GWDB Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Conference Call Only - Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

332 Minnesota Street -Suite E200 - Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

# Members Present via Conference Call

* Shirley Barnes
* Jeremy Hanson Willis
* Steve Ditschler
* Lorrie Janatopoulos
* Anne Kilzer
* Loren Nelson
* Luann Bartley
* Roy Smith

**Staff**

* Connie Ireland
* Kay Pollard
* Julie Kahn
* Sean Bibus
* Kay Kammen

**Guest**

* Dennis Siemer

# Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Shirley Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. It was confirmed that attendees on the conference call constituted a quorum. It was noted that this meeting was intended to provide progress updates as no action is required from the Committee at this time.

**WIOA Planning – State, Regional, Local:** Kay Pollard stated that there will be a convening of Regional Plan reviewers as Areas 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 have submitted plans for approval. Region 4 has asked for an extension. The Regional review team will essentially be the same team that reviewed the original plans. Exceptions being Karen Francois and Rick Roy, DEED staff that are no longer available. Kay Pollard noted that all of the local plans have been submitted. Duluth has submitted draft materials and Minneapolis will have a time line in the next few weeks as their plan is out for public comment.

Jeremy Hanson Willis stated that the plan revisions are inclusive of addressing the two (2) goals of the state plan. He stated that the metro has requested and has been granted an extension to 9/30 as they are in the middle of redesigning a complicated board structure. He stated that the new metro workforce council is taking a methodical approach that is thoughtful and comprehensive. He stated that the state understands that this type of change takes time. He is anticipating a timeline that denotes specific action in key populations; people of color as well as people with disabilities. He notes that they are on the right track and will provide updates of significant changes.

**WIOA Required MOUs and Infrastructure Agreements (IFAs):** Sean Bibus of DEED stated that IFAs are due September 1, 2018. There are new requirements under WIOA that splits the costs by title. In the event that they are not submitted, he will be seeking the assistance of the GWDB as well as the DOL. Sean stated that it is important that we do not breach that deadline. He stated that there is a DOL mechanism in place that will default an incompliant state to numbers that are much lower than anticipated allocations.

**WIOA Required Subsequent Designation:**

Formal request letters are being received from the local workforce development areas for subsequent designation. Jeremy Hanson Willis is hoping to receive that last two (2) shortly. Upon receipt Commissioner Hardy will be sending letters to each area.

**WIOA Funding Allocations:** Update on WIOA funding allocations. There has been a delay in awards for WIOA Youth as the program year begins April 1 of each year. It was pointed out that Youth funding is independent of other WIOA funding. It was noted that all of the contracts went out before the new fiscal year. It was noteworthy that Minnesota always exceeds performance goals and Kay Tracy, Director and her team provide excellent customer service and are a valued partner to the GWDB.

**WIOA State Plan Dashboard is now live!** [**https://mn.gov/deed/about/what-we-do/agency-results/perform-measures/wioa/**](https://mn.gov/deed/about/what-we-do/agency-results/perform-measures/wioa/) **:** DC Hanson Willis noted that the final criteria is being developed. A dashboard demonstration is being proposed for the September GWDB Quarterly Board meeting. He also noted that Carrie Marsh of DEED welcomes ideas and recommendations. A question was noted from Lorrie Janatopoulos regarding the NE region and the numbers appearing very small. Jeremy responded that most of the numbers are in the metro for many of the programs and states that there is not yet a full year’s worth of data.

Jeremy Hanson Willis shared information on CareerForce and the targeted launch for the technology platform is September 30, 2018! He addressed the Committee as a partner with DEED and MWCA and noted that the momentum of this exciting change has reached the local and regional plans.

Loren Nelson raised the question of the fiscal policies. He understands that there was an agreement to move forward. Mr. Nelson stated that DEED and the locals were very concerned regarding the elimination of master contracts and how that would impact the delivery of services in local areas. Mr. Nelson stated the comments requesting signatures was concerning and that this unfortunate experience must be viewed as a significant event and the locals are feeling ‘blindsided’. Anne Kilzer noted the comments as well. There was a discussion regarding clarification of what contracts were being signed, state or federal funding and a need for a process to be established. Mr. Nelson inquired as to the plans for the future? What is DEED doing to correct the situation? Deputy Commissioner Hanson Willis stated that there is work left to do. He noted that DEED fiscal leadership has admitted that there was a communication problem that caused confusion and DEED and MWCA have agreed to continue to improve communications and processes.

**Meeting Adjournment** - Adjourned at 11:06 a.m.