**W-2 Contractors’ Meeting** **Location:** MS Teams

**Date:** August 28, 2024

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

Invitees

FSC  Equus  WRI  WCI  AWWI  UMOS  Ross  Maximus Inc

**Please share the meeting minutes with your staff and access the** [DCF website](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/partners/toolbox/contractorsmeeting) **for agendas and meeting minutes for previous W-2 Contractors’ Meetings.**

Call in option:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**(608) 571-2209, 120 701 188#**

Agenda Items

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS **Owner**: Anna Sainsbury

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Roll Call

Discussion:

* Anna took attendance.
* Bureau of Working Families (BWF) Director Patara Horn is traveling and unable to attend the meeting.
* BWF has no staffing updates to report.

1. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE POLICY CHANGES **Owner**: Audrey Proaño

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* [BWF Operations Memo 24-13](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/w2/ops-memos/pdf/24-13.pdf) identified Emergency Assistance (EA) policy changes effective October 1, 2024.
* The biggest change is extending the eligibility timeline from 5 to 10 working days to allow the applicant to submit needed information and allow more time to schedule the intake appointment.
* Agencies should continue to be mindful of the time-sensitive nature of EA applications and maintain a sense of urgency. The full 10 days should be used only when absolutely needed.
* The meeting with the applicant is still required to happen within 5 days unless the applicant is unable.
* Payment must still be made within 5 days of the notification date.
* Questions can be submitted to Audrey Proaño [audrey.proano@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Audrey.proano@wisconsin.gov).

1. W-2 CAREER ASSESSMENT TOOL INVENTORY FORM **Owner**: Adam Bozich

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* See the PDF below.



* Questions can be submitted to Adam Bozich [adam.bozich@wisconsin.gov](mailto:adam.bozich@wisconsin.gov).

1. CHILD CARE TRANSPORTATION TRAVEL TIME UPDATES **Owner**: Adam Bozich

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* A forthcoming BWF operations memo will announce the removal of travel time criteria from the good cause reason for inability to find child care.
* Currently, “reasonable distance” for child care is defined as within a 60-minute one-way travel time.
* After the change, “reasonable distance” will not be defined and workers will determine it on a case-by-case basis.

1. SYSTEM UPDATES **Owner**: Rob Schampers

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* The Genesys Cloud platform was successfully launched.
  + W-2 agencies should report any issues to Rob Schampers [robert.schampers@wisconsin.gov](mailto:robert.schampers@wisconsin.gov).
* The BRITS go-live is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2024.
  + Two demos will be scheduled for the W-2 agencies in September.
    - One demo will focus on creating new overpayment claims.
    - One demo will focus on creating Job Access Loans (JALs).
  + W-2 agencies will need to submit new access forms.
    - Question: Do all Financial and Employment Planners (FEPs) need to apply for new access?
      * Yes, all FEPs will need to indicate current and new access.
    - Question: Will JAL access to BRITS be separate from current access?
      * Yes, JAL is a separate role.

1. AGENCY UPDATES **Owner**: W-2 Agencies

**Time Allotted:** 40 minutes

Details: Updates

Discussion:

* America Works of Wisconsin (AWWI)
  + AWWI, Ross, and Maximus are partnering on an upcoming mental health event hosted at Ross.
* Equus
  + Equus is working with a healthcare provider to give participants access to mental health resources including:
    - Appointments with local providers;
    - Self-paced online activities;
    - Anonymous online group sessions; and
    - Activities involving the whole family.
* Forward Service Corp (FSC)
  + FSC has had more staff turnover than usual in the past six months.
    - It is taking longer than average to fill vacancies due to the applicant pool.
    - Team leads and supervisors are filling in as needed.
  + FSC has experienced challenges with refugee participants in the W-2 program.
    - Some participants want to start working immediately even though their English skills do not meet employers’ minimum requirements.
    - Getting participants into English classes is difficult in part due to class availability.
  + FSC held a Youth Education Navigator event in Menasha, which included 16 participants and was also observed by parents and younger siblings. Participants created a dream board showing their future goals.
* Maximus Inc.
  + Maximus hosted a back-to-school event in which 70 families participated. The agency gave away over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies and had a raffle for haircut appointments.
  + Success story – The 17-year-old son of a client with health challenges was walking a long distance to a job he has to help the family. The client’s FEP referred the son to the Youth Education Navigator, who connected him a with bus pass, cell phone, and driver’s education courses.
  + The Maximus Child Support Liaison (CSL) had 132 referrals and 126 enrolled individuals in 2024 Quarter Two. Upcoming events in which the CSL will participate include:
    - Stop the Violence basketball game;
    - Real Men Real Talk;
    - Program to help noncustodial parents get registered to vote; and
    - Program to assist women with becoming homeowners.
* Ross
  + AWWI, Maximus, and Ross are hosting a mental health event on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 10:00am to 2:30pm. The goal is to have 150 participants. A flyer will be sent shortly.
  + Ross held a Child Support Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.
  + Ross held a back-to-school fair on Friday, August 2, 2024, which had 92 attendees.
* UMOS
  + UMOS will have a new President/CEO effective September 1, 2024. Jose Martinez will take over from Lupe Martinez, who has been with UMOS for 55 years.
  + UMOS recently hosted visitors from Ireland who wanted to learn about working with Rohingya populations.
  + UMOS recently held a back-to-school event that included resources on GED/HSED and English classes.
  + On Sunday, September 15, 2024, UMOS will host its annual Mexican Independence Day parade and festival, which will also include information about community organizations and resources. The event is free and open to everyone.
* WCI
  + WCI will be participating in the Coulee Career Fest on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in Onalaska.
* WRI
  + Two FEPs resigned in the past two weeks. Due to the continuing decline in the caseload, it is uncertain if both will be replaced or if one position will be converted to focus on the Whole Family Approach.
  + EA applications in May, June, and July 2024 were up 13% from last year.
  + WRI issued 21 Family Stabilization Payments. Most were used for shelter, utilities, and vehicle costs.
  + The Youth Education Navigator is getting ready for back-to-school events.
  + WRI has 10 W-2 refugee cases, including 8 co-enrolled with World Relief and 2 private sponsorships from Ukraine.
  + WRI has 162 validated claims toward its goal of 240.

1. WALK-ONS **Owner**: All

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* No walk-ons.

1. CLOSING **Owner**: Anna Sainsbury

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Discussion if needed.

Discussion:

* Please submit agenda items via e-mail to Anna Sainsbury [anna.sainsbury@wisconsin.gov](mailto:anna.sainsbury@wisconsin.gov).
* Please include Topic, Presenter, and Duration for planning purposes.
  + Please provide Anna with presentation documents prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams