

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

201 E Washington Ave., GEF 1, Room D203

March 28, 2008

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

New Department

- Reggie Bicha, the Secretary Designee of the new Department of Children and Families, discussed the new Department.
- Governor Doyle has focused over the past six years on investing in children and families.
- This includes BadgerCare Plus, Wisconsin Covenant Program, Kids First agenda and school breakfast program, in addition to increasing the minimum wage, foster care payment rates, domestic violence program funding and child support funding.
- Despite these successes, there still is more to do and the new Department of Children and Families will streamline more than thirty programs for children and families into one department.
 - Programs from DHFS will include: Child Welfare; Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare; Domestic Abuse; Community Service Block Grant; Child Care Regulation and Licensing; Kinship Care; and the home visiting program.
 - Programs from DWD will include: W-2/TANF; Child Support; and Wisconsin Shares (Child Care).
- The five overarching goals of the new Department are:
 - Keep children nurtured, safe and engaged;
 - Enhance prevention and early intervention;
 - Increase families' access to quality Child Care and education;
 - Assist parents in securing and maintaining meaningful jobs; and
 - Engage fathers in the lives of their children.
- Strategies by the Department of Children and Families will include:
 - Develop and implement integrated program approaches to strengthen families;
 - Streamline government;
 - Increase emphasis on performance and outcomes;
 - Improve the quality and consistency of services for children; and
 - Identify new strategies to engage consumers and the public.
- The Department's emphasis is protecting children, strengthening families, and building communities one child at a time.
- W-2 agencies provided input on a variety of issues including the importance of focusing on long-term results, difficulty of engaging non-custodial parents, effectiveness and importance of Job Centers, and W-2 Contract funding challenges.

Program Trends

- The caseload charts show a decrease in the W-2 caseload and an increase in the CSJ caseload.
- The FSET caseload decreased in March.

Real Work Real Pay Update

- Nine W-2 agencies submitted applications for Real Work Real Pay after thirteen agencies expressed interest.
- The following three agencies were selected to participate in the pilot: PSI in Milwaukee with 80 placement slots; Kenosha County with 13 placement slots; and Marathon County with seven placement slots.
- The Real Work Real Pay program is a pilot which may be considered for statewide implementation in the future.

Child Care Update

- The Child Care program continues to face large deficits. While the caseload increased 29%, the federal funding was not increased.

- DWD reinstated the 50% underutilization policy effective February 2008.
- Child Care provider rates were frozen for 2008.
- The face-to-face requirement for Child Care certification is being considered for possible elimination and this should be decided soon.

Work Program Subsystem Plan

- The plan is to implement a web “front end” to the work programs system.
- Goals are to improve automation of supportive services and communications to partners and workers, and decrease data entry errors.
- Three options have been identified and will be considered for grouping the screens.
- The next step is to schedule conference call meetings for discussions with W-2 agencies.

Administrator’s/Operations Memos Update

- Ops Memos issued since the last C&I meeting include:
 - Voluntary FSET program;
 - Voluntary FSET program CARES changes; and
 - Auxiliary Approval Process Updates W-2 Clock Ticks.
- Upcoming Ops Memos include:
 - Issuance of FReD Reports on Webl (non-federal reporting database);
 - Economic Stimulus Package;
 - Iraqi and Afghan Qualified Aliens and Eligibility for W-2;
 - Upfront Job Search Tracking in CARES;
 - Good and Satisfactory Progress for Educational Activities; and
 - EA policy changes from the EA Workgroup’s recommendations will be issued in a mid-April Ops Memo with changes effective June 2, 2008. EA Training will be provided after the Memo in April and May.

Workgroup Updates

- The Policy and Program Operations Workgroup met last month and reviewed draft Ops Memos and discussed a web “front-end” for the Work Program subsystems.
- The Ad Hoc Job Access Loans (JALs) Workgroup met earlier this month and discussed automation change options for JALs. The JALs Workgroup is scheduled to meet again on April 8, 2008.

Suggestions on Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

- New Department Update;
- Status of FSET;
- Program Trends; and
- W-2 Contract Projections.

Next Meeting Date: **April 18, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**
 Room D203, 201 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI