



## **MAWB Operations Committee Minutes**

January 27, 2022

The Chair called for approval of the agenda and the previous months' meeting minutes. Barb Chaffee moved approval of the agenda and the minutes. Carrie Bendix seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved.

### **DEED Updates**

- [Jill Roberts](#), Director of Finance and Contracts – Employment and Training Programs Division, DEED, introduced herself to the group. She started a few weeks ago in the ETP Division.
- The DW NEG recently had a monitoring visit which had four findings. One finding was around the late start to the grant and the consequent delay in spending. Another was around a flyer which did not have the proper disclaimer. The ETP team will send out language to correct this issue. Given the late start, ETP is considering applying for a no-cost extension for a period between six months and one year. More information to come.
  - A question was asked regarding an “extension on the period of performance” for this grant. It is unclear whether this is the same or different from the extension mentioned previously.
- Concerns about the funding streams issue in Workforce One continue. A summary of the issue was sent to the ETP team. The team will circle back with the finance office to determine why the decision about funding streams was made originally and return to a future meeting with more information.
- Planning for visits to local Workforce Development Areas is underway. The group from DEED on these visits will likely include Lorrie Janatopoulos, Mike Lang, Joan Berning, Reggie Worlds, Kirk Crowshoe, and possibly Ray Douha. Lorrie would like to set up pre-meetings with each local area to talk through the agenda and the invitees for each meeting.
- The CareerForce Corners project has started. The following libraries have responded to the request. MDE will decide which libraries receive what level of “CareerForce kit.”

Dodge Center Public Library  
 Plainview Public Library  
 Brainerd Public Library  
 Bemidji Public Library  
 Stillwater Public Library  
 Saint Peter Public Library  
 Northfield Public Library  
 Bayport Public Library  
 Pelican Rapids Public Library  
 Park Rapids Area Library

Moorhead Public Library  
 Breckenridge Public Library  
 Zumbrota Public Library  
 International Falls Public  
 Library  
 Columbia Heights Public  
 Library  
 East Central Regional Library  
 Scott County Library  
 Ivanhoe Public Library

Meinders Community Library  
 Two Harbors Public Library  
 Winona Public Library  
 Washington County Library  
 Hennepin County Library  
 Jackson County Library  
 Duluth Public Library  
 Saint Cloud Public Library

- There has been some discussion at the local level about connecting with homeless individuals at libraries through CareerForce Corners, but there has not been discussion about replicating this exact model in homeless shelters.
- Getting close to making an announcement about the replacement of the labor exchange (MinnesotaWorks.net). Discussion ensued regarding whether the state had done focus groups with jobseekers to assess their user experience with the new labor exchange provider. Due to strict requirements about procurement, it seems that jobseeker focus groups were not included in the decision-making process.

### **ABE Updates**

- [Brad Hasskamp](#) and [Julie Dincau](#) shared information about the competitive process for distributing federal WIOA Title II funds and information about the local Workforce Development Board review of Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) grant applications. [See documents on the committee page.](#)

### **CNA Training Initiative**

- MAWB Vice Chair and Executive Committee member Nicole Mattson joined the call to share information about the statewide initiative to add 1,000 CNAs to the workforce by the end of January.
- There are currently approximately 500 registered students. Having a “no-barriers” offer has helped with enrollment. The media has picked up the story and amplified advertising efforts.
- The Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence is tracking metrics. This is a \$3.5 million initiative, and the program and metrics may expand if additional funding is acquired.
- The organizing group is aware of testing concerns. There is currently a blackout period on CNA testing. Recent information from MDH suggests that some testing concerns may be alleviated; more details to come.

### **Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Updates**

- Will proceed moving forward by considering the Local/Regional Plans submitted to DEED by Local Workforce Development Boards in 2021 as approved.
  - GWDB staff will work with MAWB and DEED to determine if July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 is the best date, or if additional time will benefit the system.
  - GWDB staff will prioritize guidance for Local/Regional Plan modifications after the WIOA State Plan has been submitted to the United States Department of Labor.
- Hiring International Students: will be hosting an event to address employer concerns around hiring
- Digital Reskilling – Coursera access will end in April 2022. GWDB is looking at continuing a relationship with Google and their Grow with Google Professional Certifications.

### **Hot Topics**

- Basic Income Pilot: The City of Minneapolis is providing cash payments to low-income families as a two-year pilot program to improve family stability.

- Good Jobs Challenge: The proposal includes give other colleges and builds on previous Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career (TAACCCT) grant. The grant application is around manufacturing.

**Director's Report**

- Discussed legislative updates.
- Met with Minnesota Chamber to discuss legislative priorities.