

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

201 E Washington Ave., GEF 1, Room D203

**February 22, 2008**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Welcome and General Updates**

- Thirteen agencies expressed an interest in Real Work Real Pay. Response items will be sent soon for those who still are interested in applying to participate.
- Pending federal confirmation, DWD data indicates W-2 agencies met the federal all families Work Participation Rate for federal fiscal year 2007. DWD data for federal fiscal year 2008 so far shows we're meeting both the all families and the two-parent rates.
- Preliminary data from the Client Notice Redesign project indicates about 25% fewer notices are being sent.
- Individuals must file a 2007 tax return to be eligible for the rebate check that is part of the federal economic stimulus package. Information from the federal government is anticipated soon and will be forwarded to agencies.
- Information from the federal office also is anticipated and will be forwarded about a \$40 per family rebate check for a conversion box to give analog televisions digital capacity.

### **New Department Initiatives**

- W-2 agencies provided feedback for consideration in the new Department on what's working now and what's recommended for improvement.

#### New Department updates

- Will be located in the GEF1 building; and
- Effective 7/1/08 Ron Hunt will be Administrative Services Division Administrator and he will continue as DFS Administrator until then.

### **TANF Final Rule**

- TANF Final Rule was published in early February and is effective on 10/1/08.
- Allows conversion of excused absence from days to hours.
- Allows conversion of job search weeks to days.
- Allows states to define good and satisfactory progress for educational programs.
- Wisconsin's Work Verification Plan needs to be updated by 9/30/08.

### **TANF Attendance Tracking**

- Although monitoring conducted in the last three months in 2007 shows some improvement, problems include no documentation of participation or non-participation is not entered in CARES.
- Agencies need to ensure various CARES screens showing activities are consistent across screens and that activities/hours are entered.
- DFS will send monitoring steps and FReD reports to W-2 agencies.
- DFS will consider refinements to the monitoring process based on feedback from agencies.

### **FSET Policy Update**

- The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) will issue an Operations Memo on FSET becoming a voluntary program. This Memo will include a fact sheet and the letters sent to open FSET clients.
- The Operations Memo will include CARES instructions.

**Policy Manual Update Plan**

- The goal is to make the Policy Manual cohesive with easy to access information.
- Manual updates will incorporate policy updates from Operations Memos and revise the Manual format so it's easier to navigate.
- The Manual's focus continues to be policy although we are considering links to procedures, CARES information, etc. in later improvements to the Manual.

**Administrator's/Operations Memos Update**

- Administrator's Memos on Children First Allocations and FSET Allocations have been issued.
- An Operations Memo on Federal Poverty Level (FPL) changes was issued recently.
- Upcoming Operations Memos include:
  - FSET Voluntary Change;
  - Good and Satisfactory Progress for Educational Activities;
  - Tracking Activities Not Counted for the Federal Work Participation Rate; and
  - FReD Reports.

**Workgroup Updates**

- The IM/W-2 Information Technology (IT) Workgroup discussed feedback on BadgerCare Plus and CARES Notices Redesign.
- The Program Coordination Workgroup discussed in-person requirements for Child Care Applications, Child Care Overpayment calculation worksheet, FSET, and face-to-face waiver for FoodShare.
- The Ad Hoc Screening and Assessment Workgroup discussed redesigning the Medical Capacity form, revisions to the Assessment/Up-front Job Search Manual Chapter and updates to the Barrier Screening Tool based on recommendations from the Family Violence Option Workgroup.

**Suggestions on Agenda Topics for Future Meetings**

- Child Care expenditures update;
- Milwaukee Child Care fraud investigations update;
- Performance Measures and Incentives reports;
- Status of FSET after voluntary change; and
- New Department update.

**Next Meeting Date:**                   **March 28, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**  
  **Room D203, 201 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI**