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

 **Date:** September 25, 2024

 **Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

Invitees

[x]  FSC [x]  Equus [x]  WRI [x]  WCI [x]  AWWI [x]  UMOS [x]  Ross [x]  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.
1. DCF STAFF UPDATES **Owner**: Patara Horn

 **Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Chloe Kepler is serving as an intern in the TANF Policy Section as part of her coursework at the LaFollette School of Public Policy. Her hours will be sporadic because she is also attending classes. She will be with BWF through May 2025.
* A new ISBA Specialist will join the TANF Automation Section in October 2024.
* The recruitment for the Fiscal Manager position is currently in the second interview round.
1. SYSTEM UPDATES **Owner**: Jane Kahl

 **Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* The BRITS project that was supposed to move in October has been rescheduled for December 9, 2024.
* ACCESS is adding a new feature to enable users to update their communication preferences. This information will then be sent to CWW. It is moving into production on October 26, 2024.
1. AGENCY UPDATES **Owner**: W-2 Agencies

 **Time Allotted:** 45 minutes

Details: Updates

Discussion:

* America Works of Wisconsin Inc (AWWI)
	+ AWWI, Maximus, and Ross held the Health and Happiness Summit, hosted by Ross. Many clients reported having a positive experience at the event.
	+ AWWI is working with Milwaukee barber shops on a mentorship program for youth.
* Equus Workforce Solutions (Equus)
	+ September is Workforce Development Month.
	+ Equus engaged its staff to create workgroups with participants. Topics include how to engage in the community and the schools, and how to fulfil needs such as transportation to work. The workgroups present an opportunity to hear from and empower participants.
* Forward Service Corporation (FSC)
	+ FSC has seen a small caseload bump in the past 3-4 months.
		- Patara asked if the caseload increase is in specific areas. Tony stated that it is an overall increase.
	+ FSC is getting closer to a full staffing pattern.
	+ FSC is collaborating with Workforce Development Boards on Winning with Wisconsin events for program marketing and outreach with local employers.
* Ross Innovative Employment Solutions (Ross)
	+ The Education Navigators attended a workforce summit at Milwaukee Area Technical College on September 18, 2024, and a meeting in Madison on September 24.
	+ Ross is holding a job fair on September 25.
	+ Ross hosted a community job fair on September 20.
	+ The Health and Happiness Summit went very well.
	+ Ross provided family stabilization payments to 48 families in August and over 70 in September.
* Maximus Inc.
	+ Maximus is hosting a job fair on September 25, focusing on warehouse and manufacturing jobs.
	+ The Health and Happiness Summit had great turnout, with 130 participants in attendance. Some attendees were asking when the next event will be held.
	+ As part of Workforce Development Month, Maximus participated in a workforce summit organized by Employ Milwaukee, focusing on how to increase employment opportunities for individuals in Milwaukee.
	+ Maximus will hold a career fair focused on jobs in skilled trades, especially for women and minorities.
	+ The Child Support Liaison (CSL) had 338 referrals and 320 enrollments. The CSL is active in outreach and informing potential participants of available services.
	+ Maximus is looking to expand vocational training partners.
* UMOS
	+ In August 2024, UMOS hosted a delegation from Ireland interested in learning about resettlement of Rohingya refugees.
	+ UMOS held a presentation for the Mexican Consulate regarding available services for the Hispanic community.
	+ On September 15, UMOS held its annual Mexican Independence Day parade and festival.
	+ On September 19, UMOS staff attended a connect breakfast at St. Augustine Prep and shared services that the agency offers to students and parents.
	+ UMOS will hold a career fair in November.
	+ UMOS will hold its annual Hispanic Awards Banquet on October 25, 2024. See the poster below. For more information, visit <https://www.umos.org/event/hispanic-awards-banquet/>.

 

* Workforce Connections, Inc. (WCI)
	+ WCI recently participated in the following events:
		- Nonprofit vendor fair in La Crosse;
		- Coulee Career Fest; and
		- La Crosse Job Center open house.
	+ WCI found new office space In Pepin County, which will be shared with the county Department of Health and Human Services.
	+ WCI is recruiting for an Education Navigator.
	+ WCI is planning its annual meeting event and capturing success stories to share.
* Workforce Resource, Inc. (WRI)
	+ WRI closed the Polk County office in August 2024 and will be closing the Chippewa County office at the end of October due to declining traffic as a result of losing the FSET contract.
		- The Polk County administrative location was moved to Siren.
		- The Chippewa County staff are moving to the Eau Claire office.
		- If individuals need to meet in these counties, WRI will arrange a meeting at a location in the community.
	+ WRI is filling two vacant FEP positions with FSET staff. A third vacant FEP position will be switched to family advocacy services.
	+ The caseload is steady, with 194 customers per month in the last six months.
	+ WRI is holding monthly job fairs in Eau Claire and Rice Lake.
	+ WRI has seen an increase in EA applications.
	+ WRI issued 24 family stabilization payments since June 2024, ranging from $82 to $4,400. The average payment amount is $1,500. Payments are being used for shelter costs, vehicle repairs, and debts.
	+ The Youth Education Navigator organized backpack and supply drives for children in school.
	+ WRI currently has 9 W-2 refugee cases, including 7 co-enrolled with World Relief and 2 privately sponsored from Ukraine.
	+ WRI currently has 13 Refugee Cash Assistance cases, including 6 added in the past week. Three are from Somalia and 15 are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
	+ WRI has 182 validated POP claims and is awaiting one more. The annual goal is 240.
	+ Patara asked how many FSET counties overlap with W-2. Jody Conner stated that 8 counties do.
1. WALK-ONS **Owner**: All

 **Time Allotted:** 10 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Patara reminded agencies to work with their accounting staff to reconcile data entered in WWP and SPARC.
* Carlyle Outten asked if there will be a debriefing about the recent RFP process to explain why it failed.
	+ Patara stated that DCF decided not to award the contracts because of a technical error in the scoring. A debrief is not part of the process.
* Jody Conner asked if agencies can access their own scored RPFs.
	+ Linda Richardson stated to contact Procurement.
* Gina Brown asked if there is a timeframe for agency conversations regarding contracts.
	+ Patara stated that there is no definite timeline.
* Jody asked if the new RFP request will be the same as the previous one.
	+ Patara stated that she does not know yet.
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.
* Please include Topic, Presenter, and Duration for planning purposes.
	+ Please provide Anna with presentation documents prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting:

October 30, 2024

10:30am – 12:00pm

Microsoft Teams