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

**Date:** October 30, 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.

1. DCF STAFF UPDATES **Owner**: Patara Horn

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Mai Yee Xiong is the new IS Business Automation Specialist in the TANF Automation Section. She will be working on ACCESS, CWW, and WWP.
* Samantha Comaris is the new Program and Policy Section Manager in the Bureau of Refugee Programs.

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WISCONSIN SHARES **Owner**: Laura Knott

**Time Allotted:** 30 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* See the PowerPoint presentation below.



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

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* The BRITS Phase II go-live date is Monday, December 9. New functionality includes claim creation/collection and Job Access Loan (JAL) creation.
  + DCF will hold a Q&A session regarding the new functionality on Friday, November 22.
    - Recorded demonstrations and new training materials will be released in advance.
    - This Information was sent to the agencies’ BRITS contacts.
  + BRITS access forms will be available in the beginning of November.
* Genesys – some agency staff are still logging into the old platform. All users need to use the Cloud platform.

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

**Time Allotted:** 30 minutes

Details: Updates

Discussion:

* America Works of Wisconsin Inc. (AWWI)
  + The Adult Education Navigator participated in multiple enrollment events with YWCA providing literacy services to earn a GED/HSED.
  + The Youth Education Navigator attended a young men’s summit at UW-Milwaukee.
  + AWWI participated in a meeting with the Milwaukee County Child Support Director hosted by Maximus. This will be a bimonthly series and AWWI will host the next meeting.
* Equus Workforce Solutions (Equus)
  + Equus has seen a 14% increase month over month in W-2 applications due to increased outreach in the community at the colleges, medical offices, etc.
  + Equus is providing direct contact with shelters either in person or virtually to ensure that families in need have support readily available.
  + JAL demand is very high, mostly for vehicle purchases and insurance.
  + Job Club and Education Navigators have shifted to serving the whole family. Many parents are in need of clothing and technology for their students.
* Forward Service Corporation (FSC)
  + FSC is hosting World Café sessions to bring all staff together for future thinking on how to run programs better and foster continuous quality improvement. As a result, FSC staff are running two new projects involving data analysis and program information sharing.
  + FSC is continuing efforts on client engagement strategies. Client Engagement Part 2 is focusing on refugee families in W-2, many of whom need preparation before attending English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and job skills training. FSC seeks to find employers hiring refugees at sustainable wages and with minimum knowledge of English.
  + FSC is participating in job fairs run by Workforce Development Boards. The next one is in Jefferson County during the week of November 4.
  + The Education Navigators are preparing for the winter/holiday season and end of the school semester to fulfill clients’ needs.
* Maximus Inc.
  + Maximus currently has a caseload of 811 individuals.
  + Maximus has a new Job Developer and Employment Engagement Specialist.
  + Maximus has 12 active Financial and Employment Planners (FEPs) and 5 more in in training.
  + Maximus has revamped its staff training.
  + Maximus issued $20K in Family Stabilization Payments (FSPs) in September 2024 and $15K in October. The most requested needs were housing and utilities.
    - In November, Maximus will begin following up with FSP recipients to check on their well-being.
  + Maximus will work with the Milwaukee Area Technical College to provide participants with information on course offerings and supportive services.
  + The Child Support Liaison (CSL) will attend the Milwaukee Fatherhood Summit for outreach.
  + The Business Service Unit will host a job fair on Wednesday, November 20.
* Ross
  + Recent and upcoming events in which Ross participated include:
    - Ninth District Job Fair
    - Milwaukee County Reentry Simulation
    - Project Homeless Connect Milwaukee
* UMOS
  + UMOS is participating in an Upward Bound event with UW-Milwaukee.
  + UMOS staff attended the Latino Family Expo.
  + Recent and upcoming events held by UMOS include:
    - Halloween Bash which allowed students to demonstrate their school attendance and academic performance. Attendees received Halloween costumes, candy, and school supplies. The event also included a presentation on the home energy assistance program.
    - Friday, October 25 – 2024 Hispanic Awards Banquet.
    - Friday, November 01 – Career fair.
    - Thursday, November 14 – ESL and GED enrollment event focusing on Spanish-speaking and refugee clients. Attendees will also receive winter supplies.
    - Saturday, December 14 – Annual Breakfast with Santa event. Individuals interested in volunteering can contact the UMOS Events Coordinator.
* Workforce Connections Inc. (WCI)
  + WCI reestablished an office in Pepin County.
  + WCI is working with the local Workforce Development Board.
  + WCI will participate in the Winning in Wisconsin event in Jackson County on Thursday, November 7.
  + WCI staff attended the Poverty Matters Conference and WCSEA Fall Conference.
  + WCI is conducting its annual staff performance and goal setting and will hold its annual staff meeting.
* Workforce Resource Inc. (WRI)
  + WRI is fully staffed. Two FEPs are currently in training through the Partner Training Team. They will also complete additional computer-based internal training.
  + WRI is holding job fairs in Eau Claire and Rice Lake.
  + WRI currently has 208 validated claims with more forthcoming.
  + WRI issued 40 FSPs, most for housing and vehicle repairs.
  + WRI has seen an increase in refugee cases and currently has 18 Refugee Cash Assistance participants from Somalia, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.
  + WRI has seen an increase in in CSL referrals, currently receiving 15 referrals per day.

1. NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MEETING POLL **Owner**: All

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* The November and December 2024 W-2 Contractors’ Meetings will be combined into one, to take place on one of the following dates (all Wednesdays):
  + November 27
  + December 4
  + December 11
  + December 18
* Due to technical issues with the Teams poll, attendees were asked to submit their preference in the chat or via email.

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:

To Be Announced

Pending Results of the Meeting Poll