

WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2) CONTRACT AND IMPLEMENTATION (C&I) COMMITTEE

201 E Washington Ave., GEF 1, Room D203

January 18, 2008

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Welcome and General Updates

- The March C&I meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2008 to coordinate with the IMAC meeting.
- Federal OMB has requested 30 days extension for reviewing the TANF Final Rule. We'll provide updates as we get information from the federal office.
- We have begun to monitor attendance verification and documentation. We have looked at the initial two months. We will discuss in more detail at the February C & I meeting.

New Department Update

- W-2 agencies provided feedback about:
 - What they're hearing about the new Department; and
 - What they consider important issues for the new Department.
- Issues identified include:
 - Consider need for additional W-2 funding for impact of Child Welfare changes, including W-2 Temporary Absence cases for Child Welfare;
 - Consider creation of incentive for job earnings by providing adjusted (decreased) W-2 benefits;
 - Consider purchasing Child Care slots for Child Care immediately needed by working W-2 participants or related to BadgerCare, etc.;
 - Keep focus on workforce development goal of retention and advancement in the workforce, not just focus on federal requirements for verification, etc.;
 - Consider innovative children and family programs;
 - Consider relationship with Job Centers from the new Department;
 - Consider issues related to increased applications for Emergency Assistance; and
 - Consider electronic deposit card for issuance of benefits.

State of the Economy and Hiring Outlook for 2008

- See C&I handout on the PowerPoint presentation.
- While there's some bad news about the economy nationally, Wisconsin is better off than many states, including our neighboring states.

Program Trends

- At a previous C&I meeting there was a request for trend reports like those provided years ago, although years ago concerns were more focused on the increasing caseload.
- Information requested by agencies includes: monthly information on Benefits including auxiliary payments (# and amount); sanctions (# and amount); expenses; and trends if things continue at the current rate.
- Agencies also requested extensions at both 24 and 60 months timeframes, length of stay in W-2 placements and length of episodes.
- Agencies were encouraged to sign-up for the list serve so that they receive the monthly Critical Indicators report, and then review what's not in the Critical Indicators report that could be standardized.

Performance Measures

- 2008 Performance Measure benchmarks for Entered Employment, Retention and Stabilization, Wage at Employment, Success of Job Skills Training, SSISDI Receipt, Basic Education, Information and Formal Assessment, and Quality of Case Management Survey were reviewed.
- The new Performance Standards will be released as a Contract Amendment.

Real Work for Real Pay

- Thirteen agencies responded to the letter of intent.
- The next step will be questions for proposers to respond to, and these are anticipated to be issued in the next few weeks.
- The legislation requires an evaluation without specifying the type of evaluation.
- DFS will implement either an implementation evaluation or an impact evaluation.
- The advantages and disadvantages of a scattered site or a concentrated site approaches are being considered.
- The timeline is to implement Real Work Real Pay programs in May or June.

TANF Reauthorization Policy Changes

- An Operations Memo is being developed on good and satisfactory progress in educational activities.
 - Good and satisfactory progress is required to count the hours in educational activities.
 - A different standard on good and satisfactory progress is being developed for the various types of educational activities.
- Another Operations Memo is being developed on tracking activities that are not counted for the federal Work Participation Rate.
 - This Memo will include updates to activities that address some workload issues.

Administrator's and Operations Memos Update

- Operations Memo 08-03 was issued on the CARES Notice Re-engineering (CNRE) Project.
- In addition to the Operations Memos discussed for TANF Reauthorization policy changes, there will be Administrator's Memos with FSET allocations.

New Worker Training

- As requested by W-2 agencies, revisions to the New Worker Training are being developed which allow the worker to stay in the agency while being trained. Materials are in the pilot stage and the new program is anticipated to be in place during the second quarter of 2008.

Suggestions on Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

- Right of First Selection
- Status of W-2 Manual update
- Monitoring - Attendance Tracking

Next Meeting Date: **February 22, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**
Room D203, 201 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI