



MAWB Operations Committee Minutes

March 2nd, 2023

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

Commissioner Grove

Commissioner Grove joined the meeting to thank the committee for their work and partnership during his tenure as Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development. March 2nd was his last day with DEED; he is moving on to be the CEO of the Star Tribune. The committee thanked him and wished him well.

DEED Organizational Chart Updates

- Deputy Commissioner Majors shared that Deputy Commissioner McKinnon would be stepping in as Interim Commissioner until a new individual is selected.
- Abdiwahab Mohamed has been announced as the permanent Assistant Commissioner of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. He had been the temporary Assistant Commissioner since August 2022, following the departure of Assistant Commissioner Anisa Hajimumin.
- Elizabeth Frosch was also recently appointed as the Assistant Commissioner for Operations.
- The position of Director for the Governor's Workforce Development Board is currently vacant, but they are working to get the position filled soon and intend to make a hiring announcement shortly.

Announcements & Meetings

- Recipients of the Pilot Re-Entry Competitive Grant Program and the Minnesota Forward Tech Training Competitive Grant Program will be announced in the next few days.
- There is a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board meeting coming up on Monday, March 6th.
- The Governor's Workforce Development Board is next scheduled to meet on March 30th.
- DEED is looking at making changes to their RFP process. The local areas discussed that having more time to respond to RFPs is better, because it allows them the opportunity to connect with other partners. Changes to the RFP process would be implemented after this legislative session.

CareerForce Updates

- CareerForce is focusing on aligning reentry work within DEED via partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. DEED also received a Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant from the US Department of Labor, which they are working to align with existing efforts.
- CareerForce is also working with the Department of Human Services via interagency agreement on the "Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career" campaign. It will be focused on healthcare jobs that are difficult to promote. More information to come.
- DOL's recent TEGL 7-22 focuses on job quality. CareerForce is working with employers on this. DEED is also applying for technical assistance from DOL.

- There was guidance received that more intensive reporting might be needed regarding the migrant and seasonal farmworkers program. Previously, someone came in-person for monitoring, when areas found out that they weren't in compliance. The new monitor with DEED will be invited to an upcoming Operations Committee meeting so local areas know what to expect; her role is to make sure AJCs are in compliance.
- Due to staff turnover within the Minnesota Department of Education, the CareerForce Corner initiative in local libraries has stalled. MDE has recently found more flexible funding to support the initiative. The CareerForce corner displays will also include written materials. The committee requested that the written materials include specific local information that refers people to their local CareerForce sites.

New MOU/IFA/OSO Documentation Storage Site & Reconciliation Process

Juanita Borton, CareerForce Systems Operations Coordinator at DEED joined the meeting to discuss a new project: a website that serves as a central storage location for IFA, MOU, OSO, and other related documentation. It would be an internal website that users would need to log in to access. Additionally, there is a rough plan to send out an automated quarterly email to each partner so that they can enter payments from the last quarter for reconciliation purposes. The goal is to help keep track of whether payments are being made and to track what the hold-ups might be from all partners. The site will be made live after the current round of MOUs and IFAs are completed. Discussion ensued. The committee members asked if the topic could be added to the next Policy & Issues Committee meeting.

General MOU/IFA Updates

- MAWB has been communicating with DEED leadership about Directors' concerns with the MOU/IFA process.
- There was a question around what customers should be included in the metrics for this process. Juanita had shared information from USDOL saying that every person served, not just physical walk-ins to the centers, should be counted.
- Local areas provided updates on their current challenges with the process.

Legislative Session Updates

Shared updates from the legislature. Discussion.

Reminders:

- Regions should please try to work on completing workplans and budgets for regional planning so that they can be submitted quickly, with the goal of getting access to the next round of regional funding more quickly.
- The next Operations Committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 hybrid in-person and online at the AMC office. In-person attendees should meet at 125 Charles Avenue in St. Paul, MN 55013.