

Agenda and Minutes

W-2 Contractors' Meeting

Location: Skype

Date: March 31, 2021

Time: 10:30a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Invitees

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mac Strawder (DCF) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minette Knotts (DCF) – note taker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tony Dziedzic (FSC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Marks (FSC) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Eggen (FSC) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Wolfe (FSC) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kaminski (Equus WS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Reinhold (Equus WS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kanwen Shao (Equus Workforce Services) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deb Leslie (WRI) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Conner (WRI) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Frogness (WRI) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gina Brown (WCI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Franek (WCI) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vang Lee (AWWI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carlyle Outten (AWWI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Latoya Stewart (AWWI) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Hagen (Ross) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reno Wright (Ross) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parker Rios (UMOS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Salazar-Lozano (UMOS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodi Prout (UMOS) | <input type="checkbox"/> NaTasha Chevalier (UMOS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas Hawkins (UMOS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Xiong Lor (MAXIMUS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Zietlow (MAXIMUS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neng Thor (MAXIMUS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Autumn Morgan (MAXIMUS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Endsley (MAXIMUS) |

Representatives from Department of Children and Families, Division of Family and Economic Security, Bureau of Analytics and Research, Bureau of Child Support, Bureau of Refugee Programs, and Bureau of Working Families were also in attendance.

Conference Line

Skype Meeting

Join by phone: (608) 316-9000, 40843472#

Agenda Items

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Owner: Mac Strawder

Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Details: roll call

Discussion:

- Mac led roll call.

2. TANF ITEMS INCLUDED IN GOVERNOR'S 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Owner: Connie Chesnik

Time Allotted: 30 minutes

Details: Reviewed TANF items and allowed time for questions

Discussion:

- W-2 and TANF-Related Programs
 - Wisconsin Works (W-2)
 - W-2 benefits – Increases funding by \$6,602,900 in SFY22 and \$13,971,000 on SFY23 to re-estimate W-2 benefit costs, for a total allocation of \$38,335,100 in SFY22 and \$45,703,200 in SFY23. Amounts were adjusted relative to agency request to reflect updated caseload and expenditure projections.

Agenda and Minutes

- W-2 contracts – Increases funding by \$4,009,700 in SFY22 and \$7,071,200 in SFY23 to re-estimate costs for W-2 services and administration contracts, for a total allocation of \$54,009,700 in SFY22 and \$57,071,200 in SFY23.
 - Emergency Assistance – Increases funding by \$4,829,500 in SFY22 and \$3,936,400 in SFY23 to re-estimate Emergency Assistance (EA) program costs and reflect increased costs associated with various changes to program eligibility. Total allocations for EA are \$10,829,500 in SFY22 and \$9,936,400 in SFY23.
 - Changes to EA program eligibility criteria include:
 - Increasing the income limitation from 115 percent of the federal poverty limit to 200 percent;
 - Increasing the maximum payment amount to \$1,200;
 - Allows individuals aged 18 to 24 who are not parents or caretaker relatives to apply for EA and be determined eligible;
 - Allows a household to receive a crisis payment during a national or state emergency without receiving notice that they will be required to leave housing if payment is not made immediately.
 - The Executive Budget also modifies the definition of domestic violence under EA to make it consistent with the definition used for W-2.
 - Transitional Jobs – Provides \$2,600,000 in SFY22 and \$5,200,000 in SFY23 to start the statewide expansion of Transitional Jobs. Total funding for Transform Milwaukee and Transitional Jobs would be \$12,100,000 in SFY22 and \$14,700,000 in SFY23.
 - State Administration – Decrease funding due to standard budget adjustments by \$586,800 in SFY22 and \$602,300 in SFY23.
 - Provide one-time TANF funding of \$160,000 in SFY22 and \$300,000 in SFY23 to support completion of the second phase of the Benefits Recovery IT System, or BRITS, project.
 - In addition, provide \$250,000 TANF annually to support ongoing maintenance costs associated with BRITS.
 - Provide additional administrative funding of \$58,800 annually associated with changes to the EA program.
 - Provide an adjustment of \$600 in SFY22 and \$800 in SFY23 to fully fund a 1.0 FTE position in the Department of Administration's Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources relating to the Homeless Shelter Grant program.
 - Creates an Internet Assistance Program funded at a total of \$20 million annually, consisting of \$10,000,000 GPR and \$10,000,000 TANF.
 - Program would allow DCF to contract with partner agencies to aid low-income households in paying for Internet subscriptions.
 - The Governor's Budget also provides funding for 1.0 FTE position to aid in administering the program
 - Provides additional funding of \$500,000 annually for grants to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation for programs providing civil legal services to low-income families, as well as expanding eligible legal services relating to eviction matters. Total funding would be \$1,000,000 annually.
 - Provides additional funding of \$132,000 annually to expand the BE GREAT: Graduate program to Boys and Girls Clubs in Wausau and Sheboygan. Total funding would be \$2,807,000 annually.
 - Creates a Jobs for America's Graduates allocation, funded with \$500,000 TANF annually, which would fund programs that improve social, academic, and employment skills of youth who are TANF-eligible.
 - Provides additional funding of \$500,000 annually for the Homeless Shelter Grant program.
 - Extends the Offender Reentry Demonstration Project to June 30, 2023, and the due date for the evaluation of the project to June 30, 2024.
 - Modifies statutory language to clearly define the term "allocate" for TANF and CCDF-funded contracts subject to s. 49.175 Wisconsin Statutes.
- Other TANF-Related Programs

Agenda and Minutes

- SSI Caretaker Supplement – Decreases funding by \$6,448,600 in SFY22 and \$6,868,300 in SFY23 for projected expenditures of \$18,564,700 in SFY22 and \$18,145,000 in SFY23 in the SSI Caretaker Supplement program administered by the Department of Health Services.
- Earned Income Tax Credit – Provide an additional \$47,016,400 in SFY22 for the Earned Income Tax Credit, in order to partially offset the GPR cost of the proposed increase in the credit for filers with one dependent child and two dependent children, beginning in tax year 2021. Total allocation would be \$116,716,400 in SFY22 and \$69,700,000 in SFY23.
- Connie mentioned it is helpful to have those impacted by language and budget to express their support rather than state agencies.
- Jody Conner asked if funds would come through W-2 programs or community action agencies.
 - Connie stated that discussions are ongoing right now.
- DCF welcomes agency support in legislator for these provisions to move forward and pass.
- Additional information can be located here <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/budget>. Please feel free to reach out to DCF with questions or feedback from your agency legislator.

3. JOB CENTER TASK FORCE

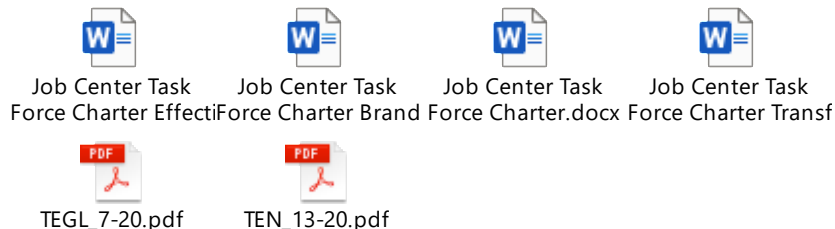
Owner: Janice Peters

Time Allotted: 15 minutes

Details: Discuss the DWD Job Center Task Force and related committees

Discussion:

- Janice shared some things happening related to Job Centers in Wisconsin and expressed it is vitally important that DCF receive agency input as we talk about the future of Job Centers in Wisconsin.
- DWD created a Job Center Task Force including representatives from each area and included members from Wisconsin Association of Workforce Development. The purpose of the task force is to assess current job centers, recommend future improvements, identify tools to figure out what does current job center system look like and what can be improved.
 - Three committees were created focusing on:
 - Transforming service delivery and assessing current state of job center system and recommend future improvements to task force.
 - Improving customer service through technology.
 - Effective Program Coordination Committee will view how programs coordinate with each other and bring recommendations to the Job Center Task Force. This committee will also spend time evaluating resources and improve employment and training outcomes.
 - Branding Committee will review current Wisconsin Job Center Brand and recommendations for future improvements with branding focusing on services for job seekers and businesses. One stop portal and will work with partner agency communications office once plan is created.
- These committees are staffed by DWD and include representatives from partner agencies. DCF has multiple members on each committee and would appreciate agency input.
- Janice asked agencies to identify one person per committee who can serve in an advisory capacity to DCF staff that are on the committees. Most work will be done via email.
 - Charter and additional information below:



- Jody Conner asked about the time commitment.

- Patara Horn mentioned it's hard to gauge time commitment. Committees have had one meeting so far to review achievements of committee. The committees meet monthly and communicate via email.
- Rachel Zietlow appreciated being included on these conversations and being kept on the loop in this.

4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Owner: Marianne Rosen
Time Allotted: 35 minutes

Details: Marianne Rosen, DFES Policy Initiatives Advisor, shared The Division of Family and Economic Security's (DFES) Domestic Violence Task Force: Transforming Economic Mobility for Survivors Phase I PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion:

- Between January 2020 – May 2021, the Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) has been working on Phase I which is revising the Emergency Assistance Application. The DVTF created three committees to focus on specific features of the EA Application:
 - Trauma: This committee analyzed the degree to which words and phrases could be edited to eliminate trauma “triggers”.
 - Plain Language: This committee analyzed vocabulary and recommended changes to simplify language and clarify instructions.
 - Organization: This committee suggested changes to reduce redundancy and improve the overall flow of ideas.
- Marianne provided background on how domestic violence and DFES programs are connected. She also provided information on national trends around domestic violence and economic mobility.
- The DFES DVTF's mission is to promote a coordinated, collaborative response to intimate partner violence and their vision is that all survivors of domestic violence can fully and safely access DFES programs and services that help them find safety and become economically secure without experiencing unintended barriers or negative consequences.
- Next Steps for the DVTF include:
 - September 2020 – May 2021: Continue editing EA application (e.g., analyzing potential “triggering” phrases or statements, simplifying vocabulary to reflect principles of “plain language”).
 - June 2021 – December 2021: Review and revise current DV Awareness Training offered to W-2 caseworkers.
 - 2022: Design process flow and communication desk aids to assist case managers working with survivors or suspected survivors.
 - 2022 - 2023: Map Child Support process to identify points during the life of a child support case when violence is more likely to occur.
- If you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out to Marianne Rosen at Marianne.Rosen@Wisconsin.gov.
- Presentation attached for reference:



WI DV Task Force
Phase 1 PPT_Final.ppt

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
10:30AM-12:00PM
Skype



Agenda and Minutes
