



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

December 2, 2021

The Chair called for approval of the agenda and the previous months' meeting minutes. Committee members requested the inclusion of several Hot Topics to the agenda: leases, funding streams, and hospitality training. With these changes, Mark Jacobs moved approval of the agenda. Vicki Leaderbrand seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved.

- The Title I Adult Programs are still doing their RFP process with state grants. The group discussed the progress of monitoring visits.
- The Leading with Equity group has met a few more times and agreed on the need to engage everyone in broader conversations about equity. Operations Committee members were asked to give their feedback on the Equity Matrix. Upcoming strategic planning sessions for MAWB will also focus on equity. A survey will go out in advance of strategic planning to gather feedback on how MAWB should be engaging with equity work. The group briefly discussed the various potential roles that MAWB could have: amplifying and marketing equity work at the local level, advocacy work on reducing barriers, running trainings, etc.
- “CareerForce Corners” are a new initiative that DEED is working on in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. The idea is to create corners of public libraries where individuals can access some career services. They are working to create “kits” of resources, fliers, and more. There is an opportunity for local areas to collaborate on this to help inform the development of tailored resources at the local level. Contact Cassy LEEPport at cassy.leepport@state.mn.us to get involved.
 - There is a survey that will be distributed to help inform the decision on which libraries are selected for this project. The DEED/MDE partnership is willing to train library staff to help bring them up to speed about career resources.
 - The goal of the project is to bring in new customers. They will track data on the efficacy of the project to the extent possible.
 - It was suggested that local areas could provide an environmental scan of where local boards are already involved in libraries to avoid duplication.
 - This new library partnership does not mean that Job Service staff are pulling out of CareerForce centers; there is no intention to permanently relocate them to libraries. The coordination of “who-does-what” happens at the local level.
 - In some local areas, the One-Stop Operator and the Library report to the same person at the county level. It is important to handle these partnerships in a way that responds to the nuance of different local situations.
 - Once a library is selected and opts in, a letter will go out from DEED/MDE to list some detailed information. There is a level of review that can be provided to local boards before the letter goes out.
- In January, Lorrie Janatopoulos and Mike Lang will be doing a tour to local WDAs. Stay tuned for more information about scheduling. The intention is to have these meetings in-person.

- Committee members asked for clarity on the purpose of the meetings and who should be invited to the meetings. The answers to these questions are not clear at this time. More information to come.

Summary of Guest Presentation

[See slides from the Senior Community Service Employment Program \(SCSEP\) presentation.](#) There was a brief discussion following the presentation. Committee members mentioned the high administrative burden. Additional resources are needed to supplement SCSEP, particularly around supportive services.

Hot Topics

- Continuing UI Letters: There is general support from the committee to advocate for continuing the UI letters. They have been good for increasing calls and enrollments.
 - NEXT STEPS: MAWB will connect with partners at DEED to help move the process forward to continue the letters.
- ROI Project: The committee was asked to contribute thoughts on the annual Return on Investment project. Rick Roy raised a concern which has been elevated before – the current algorithm for calculating the return has a major flaw. Correcting the flaw would mean that the current high return would get lower.
 - Several committee members agreed that this would be a good time to revisit the process.
 - The ROI data is occasionally used for grant applications and lobbying visits, but it's not clear if the time, effort, and funds spent to create the report is worth it.
 - Ling Becker suggested looking into [Ecotone Analytics](#) as a potential consultant on the project.
 - Anne Kilzer suggested aligning the ROI project with budget years at the Minnesota Legislature.
 - NEXT STEPS: The group agreed to identify if Carol Dombek was available to do the project in 2022. If not, wait until 2023 to get new data before the budget year.
- Funding Streams: Issues with funding streams in Workforce One are ongoing. The issue has been raised several times over the past two years. It is not something that happens with the Youth Programs. The staff teams of Minneapolis and Hennepin-Carver created a summary document of the issue which may be useful to read – see email.
 - NEXT STEPS: Hold a joint conversation with Adult Program leaders at DEED and MAWB leadership to identify how to change this.
- Hospitality Training: A committee member requested recommendations on hospitality trainings. Ideas were shared. See emails.
- Leases: In some areas, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) and State Services for the Blind (SSB) have agreed to contribute to reception desk and Career Lab. Despite the fact that these departments are also within DEED, they seem to be taking a different approach than Job Service.
- PC's for People came up in conversation. The group discussed the need to coordinate more closely on technology distribution since counties are also responsible for general and electronics recycling, and these could also be made into jobs for people.
 - NEXT STEPS: Invite PC's for People to attend a future meeting to discuss.

- Good Jobs Now Challenge Funding: Southeast is applying for the grant. South Central Community College is submitting a statewide proposal on advanced manufacturing to increase and expand capacity. WDI will continue to stay closely involved with the proposal and inform other WDAs about how the manufacturing application may involve local areas.
- Lena Balk joined the meeting to share an update on training program content on CareerForceMN.com. DEED and partner staff will be able to share information by location. The idea is to help market and highlight upcoming opportunities. The content is only editable by group managers. Programs are eligible to be posted here even if they have various funding sources. Partner organizations should also have profiles and location pages on CareerForceMN.com so they should be able to update this. More information will be coming out soon in an email.

Summary of Guest Presentation

See slides from the [2022 CareerForce Industry Months presentation](#).

Committee Updates

There are vacancies for a position as a metro-area representative on GLETA and the Chair of the Legislative Committee. The group discussed that the new GLETA representative would be represented at the next metro director's meeting. No Legislative Committee Chair was named at this meeting.

- NACo
 - See emailed notes.
- US Conference of Mayors
 - See emailed notes.
- GLETA
 - No meeting since last Operations Committee.
- WF1 Advisory Committee
 - Meets tomorrow.
- Training Work Group
 - Discussed summer meeting topics. The main idea is around "building back better," although we will not use those exact words. There is broad opportunity for sessions on tangential issues such as childcare and housing.
- Joint MAWB-CareerForce Systems-VRS-SSB Quarterly Meetings
 - Has not met since last Operations Committee.
- Policy & Issues Committee
 - Last meeting focused on warm handoffs. It was suggested that a staff-level working group on this topic is started.
- Jobseeker Services
 - Did not meet in November.
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
 - [See minutes](#).
- Legislative Committee
 - This is not a budget year, but a supplemental budget is anticipated to be released. Recommendations on WIOA reauthorization will be presented at the Joint MAWB-GWDB Winter Meeting. The platform and priorities will also be approved at that meeting.