



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

February 24, 2022

The Chair called for approval of the agenda and the previous months' meeting minutes. Janelle Wald Kovar moved approval of the agenda. Nicole Swanson seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved.

- There has been an ongoing issue with the funding streams in Workforce One. The Operations Committee raised this issue again at a previous meeting, asking to reopen the topic for discussion and reassess to find a solution. The Adult programs team is meeting next week to discuss. Once they have their internal conversation, they may reach out to a small group of MAWB members to discuss further.
- DEED recently had a webinar with the Department of Labor on federal performance. Performance negotiations will begin soon. Two Directors from MAWB are invited to participate in the negotiations. Vicki Leaderbrand and Nicole Swanson volunteered.
- “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. They are making progress on the rollout. Contact Cassy Leeport at cassy.leeport@state.mn.us with questions.
 - Their next steps are to connect the 30 libraries that expressed interest in participating with local area staff and Job Service staff to begin conversations.
 - Discussion ensued about avoiding duplication and ensuring coordination of services.
 - The timing of this process is still to be determined.
- DOL system compliance training: The first of three trainings was held yesterday. The next two trainings are coming up soon. It seems likely that all of the IFAs will need to be renegotiated after these trainings are completed. March 9th is the last session. DEED will then meeting internally to ensure that everyone is on the same page. Compliance has been moved under Assistant Commissioner Rowe.
 - There was consensus around the idea that DOL had, at one point, agreed to record these trainings and share them with MAWB. Lorrie will follow up again with DOL to ask about recording the next two sessions so the information can be shared.
 - It sounds like DOL might be doing more compliance training specifically for Minnesota, but those details have not been confirmed yet.
- Lorrie Janatopoulos and Mike Lang will be doing a tour to local WDAs starting in the next couple of weeks. The goal is to have these tours completed by July.
- The WIOA State Plan has been posted for public comment. The comment period is open until March 9th. On that same day, Ben will give a presentation to the GWDB about what has been changed, and then the Board will vote on the plan. The plan is due on March 15th and other state/federal guidelines just came out which is making the timeline very challenging. They hope to open another comment period later in 2022 when revisions are required for the state plan.

- NEXT STEPS: Ben and Jeanna will work together to find a time for a small-group discussion/deeper dive ASAP.

Summary of Guest Presentation

See slides from the Census Bureau presentation.

Leading with Equity

The committee watched [this video on the Great Migration](#) and discussed other books, resources, and applications to Minnesota.

Presentation on Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis' Survey Results

- MAWB recently participated in a survey to gather information about jobseekers and the labor market. The survey was sent through MAWB Directors to their staff, who were asked to complete the survey based on what they had heard from jobseekers recently.
- There were many interesting findings. Some key takeaways: there are many reasons why people are not taking jobs right now. "Lack of motivation" on the part of jobseekers is not the whole explanation (and the results may prompt further research into this subject). It seems that employers might need to adjust their strategies for recruitment and retention given these results and the current economic condition.
 - There was a suggestion for MAWB and the Federal Reserve to partner on a statewide webinar to employers and provide solutions/suggestions in conjunction with this data.
 - NEXT STEPS: Jeanna will follow up with Ron to determine best path forward.

Presentation from Assistant Commissioner of Operations, Evan Rowe

- Presented on modernizing workforce digital systems. They are asking for \$15 million one-time funding from the legislature.
- The pandemic has changed the need for good digital systems. There is a need for both digital and in-person options.
- DEED doesn't want to leave out people who don't have access. Investment in digital tools can help everyone (improving case management, for example).

Hot Topics

- SCSEP: Some areas find that it's a difficult program to operate and are thinking of eliminating it. Are there improvements that local areas can recommend?
 - Program design is ultimately federal, and changes will require federal advocacy.
 - Discussed whether we can look at a state program to help older workers.
 - NEXT STEPS: Jeanna will ask USWA group about federal advocacy.
- Lease Updates: Rural Minnesota CEP has been in conversation with Assistant Commissioner Rowe and his team about negotiations, more information to come.

Committee Reports

- GLETA
 - Will be meeting virtually in April.
- WF1 Advisory Committee
 - Meets tomorrow.
- Training Work Group

- Will meet in March. Still searching for another volunteer member of this committee.
- Joint MAWB-CareerForce Systems-VRS-SSB Quarterly Meetings
 - Has not set schedule of meetings for 2022; continuation is pending results of MAWB strategic planning.
- Policy & Issues Committee
 - Recent meeting was shorter, with a smaller group, and focused on a couple specific topics. [See notes](#).
- Jobseeker Services
 - Met yesterday; [see notes](#).
- Business Services/Economic Development Committee
 - [See notes](#). Top 10 to be released soon.

The Operations Committee had a discussion on legislative topics and reviewed the summary of strategic planning efforts. A few additional questions remain which may be good to discuss again this summer. In the meantime, there are some specific action steps for staff to pursue. Staff will also be working on revising the bylaws and will bring suggestions for revision to a small group, and then to the membership this summer.