



MAWB Operations Committee

May 23, 2024

Voting members present: Elena Foshay, Jon Preuss, Jinny Rietmann, Kevis Cardille, Dina Wuornos, Nicole Swanson, Rick Roy, John Preuss, Ling Becker, Tina Jaster, Carrie Bendix, Mark Jacobs, Erik Aamoth, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Heather Gleason,

The Chair convened the meeting at 9:02 AM.

Approval of the May minutes moved by Nicole, seconded by Dina. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Approval of today's agenda moved by Jinny, seconded by Rick. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CareerForce MN Director Updates – Jeanna Fortney

- Congratulations on the State DW changes that passed this legislative session!
- Veterans Events: Highlighted the successful Veterans Career Fair with 100 employers and 300 job-seeking veterans. Upcoming event at Camp Ripley for military veterans and their families.
- Funding: Received Wagner-Peyser allocation with a minimal cut of \$40,000.
- Staffing: Hiring for MSFW & Foreign Labor Supervisor and Employer Engagement Supervisor positions is in progress.
- Creative Job Search (CJS): Revamped workshop to be ready soon, with discussions on training non-job service staff to lead workshops and the possibility of in-person sessions.
 - Elena inquired about the possibility of training non-job service staff to lead CJS workshops and offering in-person sessions. Mike provided historical context on the certification required to teach CJS. Jeanna acknowledged the need for a training element and openness to discussions on how to move forward with this.
- Office Moves: Updates on moves and openings of CareerForce locations in St. Paul, Brooklyn Park (July), and Burnsville.
- Service Delivery Group: Decision to push the meetings until late summer or early fall due to scheduling challenges.
- Invite Annie Tietema to June meeting for update on the Customer Tracking Pilot.
- Director Fortney's full CareerForce Division update which can be viewed [here](#).

ETP Updates –Ama Akakpo

- Full conference committee report can be found [here](#).
- Dislocated Worker: Expansion of the definition of "dislocated worker" in Section 4 passed. The new eligibility categories are: "8) is the spouse of a member of the United States armed forces who is on active duty and who meets at least one of the following: (i) has lost employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in the service member's duty station; or (ii) is unemployed or underemployed and facing barriers to obtaining or upgrading employment; (9) is an individual with non-work-related injuries or illnesses who does not have a

workers' compensation case but needs support to reenter or remain in the workforce; or (10) is an adult with a low income, is a recipient of public assistance, or is deficient in basic skills.”

- Changes are intended to be effective July 1st, pending policy updates and system adjustments.
- Ama welcomed written input from MAWB for consideration during policy implementation.
- Ama confirmed the \$25 million increase and removal of the \$1 million revenue cap for applicants but maintained the nonprofit requirement for the targeted population allocation. First round of awards will be processed and then another RFP will be released.
- TEGL 12-23 were released and can be found [here](#).
 - Published on May 8th, relating to program year 24 formula allocations for WIOA fundings for Title I and III.
 - Title III Funds: Minor reductions noted.
 - Title I Funds: Projected a 10% reduction; actual reductions were:
 - Adult Programs: 9.96%
 - Youth Programs: 9.95%
 - Dislocated Worker Program: 1.15% reduction.
 - Once calculations are finalized, the allocations will be shared and the contracting process can begin.
- Monitoring program is hiring two new monitors to join the team.
 - Over 450 grants monitored annually, increasing staffing needs.
 - Monitoring unit is in the process of hiring two program monitors.
 - Prioritizing grant monitoring, financial reconciliation of state grants per OGM policies based on funding level and risk management.
 - Commitment to keep stakeholders informed about schedules and programming.
- Grant Award Updates: Clean Energy proposal recommendations went to the Commissioner’s Office and are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Drive for 5 are being processed and should be announced soon.
- Ama, Mike, Jeanna, and other DEED staff are coming together to interpret TEGL 10-23. Directors can send questions and concerns to Mike Lang.
 - DEED is awaiting further guidance from DOL before releasing written guidance.

E&T Services Available to Individuals without Work Authorization – Rita Apaloo, Lynn Douma, Vanessa Roman

- This presentation provided information on impacts to the E&T program after TEGL 10-23. The full presentation can be found [here](#).
- Resource from DHS Immigration Law Specialist: Work authorization requires legal advice regarding immigration law so we as state as employees cannot answer. However, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid agreed to be the clearinghouse for questions regarding “public charge” immigration law questions and we can point clients to our DHS flyer encouraging people to reach out to them. The flyer is linked here: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-8044C-ENG>, it can be shared broadly and please do share it with this client. The phone numbers for immigration legal advice from the flyer: For free and confidential legal advice in English, Spanish,

Somali and other languages, call: Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: 800-292-4150 Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: 888-575-2954

- To access the DOL training and recording, you can find that at this link: [WorkforceGPS - Guidance Overview: Reducing Administrative Barriers to Improve Customer Experience](#)
- A list of questions from this presentation were compiled and shared with DEED for clarification. Ama emphasized that this guidance will continue to evolve as more information is shared from DOL.
- This presentation will be shared at an upcoming Jobseeker Services Committee meeting.

Job Quality Sharing & Brainstorming Session – Liz Jennings

- Liz Jennings, an Employer Engagement Specialist, introduced her role and discussed the importance of job quality for businesses, staff, partners, and job seekers. [One pager](#) has been developed on Job Quality for employers and there is now initial development of a version for jobseekers.
- There is a need for improved language in workforce development materials for job counselors and discussed the concept of 'job quality' in the context of the labor market. It is important to avoid judgment towards employers and providing specific, bite-sized examples to encourage improvements in retention and productivity. There is need for training and listening sessions with local boards with an emphasis on integrating the concept of job quality into the organization's core values.
- Good resource for employers: https://usca.bcorporation.net/benefit-corporation/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlalQobChMlxu34vpCkhgMVizMIBR3g1QjDEAAYASAAEgl2QD_BwE
- A list of action items from this discussion was shared with Liz.

GWDB Updates –Sonji Davis

- State Plan:
 - The State Plan program administrators are meeting to discuss final steps for the 4-year State Plan submission.
 - Feedback has been received from the Federal Review panel, and most partners have completed their revisions.
 - The final review and approval deadline is June 28th.
 - Once approved by the US Department of Labor and the Department of Education, the plan and its executive summary will be released to the public and uploaded to the GWDB website.
- Local Plans:
 - Reminder that local plans are due by May 31st.
 - Upcoming scheduling of regional area meetings via doodle polls for July.
 - Clarification of meeting purposes for guidance on aligning local and regional plans with the State plan.
 - Notice of approval should come by August 30th. Approval of subsequent designation will be handled together by the commissioner.

Hot Topics

- Legislative Advocacy

- Still doing federal advocacy work – please send out advocacy letters from your local board and businesses.
- A small group of directors will be drafting a state platform which can be used for advocacy to the GWDB state legislative platform.
- Cate Onboarding Plan
 - Cate will be scheduling meetings with directors to get to know your area as well as to discuss different topics in this work.
- National Work Conversation
 - The committee discussed their involvement in various national conversations, the need for direct communication with DoI, and the financial support for participation.
 - A spreadsheet will be developed to track the roles in different organizations that members are engaged with to help coordinate a national engagement strategy and better information flow.
 - Bob and Elena to look into online information sharing resources.
 - The executive committee will look over the MAWB budget and discuss changes to accommodate memberships and travel to national meetings.
 - Bob to survey membership about use of YIPA membership.
- DEED Grant Processing & RE-work of WDF
 - Legislative committee to move forward with a proactive proposal on changes to the WDF so that allocations out of it will be fairer and more equitable.
 - Collaboration with WorkWell to develop legislative asks.
 - Invite Anne Kilzer and DEED partners to better understand the WDF and how we may suggest changes to it.
 - Small group of Directors are meeting with the Office of the Legislative Auditor to discuss concerns with the DEED Grant Process.
- Salary Survey Results
 - Results of the director salary survey will be shared with Directors.
 - The staff salary survey is being developed by Jinny and Bob and will be shared soon.
- Joint Powers Board/Workforce Development Board Meetings
 - Most areas hold WDA board meetings 6 times a year with joint powers boards meeting quarterly.
- WIA Common Exit Project Workshop
 - Wanting to bring staff together as this is developed.
 - Doodle poll to go out on this, please share with staff as needed.
- [Career Pathway Training Study](#)
 - UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research released a study on the benefits of career pathway training. The study used construction and registered nurse career paths.
 - Feel free to share with folks who may find it interesting.
- Nancy Meeting Request
 - Elena invited Nancy to the meeting but did not hear back.
- Next MAWB Fiscal Group
 - Next meeting is June 3rd.

The committee concluded at 1:31 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 27th from 9am – 2pm, Hybrid at AMC