



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

April 28th, 2023

Agenda & Minutes

The Chair called for approval of agenda. Mark Jacobs moved to approve the agenda and Barb Chaffee seconded the motion. The motion carried. Vicki Leaderbrand moved to approve the meeting minutes and Barb Chaffee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

National Workforce Development Updates

Ron Painter, CEO of the National Association of Workforce Boards, attended the Operations Committee meeting. NAWB announced on April 24th that Ron will be pursuing new opportunities when his contract ends on June 30th, 2023. Ron shared an update from current activity in Washington, D.C. related to workforce, and shared his reflections about ongoing problems, barriers, and challenges ahead for the workforce system. Discussion ensued.

Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career

Rita Beatty, Communications Project Manager at DEED, gave a presentation about the upcoming “Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career” campaign. See slides for more detail.

- Job Service is being asked to assist with this campaign. Job Services’ involvement is not necessarily a different approach than previously; they will be most connected through the Information and Assistance line. Talking with your local Job Service manager about their involvement is recommended.
- This is an awareness campaign and did not come with funding for additional services. The summer paid outreach is funded by DHS.
- Partners on the campaign include DHS, MDH, MN State Health Force, and several associations.

VRS Updates

Deputy Director Michelle Basham joined the call to share updates about Vocational Rehabilitation Services, specifically pertaining to MOU/IFA negotiations.

Adjustments to CareerForce Location Email Accounts

Lena Balk, CareerForce Help Desk and Employer Services Manager, joined the call to share that all CareerForce inboxes will be moved to distribution lists. Two or three individuals will be designated to receive emails in a communal inbox. This applies to comprehensive and affiliate sites, for both DEED and local staff. The DEED team will send out a suggested method for handling email workflow under this new model. Stay tuned for an email follow-up.

Job Service Updates

- Follow up calls are added to RESEA calls now.
- As mentioned at a previous Operations Committee meeting, there is an interagency agreement between DHS and DEED that is being finalized to support a new SNAP referral process.
- The Veteran’s Career Fair is on Wednesday at the Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center.

- Joan Berning is retiring on May 9th. In her absence, Reggie Worlds will be covering many of her responsibilities.

Governor's Workforce Development Board Updates

- Planning a Workforce Development Board Summit for Wednesday, September 20th and Thursday, September 21st (tentative). The current plan is that September 21st would be a full day of facilitated action discussion groups.
- Joint MAWB-GWDB meeting scheduled for November 15th. All Operations Committee members should have this on their calendar; if not, email baccettura@mncounties.org. See also the MAWB website for updates which will be posted as they become available.
- State Plan due date is unknown at this point. The Draft State Plan should be done ideally a few weeks before local/regional plans are due.

DEED Updates

- DEED made significant asks to the legislature for increased funding for programs. Their team is meeting today to discuss how new funding, such as the Drive For Five program, might be rolled out if it moves through the legislature.
- This legislative session has seen more emphasis on state agency oversight of grants. There will be significant changes to this process for state agencies in general, but hopefully the changes will not be as significant at DEED.
- Discussion ensued about the potential programs/funding and their rollout process.
- Directors provided feedback regarding chambers and trade associations potential grant opportunity for job placement services, this work should be coordinated with local boards. Those entities may not be prepared for the detail and intensity that comes into this work such as entering data into WF1, partnering in these efforts is key.

Hot Topics

- **Operations Committee Vice Chair** – Since Vicki Leaderbrand is retiring at the end of May, she is unable to complete her term as the Vice Chair of the Operations Committee. Barb Chaffee moved to elect Elena Foshay as the new Vice Chair of the Operations Committee. Vicki Leaderbrand seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- **Business Services/Economic Development Committee Chair** – Since Janelle Wald left her position last month, the position of Chair for the Business Services/Economic Development Committee is now vacant. Ling Becker and Tammy Biery agreed to co-Chair the committee for the rest of 2023. Erik Aamooh agreed to Chair the committee in 2024.
- **AMC Board Ex-Officio Representative** – MAWB's Ex-Officio seat on the AMC Board of Directors is also vacant following Janelle's departure. Ling Becker volunteered to serve in that role. Vicki Leaderbrand nominated Ling Becker as the ex-officio representative to the AMC Board. Barb Chaffee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Director's Discussion

- Discussed federal funding opportunities—WDI is planning to apply for the most recent opportunity via DOL.
- Discussed legislative impacts on the local boards.

Following Committee Reports, the committee adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Association of Minnesota Counties office building.

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