



MAWB Policy & Issues Committee Minutes

September 15, 2021

1. Discuss I-WE

- Discussion around implementing a state-wide inclusive employer designation via the I-WE certification.
- Directors shared asking local board to implement I-WE is a patchwork approach and would like to make this a collective effort, with DEED involved and the Chamber.
- Raised concerns about government entities endorsing some businesses over others.
- Some local areas are leading their own equity-focused employer engagement efforts chosen by their boards.
- Marc agreed we should look at this further and coordinate together and will speak with DC Warfa about this, this is a priority to engage with on employers in the state and we have an opportunity here.
- Suggestion to transform I-WE into a program where employers are committing to working on inclusion and away from certification—the program could look different in different areas according to the local/regional needs.

2. Policy Changes

- ERAG Changes—Marc needs to connect with his team further on this, will follow up with Jeanna with more information.
- How policy changes are communicated to us—Marc wants to ensure policy changes are communicated openly and that we have the opportunity to provide input, will work on ensuring 30 day public comment periods occur for policy changes.

3. Update on Job Service return to in-person services

- Lorrie discussed first few weeks of JS staff return to in-person services, not all appointment slots are being filled, looking at how to market them better and make signing up for appts easier. MinnesotaWorks sign up is very lengthy. In person appointments are beneficial for those attend them.
- Good Jobs Now campaign is evolving, JS will be working with UI more closely to determine which recipients are at greater need and will be scheduling them for longer appts.
- Discussed how we can encourage follow through on appointment and reduce wasted time.

- REASEA--conversations between Mike Lang and Gerry Mulhern, more to come on this.
- Discussed that local JS staff need be more empowered to plan with local staff, versus needing to ask leadership.

4. Lorrie added agenda item on local and regional plans

- Approval process will be postponed until next year. Letter on local plans should come out this month.
- Plan modifications will be due July 31 2022, after the State Plan update is submitted so there can be synergy.

Question on Subsequent Designation—Lorrie said it should be submitted, DEED policy requires it more frequently than WIOA does. We can discuss this further at Operations next week if needed with Assistant Commissioner Rowe. Directors asked for updated timeline on WIOA compliance documents, similar to what Sean previously provided.

An updated DEED org chart was requested from Marc Majors.