

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

201 E Washington Ave., GEF 1, Room D203

September 19, 2008

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Draft 10/14/08

Welcome and General Updates

Department staff are developing specific budget proposals beyond the base budget, which has been submitted to the Governor.

As the new Division Administrator with the Division of Family and Economic Security, Julie Kerksick has been visiting agencies including a Tribal Consultation meeting with 11 tribes across the state. Julie would like to strengthen coordination between W-2 and Tribal TANF programs and welcomes conversation with W-2 programs that geographically border the tribes. Julie plans to visit those parts of the state that she is least familiar with by the end of December 2008.

Tricia Conover has been hired as the Division Administrator's Executive Assistant. Tricia begins work with the Department on Monday 9/22/08.

Contract Discussion

Julie asked that agencies share what they have learned in the past 10 or 12 years regarding contract structure and asked for input regarding changes people would like to see in the structure of W-2 contracts. Suggestions included:

- Change what is measured in performance standards.
- Take a look at how New York, Baltimore, and Delaware structure their performance-based contracts.
- Move toward a case management model instead of a FEP model; FEP model is more like an extension of the AFDC model where issuing the correct benefit in a timely manner is more important than the services being delivered.
- Develop a more integrated model in which IT systems work together.
- In smaller counties W-2 staff time is spent doing triage, processing EA and JAL eligibility, this work is not included in performance measures. People may not end up in a placement on the ladder, but supportive services takes staff time.
- Use the federal requirements as a base for building a new program.
- There is a disconnect between staff with separate functions.
- Contracts don't pay for all the work that is spent helping individuals who never get to a W-2 placement; people who visit the resource room used to be served by WIA staff, but those staff are no longer there due to budget cuts.
- Resources are returning to silos again and we're moving away from collaboration. Look at WIRED grants for a good example of mixed funding streams.
- Some employers are reluctant to process requests for Advanced EITC. Julie suggested that a workgroup be formed to explore this issue.

Anyone interested in participating in a workgroup to look at issues related to employers and the Advanced EITC please email Julie at Julie.kerksick@wisconsin.gov

- Contract amendments are in the best interest of the state not the agency or the customer, the result is unfunded mandates. An example is the EA face-to-face requirement.

W-2 Coalition Platform

Ed Kamin presented a paper developed by a coalition of W-2 providers including counties, private agencies, and advocates. The paper includes five general categories of recommendations:

1. Increasing Family Earnings
2. Better Meeting Customer Needs
3. Better Addressing Employer and Community Workforce Needs
4. Better Program Collaboration to Meet the Needs of Children and Families
5. Achieving a Strong and More Effective Partnership of W-2 providers with the State W-2 Administrative Agency, the new Department of Children and Families.

TANF Final Rule Operations Memo

Rebecca Swartz reviewed a draft Operations Memo that will soon be released. The memo clarifies the specific changes between the interim and the final rule and how it has impacted the federal work participation rate calculations. The Memo also provides updated definitions for W-2 Work Program activities. The final rule goes into effect on October 1, 2008.

Child Support and the DRA

Sue Pfeiffer, Director of the Bureau of Child Support presented a PowerPoint explaining how the Deficit Reduction Act is affecting Wisconsin's Child Support program. There is a federal mandate effective October 1, 2009, that new W-2, Caretaker Supp, and Kinship Care families will no longer have old, family-owed arrears assigned when TANF eligibility begins or re-starts. Wisconsin has five options in how to implement this mandate.

1. Discontinue assignment of assigned temporarily and conditionally assigned arrears.
2. Pass-through state and federal share of collections to former assistance families.
3. Release the assignment of old, assigned AFDC arrears.
4. Pass-through \$100-\$200 per month to families during assistance.
5. Simplify distribution.

Each of the options involves policy development, funding, and system considerations. For more information on each of these options contact Carol Chellew, Policy Section Chief or Susan Pfeiffer, Director.

Below is a list of individuals that expressed an interest in participating in the Child Support/DRA workgroup at the C&I meeting:

- Carol Chellew, Bureau of Child Support, Policy Section Chief
- Linda Richardson, Policy Studies, Inc. Director
- Kelly Blaschke, Maximus, Vice President
- John Wilberding, Maximus NW, W-2 Project Manager
- Jim Nitz, Kaiser Group, Director
- Vang Lee, UMOS, W-2 Supervisor
- Liz Green, Dane County Human Services, W-2 Manager

Others who are interested in participating in this workgroup can email Julie at Julie.kerksick@wisconsin.gov

Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

Provide an update on the changes to Wisconsin Job Centers and the on-line job center.

Next Meeting Date: **October 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**
Room D203, 201 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI