



MAWB Operations Committee

October 24th, 2024

Voting members present: Elena Foshay, Tina Jaster, Heather Gleason, Mark Jacobs, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Jinny Rietmann, Erik Aamoth, Carrie Bendix, Kevin Cardille, John Preuss, Becky Milbrandt, Dina Wuornos, Tammy Biery, Marie Domiano, Rick Roy, Nicole Swanson

Chair, Elena Foshay convened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

Approval of the September minutes & today's agenda moved by John, seconded by Jinny. 16 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Microsoft Teams Run-Through & Update – Bob Libal

- Bob walked the committee through the new MAWB Teams Channel, what can be found on each channel, collected input on changes to the team, and helped troubleshoot any issues folks are having.

CareerForce MN Director Updates – Jeanna Fortney

- Jeanna & Art have had visits in Marshall, Worthington, & Mankato CareerForce sites and will be visiting St. Cloud and Monticello soon.
- Please check out the Apprenticeship training recording [here](#).
- DOL is doing a monitoring visit of MSFW Services November 12-14.
- Please submit feedback for the Staff & Partner section on CareerForceMN.com [here](#).
- Employer Engagement Hiring: 2 staff started in September in the south & metro, finalizing 2 hires to start in November for northeast & metro, and interviewing for central & northwest.

Role of Job Service – Art Larsen

- Art discussed the various services provided by the employment service program, including one-on-one appointments, statewide workshops, outreach, in-person workshops, resource area coverage, and hiring events. Art also highlighted the importance of tracking services and outcomes for performance metrics and clarified that the new system would still record services for performance metrics, but the systems would need to communicate better.
- Please find the Training Program Finder [here](#) and the website for Event Naming Requests [here](#).

Employment & Training Programs Update – Ama Akakpo

- DW Eligibility Expansion Policy
 - DW Eligibility Expansion Policy has been posted for public review & comments through November 8 – submit comment [here](#).
 - Enrollment timelines:

- Military Spouses – November
 - Individuals with non-work-related injuries/illnesses – November
 - Low-income Adults, deficient in basic skills, on public assistance – December
- RFP News
 - Transformative Career Pathways Round 2 closed 9/30
 - Cyclical application process for TCP – Capacity Building & DEI – quarterly
 - Youth At Work and YouthBuild RFPs to be released by January 2025
- Paid Leave
 - Inquires regarding short-term placements under WIOA programs
 - Broad coverage under the law with limited exemptions
 - Concerns related to its impact on grant-funded paid work experience
- Additional Updates
 - Drive for 5 grants are one-year contracts with the possibility of extension on a case-by-case basis. Ama clarified that the funds for these contracts are not earmarked for two years.

MFIP Sanction Reforms & TANF Pilot Update – Pamela McCauley

- Pamela shared updates and changes to the MFIP and TANF programs. Please see the breakdown of these changes and updates [here](#).

Serve Minnesota Presentation – Donna Svendsen & Lisa Winkler

- Donna & Lisa walked the committee through ServeMN's programs & success stories.
- Please find the full presentation [here](#).
- To get more information:
 - [AmeriCorps](#) offers a transformative year of paid, public service work in the areas of [education](#), social services including [affordable housing](#), [public health](#), [recovery from substance abuse](#), the [environmental field](#) and more. Get experience and boost your resume. We offer part-time and full-time positions as well as training and coaching. Benefits include a stipend paid every two weeks, money for education, health insurance and child care (for full-time service). This is a great opportunity for high-school or college grads, career changers, retirees and all ages in between. We recruit on a rolling basis with start dates in January and throughout 2025. [Click here](#) for information or email: info@serveminnesota.org
 - [Journey General Handout](#)
 - [2024 Program List](#)
 - [2024 AmeriCorps Benefits](#)

Executive Director Update – Cate Duin

- Advocacy Update – Federal
 - Back on the table for the Lame Duck Session after the Election
 - Negotiations between 4 committee leaders
 - Do we have enough time to get from bill to law?
 - MAWB response and advocacy
- Advocacy Update – State

- Partner feedback received
- Reaching out to Senators on Committee, will reach out to House post-election
- Clarifying concrete language/levers for priorities
- General Updates
 - Capacity Building Grant and Regional Planning Grant
 - 2025 Conference Hotel at The Inn on Lake Superior
 - MFIP Survey Results were shared
- NAWB Advocacy Day (last day of Forum)
 - MAWB will continue to schedule legislative visits and there will be further discussions about any attendees to the Advocacy Day.

Hot Topics

- MAWB Retreat Prep
 - Been working with our facilitator Allan with AmplifyDMC to get ready for the retreat.
 - Want to prioritize the work of the year and how we move forward and make decision in our association.
 - Directors provided input for their hopes and expectations for the retreat.
- Dual Training Pipeline Grants
 - Contact Jinny if you would like to discuss this more.
- Grant Extensions
 - Areas will need to submit requests for extensions individually.
- Financial & Grants Management Training Feedback
 - Please submit feedback. Bob will send by email.
- Paid Leave
 - Consideration for including in future advocacy efforts.

The committee concluded at 2:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 23rd, from 9am-2pm at AMC & via Zoom