



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

April 28th, 2022

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

The Chair called for approval of the meeting agenda. The following additions to the Hot Topics section were requested:

- Employment and Training Staffing at CareerForce Locations
- Information in Today's Newsletter on CareerForce Model

With these changes to the agenda, Mark Jacobs moved to approve the agenda. Nicole Swanson seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

DEED Updates

- A small group of MAWB members met with DEED's Director of Finance and Contracts since the last meeting to discuss the continued funding streams issue in Workforce One. The DEED team is discussing internally and hopes to reconnect with the group in the upcoming weeks.
- DEED has submitted a plan and justifications for performance numbers. The performance negotiation with DOL is scheduled for June 3rd. Two local Board directors will attend that meeting.
- Discussion ensued regarding the communication that was released from DEED this morning, which indicated that locations would now be providing office hours.
- Discussion ensued regarding CareerForceMN.com and requested changes to the site.
 - NEXT STEPS: MAWB will assemble a list of requested changes to the site and send them to DEED.
- DEED's team recently visited Southwest and South Central for meetings.
- Discussion ensued about data tracking for Good Jobs Now phone calls. The committee was interested in learning whether data is being tracked which would verify that outreach phone calls have been resulting in the individual actually using career services, enrolling in programs, getting a job, etc. It seems that there is not a conclusive answer on this.

Equity Grounding

Jeff Tollefson, President & CEO of the Minnesota Technology Association shared a presentation with the group about tech equity. Their Tech Inclusion Alliance encourages large employers to address this issue by helping them thinking differently about talent. More inclusive environments are essential to attracting and retaining diverse employees. Additionally, employers must rethink their requirements for entry level jobs: many jobs require a bachelor's degree, which creates unnecessary barriers for individuals with nontraditional education pathways. Part of their work has been helping employers agree on what are the most essential skills for in-demand, entry-level jobs such as software developers and information security. He mentioned the importance of broadband internet access and the necessity

of giving youth more exposure to technology in schools to help prepare them for computer science fields.

DEED Updates

- Discussed idea to have American Job Centers also be voter registration centers. Questions and concerns were raised around the implementation of this idea. Neither DEED staff nor committee members wanted to move ahead with the idea.

SNAP E&T Grant Opportunity

- Technical assistance is available for free through a Third Sector-NAWB partnership.
- The sessions are mainly geared for people who do not currently offer SNAP E&T, but those who do currently operate the program may find them valuable.
- [Learn more about the grant opportunity here.](#)

NAWB Forum 2022

- Members who attended the 2022 NAWB Forum shared updates about the sessions they attended.
- Several people enjoyed the high-quality workforce board presentation and recommended the presenters as potential guest speakers.
- The Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank gave a guest presentation about the benefits cliff calculator. In summary, no one really understands how this works, and several agreed that it would be nice to have a separate presentation on it for the group.

Hot Topics

- VRS posted an RFP for Pre-ETS. If anyone is looking at contracting, notify MAWB; there is a small group of current Pre-ETS providers who will be getting together to discuss contracts.
- A few of the local boards are interested in gaining a formal opinion from the state about whether they are required to follow Minnesota Open Meeting Law as nonprofits. There are at least a few local areas who would like to have further conversation on this topic.
- Many local areas are interested in a training about WIOA Equal Opportunity requirements in preparation for DEED's ODEO office monitoring visits.
 - NEXT STEPS: Carrie will reach out to Karen Lilledahl to ask about training.
- The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is interested in doing a second round of a survey, this time directly to jobseekers. The Operations Committee expressed interest in participating but recommended that the Bank works with MNIT to send the survey out through Workforce One.
- Director Communication Strategy: After reviewing options, the committee agreed to try Microsoft Teams as an instant message option for Directors.

Presentation on Economic Development Awards – Deputy Commissioner Kevin McKinnon

[See slides.](#)

Committee Reports

Ran out of time to review committee reports. Updates will be sent via email. See website for previous MAWB committee minutes.