

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

201 E Washington Ave., GEF 1, Room D203

June 20, 2008

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

7/28/08

Welcome and General Updates

The new Department of Children and Families will be official on July 1, 2008. There will be no change in the way W-2 agencies do business on July 1, 2008.

New Department Updates

The new department appointees are:

- Henry Wilde – Deputy Secretary
- Angela Russell – Executive Assistant
- Julie Kerksick – Division of Family and Economic Security
- Ron Hunt – Division of Enterprise Solutions
- Lisa Patrick – Division of Prevention and Service Integration based in Milwaukee

The Department will soon announce the Division Administrators for the Division of Safety and Prevention and the Division of Early Care and Education.

Email addresses for staff of the new Department will be firstname.lastname@wisconsin.gov. The Department's website will be published in the coming week and will provide updated links and access to many of the sites and web pages that had been linked to DWD.

CSJ Placements with CJ Component

The CJ status was added to identify participants that have few barriers to immediate employment and who are engaged in rapid employment services. A WebI Report allows the Department to monitor those in the CSJ placement with the CJ status on a weekly basis.

Currently 120 individuals are in the CSJ placement with the CJ status and 30 have been in this status for over 61 days. It has been nine months since this policy change. Over the past few months the numbers have remained stable. The prior CMS placement was more often used in BOS agencies than in Milwaukee. This is also true with those with the CSJ/CJ status. Statewide the CSJ caseload is declining.

Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE) Update

The RISE initiative is part of the Governor's GROW Wisconsin Plan to grow the state's economy, to create good paying jobs, and to prepare the workforce for jobs in the economy.

As many as 710,000 people in Wisconsin are in low-wage jobs or are not working at all. The initiative hopes to reach individuals in low-wage jobs who do not have a high school diploma or who do not have training beyond high school.

Six curriculum development grants were awarded to technical colleges to develop "bridge trainings" that build basic skills education into certificate training courses and that build adult basic education into post-secondary diploma programs.

A second set of grants will be available for early-stage career pathway development. These grants will be available to Workforce Development Boards, or technical colleges working in collaboration with other workforce partners. Projects funded under these grants will help to identify industries that are best suited for career pathways. Additional information about the RISE initiative can be found at

www.risepartnership.org.

Real Work Real Pay (RWRP) Pilot Programs

The Real Work Real Pay pilot, which is part of the Governor's GROW Wisconsin plan, will serve 100 individuals through 2009. The goal of RWRP is to help W-2 participants get better paying jobs and keep them. The pilot will help the department learn how best to engage employers, identify the best target population for subsidized jobs, and provide information about the best combination of wage subsidy and services to meet the intended goal of increased employment outcomes.

Three proposals were funded and local agency representatives provided updates.

- Policy Studies, Inc. will serve eighty individuals. Currently PSI has ten referrals for potential RWRP participants and completes assessments with each referral to identify an appropriate industry sector match. PSI is targeting employers with starting wages of \$8.50 per hour.
- Kenosha County will serve thirteen individuals. Currently Kenosha has eight viable candidates who have completed initial assessments. Twelve prospective employers have been identified with four employers with current job openings. Target starting wages are between \$7 and \$12 per hour.
- Marathon County will serve seven individuals. Currently Marathon County has one RWRP placement arranged, but not yet started. The starting wage is \$9.50 per hour and offers a 50¢ per hour incentive for good attendance. Primary focus is in the manufacturing and health care industries.

Future of C&I

As the future Division Administrator, Julie Kerksick lead a brainstorming session about what committee members would like from future C&I meetings. Comments during this session included:

- C&I committee meetings provide a venue for a discussion related to the intersection of policy and program operations.
- C&I meetings have become more focused on operations and thus more appropriate for front line supervisory staff than higher level managers.
- Appreciation for the information sharing including timely topics such as the TANF Rules and work participation rates, caseload trends, and performance standards.
- C&I committee has evolved over time.
- The web-cast has changed attendance and travel to the committee meetings has become an issue of cost and time for many agency staff.
- A suggestion was made that a monthly meeting continue with an "operational" focus and then on a quarterly basis do a more "high-level" topic meeting.

Administrator's/Operations Memos Update

No Administrator's or Operations Memos have been issued since the last C&I meeting. There has been a W-2 Policy Manual Release on June 2, 2008. The W-2 Policy Manual release included revisions to Emergency Assistance, Child Care, Financial Eligibility, and Dispute Resolution (formerly the Fact Finding chapter).

With the revised EA chapter there was an updated EA training session provided. As a follow up to the EA training, a Q & A webcast will soon be posted on the DWD Learning Center website.

There will be three Operations Memos issued in the coming weeks.

- W-2 Pre-Eligibility;
- Face-to-Face Waiver for child care and FoodShare eligibility reviews; and
- W-2 Attendance Monitoring.

