**Operations Committee Quarterly Report**

**April 2017**

**One Stop Operator (OSO) Application(s):** OSO designation by a formal competitive process is a new WIOA requirement for Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs). US DOL’s deadline for LWDBs to complete their OSO designation(s) is July 1, 2017. The GWDB has the potential to be asked by a LWDB to be the 3rd Party Reviewer of the LWDB’s One Stop Operator Applications. Earlier in 2017, the Operations Committee developed and approved new policies that conform to WIOA requirements for Third Party Reviews. The GWDB is prepared to serve; however, to date, no requests to be a LWDB’s OSO Applications Third Party Reviewer has been received.

**Minnesota Workforce Center System Rebranding Initiative:** The goal is a seamless, cohesive, and localized experience with the workforce system at all entry points including online and in-person. Project partners include LWDB’s, the Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA) and DEED representatives. This phase is coordinated by Neka Creative, a professional creative and branding firm. Deliverables due by June 30th include the development and vetting of potential names followed by stakeholder focus groups. The Operations Committee affirmed previous positions that subsequent to a rebranding selection for the WorkForce Center System, the state board will retain its current name. It may consider options to incorporate the new brand such as in a tagline.

**Federal Funding:** A budgetextension Continuing Resolution of one or two weeks is expected to be signed while discussions continue regarding FY17 appropriations to fund the last five months of the current federal fiscal year (Sept 30, 2017.) Unknown at this time if workforce programs will be reduced for the balance of FY17. Looking ahead to FY18, the impact of proposed significant cuts to US DOL and US Dept. of Labor were discussed. Committee members recently in Washington, D. C. shared information they obtained from meetings with congressional representatives and from their respective trade and professional organizations. More FY18 details are expected in late May.

**May 2017**

**One Stop Operator Applications:** As of the May meeting, no LWDB has requested that the GWDB serve as its Third Party Reviewer of one or more One Stop Operator Applications.

**State Workforce Board Governance under WIOA:** Reviewed variety of US DOL’s WIOA reference materials outlining the Governance and Leadership roles of state and local workforce boards. Recommended specific governance content for inclusion in GWDB new member orientation.

**Federal Funding:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2017 was signed on May 5th to fund the federal government through September 30th. WIOA formula funded programs, with the exception of Wagner-Peyser, remained unchanged. Low unemployment rates impact and will reduce formula funding. FY18 Budget detail is expected in late May and is expected to align with the President’s Budget Blueprint “skinny budget” released in mid-March. The National Governor’s Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and numerous other organizations focused on workforce development will release fact sheets for their members after the budget details are known.

**CLASP Report and Results Based Accountability**: The committee received a high-level overview of and conducted an initial and strategic discussion about the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) *Minnesota Advancing Equity under WIOA Project* policy recommendations. CLASP is preparing their policy report and it will be discussed at the Committee’s June meeting. CLASP is focusing on three primary areas for consideration: (1) priority of service, (2) performance outcomes, and (3) career pathways.

**June 2017**

**June meeting held yesterday**, June 13th. Agenda items and their status included:

* **One Stop Operator Applications:** As of the morning of June 13, 2017, no Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) has asked the GWDB to be its Third Party Reviewer of One-Stop Operator Applications. Under WIOA, LWDB’s must have an OSO in place effective July 1st.
* **Memorandum of Understanding including the Infrastructure Agreement:** This is a LWDB requirement under WIOA and the committee will receive an update at its July meeting.
* **Workforce Center Rebranding:** Update on the proposed new identify, graphic communication options and plans after this phase of project’s work is completed and the funding is expended.
* **Amend GWDB By-Laws:** Requiredto conform to new State Law in the areas of membership, voting and committees.
* **Federal FY18 Budget Impacts:** Review and discuss statements and letters from NASWA, NGA, and members’ networks regarding the Federal Administration’s proposed reductions to federal funding for workforce and education programs. National WIOA core funding is proposed to be cut 40% below current level and Employment Service programming for One Stops would face a 35% reduction. The proposed federal cuts to programs across multiple federal agencies also includes reductions to Adult Basic Education, Perkins Career and Technical Education, and parts of state grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. More information is expected later this month. NGA is keeping states informed and making recommendations for action steps.
* **Policy and Performance Measures Discussion:** Examine the integration and alignment of the CLASP policy recommendations and the RBA performance measures. Ensure alignment with the State Plan and its goals as well as the WIOA mandated oversight role of the GWDB. Full GWDB membership to discuss at the quarterly meeting tomorrow, June 14.

Approved Operations Committee Minutes available at: <https://mn.gov/deed/gwdb/priorities/operations/>