayors
 - [See written updates.](#)
- Policy & Issues Committee
 - [See minutes.](#)
- Jobseeker Services
 - [See minutes.](#)
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
 - The July Business Services committee meeting was controversy-free. And per expectations, there was a plethora of great ideas and information in the post-meeting follow-up email including items such as: October's Statewide Tour of Manufacturing; July – Hire a Veteran Month; Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Resources; and much, much more.
 - [See minutes](#) and [Top 10](#).

2022 Budget

Director Jeanna Fortney presented a draft budget for 2022. Mark Jacobs moved approval of the budget. Tammy Biery seconded. The vote was called. 14 yeas, 0 nays; the budget was approved.