



MAWB Operations Committee

May 25, 2023

Following introductions, the Chair convened the meeting at 9:06 AM.

General DEED Announcements

The 2023 Legislative Session just ended earlier this week, and it included the biggest jobs bill in state history. There is approximately \$112 million in competitive grants, \$20 million for Drive for Five, \$50 million for targeted populations, \$20 million for Youth, \$5 million for clean energy jobs, \$4 million for cannabis training, and \$1.5 million for the Office of New Americans. There is also approximately \$90 million in direct appropriations.

There will be no changes for the Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Competitive Grant program, the Women's Economic Security Act (WESA) Competitive Grant, or the Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Relief Competitive Grant. The requests for proposals (RFPs) have already been drafted. They will start to roll out in the next month. They will be staggered, instead of all coming out at the same time. At least for the P2P grant, the RFP will be open for about 45 days. Local areas who are interested in applying should start thinking about their plans now.

The Employment and Training department at DEED will work on developing the structure of the Drive for Five program. They hope to have an idea by early August of what the program will look like.

DEED has received feedback from community-based organizations that the RFP application process is confusing. In response, DEED will be offering a training session which will be recorded.

DEED will need a lot of community reviewers to help review grant applications. Please spread the word!

DEED is anticipating that they will give 45 days to respond to the P2P RFP. Local Boards were advised to start thinking about their plans now.

There was \$10 million in the legislation for digital tools, which will be under Deputy Commissioner's Rowe's jurisdiction.

CareerForce & Job Service Updates

- Giovanni Veliz will lead the Agricultural Outreach Reps and Foreign Labor Certification Team. He will also work with Lidibette Guzman to coordinate. Additionally, the DEED Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) office and Lidibette have been meeting about the requirements for posters and signs in locations. More guidance is forthcoming. Recommended Lidibette should return to an Operations meeting and give updates.
- Dr. Ryan Wold was recently hired and started as the Product Owner for the labor exchange and CareerForceMN.com.
- Job Service Field Director interviews started – this hiring process is to replace Joan Berning.
- Elizabeth Frosch joined the meeting to give an introduction. She has been with DEED since 2019 and is now the Assistant Commissioner of Operations. She will be transitioning some items from

Deputy Commissioner Rowe's portfolio into her own. Assistant Commissioner Frosch will join the Working Group in June regarding IFAs.

Local and Regional Planning

Katie McClelland, Sonji Davis, and Kay Kammen joined the meeting to give an update from the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) on Local and Regional Planning. They will be relaunching a few committees. They don't want local and state plans to just check a box. The team shared the upcoming GWDB meeting schedule – [see slides](#). The slides also discuss proposed timelines for WIOA State, Regional, and Local plans. Operational questions and the extent of the changes to this process are still TBD, so the GWDB is hoping to utilize these timelines to start the process early and get everyone ahead of the curve.

21st Century Skills

Dr. David LaPorte from the University of Minnesota joined the meeting to share a presentation about the necessity of job skills that will be resistant to automation and AI. [See slides](#).

SNAP E&T Updates

DHS is preparing for time limits to return in July for SNAP. This time limit policy will only impact a select group – about 8% – of SNAP recipients. This select group will only receive three months of SNAP benefits unless they meet certain work requirements. They need to be doing specific work-related activities based on a specific list. The imposition of time limits is connected to the end of the public health emergency. It's possible that there could be one or two counties that will be waived from the time limit requirement, but DHS advises everyone to prepare for time limits.

Also, DHS is working on a pilot project with DEED. WIOA Title III staff will be given lists of time-limited SNAP recipients and call them to try and get these individuals engaged and prepared for the change. The DHS-DEED data sharing agreement is under review by lawyers. They are developing a script to use on the phone calls. The first draft has been written. The goal is to start making calls in July. In June, a mailing will go out to potentially time-limited SNAP recipients. They will get a text and a robo-call. If they select Option 3, they can learn more about career services in their area.

Hot Topics

- MAWB has sent a document to DEED which describes the four main issues for local areas with the IFA negotiations. This document will be used as a starting point for the upcoming Working Group meeting.
- MAWB will invite Ron Wirtz from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to discuss results from the CMJTS & Career Solutions survey that he administered and discuss rolling out the same survey process statewide.
- There will be a Policy & Issues Committee meeting scheduled for June to discuss the ETP Oversight & Monitoring Policy.

Director's Report

- MAWB Director Jeanna Fortney provided updates and recaps about the legislative session.
- Minnesota was selected to participate in the federal Job Quality Academy. Jeanna (MAWB), Tuleah Palmer (GWDB), Bernie Burnham (AFL-CIO), Mike Lang, and Marc Majors will participate in the process together and then go to Washington DC later in June for additional training.

- Planning continues for the MAWB Summer Conference. Katie McClelland, GWDB Director, will do a session about local and regional planning. The group discussed other session ideas.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 22nd from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom only!