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

**Date:** November 29, 2023

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

Invitees

Anna Sainsbury (DCF)  Neb Macura (DCF) - note taker

Tony Dziedzic (FSC)  Jennifer Marks (FSC)  Stacey Eggen (FSC)

Brian Wolfe (FSC)  Sarah Kaminski (Equus)  Steve Reinhold (Equus)

Christian Blaisdell (WRI)  Jody Conner (WRI)  Sally Schrader (WRI)

Gina Brown (WCI)  Shannon Franek (WCI)  Vang Lee (AWWI)

Carlyle Outten (AWWI)  Scarlet Garcia (Ross)  Nicole Hagen (Ross)

Thomas Prescott (Ross)  Parker Rios (UMOS)  Sandra Salazar-Lozano (UMOS)

Jodi Prout (UMOS)  Amanda Reiter (UMOS)  Jose Martinez (UMOS)

Rachel Zietlow (Maximus Inc)  Elizabeth Perdomo (Maximus Inc)

Autumn Morgan (Maximus Inc)  Randy Endsley (Maximus Inc)

Representatives from Department of Children and Families, Division of Family and Economic Security: Administrator’s Office, Bureau of Analytics and Research, Bureau of Child Support, Bureau of Refugee Programs, and Bureau of Working Families, Division of Management Services: Bureau of Regional Operations; and Partner Training Team were also in attendance.

**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 conducted roll call.

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

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: Update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Mac Strawder is leaving the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to become the Director of Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MilES) at the Department of Health Services. His last day at DCF will be Friday, December 15, 2023.

1. Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Notice of PropOSED **Owner**: Patara Horn

RULE MAKING FOR TANF **Time Allotted:** 20 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* See the PowerPoint presentation below.



* Tony Dziedzic asked: Is Wisconsin one of five states that could be involved in a pilot program for new outcomes?
  + Patara stated that Wisconsin is considering participation in the program. The DCF Secretary’s Office will make the decision. Other states have expressed concerns about operationalizing the pilot project.
* Jody Conner asked: Which programs may lose funding if they are found not to serve a TANF purpose?
  + Patara stated that this is not known at this time, but the Education Navigator and Child Support Liaison programs would not be affected.

1. Emergency Assistance (EA) FINANCIAL NEED ENTRY IN WWP **Owner**: Audrey Proaño

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Workers need to enter financial need information as accurately as possible. This will help with justifying requests to increase the maximum EA payment amount.
* Currently, there are over 1000 EA applications in which the minimum payment amount and the requested amount are the same.
* Jody Conner asked: Does the requested amount need to be documented and verified, or can it be accepted by a statement from the applicant?
  + Audrey stated that she will follow up after doing research.

1. SYSTEM UPDATES **Owner**: Heidi Hammes

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Fact Finding functionality in CARES Mainframe was moved to WWP on Friday, October 27, 2023.
* The ACCESS modernization project will resume in December 2023 and will take place over the next two years. It will support W-2 in the Renew My Benefits and Report My Changes modules. Users will be able to begin completing six-month eligibility reviews and upload documents.
* A Systems Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023. Heidi will send the agenda during the week of December 4.

1. 2024 Agency Site Visits **Owner**: Anna Sainsbury

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion

* Anna reviewed the site visit dates. See the PDF file below.



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

**Time Allotted:** 30 minutes

Details: Updates

Discussion:

* Equus (written notes provided by Sarah Kaminski)
  + **EQUUS 2023 YTD EEs: 590**
    - 56 OCT
    - 37 NOV through 11/17/23
  + **EQUUS 2023 Educational Claims: 9 (GED, HSED)**
  + **EQUUS 2023 Job Skill / Vocational Training Claims: 11**
  + **EQUUS approved 2023 JAL payments through 10/31/23:  exceeded $435,000**
  + **EQUUS October 2023 RCA cases: 43 November 2023 RCA cases: 26**
  + **EQUUS YTD Job Readiness / Job Retention payments $** (as of Tuesday 11/28/23): **$374,750**
  + **EQUUS YTD Job Readiness / Job Retention payments #** (as of Tuesday 11/28/23): **324**
    - $1000: Educational Attainment (GED, HSED)
    - $1000: Job Skill / Vocational Training Attainment
    - $1000: High Wage
    - Employment Retention
      * $500: 31 days
      * $750: 93 days
      * $100: 180 days
  + **EQUUS Youth Education Navigator (YEN) Winter Event Updates as of 11/29/23: $103,375 supportive services disbursed**
    - Winter clothing and winter boots for enrolled school age children (ages 6 – 18)
  + **EQUUS Youth Education Navigator Referrals Assisted YTD through 11/17/23 (separate from YEN winter event disbursements): 129** 
    - Kenosha: 34
    - Racine: 51
    - Balance: 44
    - YEN Supportive Service Referral Types
      * Clothing
      * Internet (summer school)
      * School related fees (athletic, lunch, library, tutor, etc.)
      * School supplies (100 backpacks)
      * Transportation (bus pass, driver’s education, gas card)
  + **EQUUS CSL enrollments and referrals:** 
    - NCP enrollments in other Federal or State workforce programs **YTD 2023: 14**
    - NCP referrals to other programs **YTD 2023: 31**
  + **Dress for Success Online WEX (SEP/OCT 2023):** 
    - **67** program participants
    - **9:** W-2 participants reported / gained employment
    - Utilization rates across entire EQUUS W-2 service regions.
      * Racine (42 clients, 62.7%)
      * Kenosha + Balance (25 clients, 37.3%)
  + **EQUUS Online Job Club OCT 2023:**
    - **22 active participants**: Employable W-2 clients (CMJ, recently separated CMF / CM+, higher functioning CSJ)
    - **8:** Online Job Club participants reported / gained employment
    - **36.4%**: Online Job Club OCT 2023 employment rate
    - **2:** Online Job Club participants reported / gained WI driver’s license
    - **1:** Online Job Club participants started post-HSD education program
  + **2023 Emergency Payments:**
    - YTD Cumulative Emergency Payments # checks: **12**
    - YTD Cumulative Emergency Payments $ total: **$7856**
    - OCT 2023 Emergency Payments # checks: **3**
    - OCT 2023 Emergency Payments $ total: **$1979**
* Workforce Resource Inc (WRI)
  + Education Navigators are working on winter projects.
  + A new refugee resettlement agency is working in Eau Claire. The first refugee arrivals are from The Democratic Republic of the Congo.
  + The tablet loan project is expanding. Currently, 40 tablets are loaned out to participants who otherwise would not be able to participate in online activities such as meeting with their FEP, attending workshops, and taking tests.
  + WRI is recruiting for a FEP position in the Eau Claire office and a training facilitator for staff and customers.
  + Caseload has dropped from approximately 250 to 238.
  + EA numbers are dropping.
* America Works of Wisconsin Inc (AWWI)
  + Eight clients completed GED/HSED in summer and autumn of 2023, and several more will graduate in December 2023.
  + AWWI held an enrollment event with the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). MATC staff met with clients and talked about programs that MATC is offering.
  + AWWI will hold a youth roundtable titled From Anger to Passions on Saturday, December 2, 2023 – The keynote speaker is martial artist Montel Jackson, who grew up in Milwaukee.
  + AWWI is restarting the Christmas decoration program. Five families will be nominated to get their homes decorated.
  + AWWI will hold a Financial Literacy event for youth. Each participant will receive $100 to start a savings account.
  + AWWI is coordinating with partners to offer programs helping youth to avoid threats including domestic violence and human trafficking.
* Workforce Connections Inc (WCI)
  + WCI has successfully met performance outcomes.
  + WCI is preparing for changes in 2024.
  + The Uplift project is finishing at end of December 2023. The project includes hardship payments in the city of LaCrosse and soft skills & credential training.
  + WCI has a new Education Navigator.
  + WCI will be able to offer a transportation program again in 2024 through the LaCrosse Community Foundation.
  + WCI is focusing on providing training to staff.
* UMOS
  + On Thursday, December 21, 2023, the UMOS Health Promotions Program will present an education session on vaping and tobacco use prevention. UMOS will provide school supplies and gift cards to students and will invite families to obtain clothing and household items. Lunch will also be provided.
  + The UMOS Education Navigators attended a session on how to advise students bound for college.
  + UMOS is preparing for Breakfast with Santa, an annual community-wide event, on Saturday, December 16, 2023. UMOS is looking for additional volunteers to assist with the event.
  + To wrap up 2023, UMOS is providing additional staff training and coaching on Monitoring 2.0, new and refresher training for EA, and reviewing processes and finalizing a plan for 2024.
* Ross Innovative Employment Solutions (Ross)
  + Ross participated in the 9th District Open for Business Conference hosted by Alderwoman Larresa Taylor. The conference presented tools and resources for small businesses.
  + Ross is partnering with the Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) to provide support to individuals with barriers.
  + Coca Cola and Frito Lay are providing drinks and snacks for Ross events.
  + Ross will hold a quarterly job fair on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, and 30 employers will attend.
  + BMO Harris will provide financial training for customers and staff.
  + Ross held a successful school supply giveaway on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, and enrolled six families into Youth Navigator Program.
* Forward Service Corporation (FSC)
  + FSC is focusing on new and improved client engagement strategies. High-performing FEPs will put together a symposium in January 2024 to come up with strategies.
  + The project team is looking for community partnerships for referrals. Is it possible to create new referral strategies with existing partners?
  + FSC is looking at new strategies to help clients navigate the youth and adult education system.
* Maximus
  + The Maximus Child Support Liaison (CSL) and Youth Education Navigator attended the National Association of Workforce Professionals (NAWDP) Youth Symposium.
  + Maximus hosted a Q & A session for all Milwaukee CSLs.
  + Maximus hosted the Fall Into Learning event.
  + Three new FEPs started on Monday, November 27, 2023.

1. DECEMBER MEETING POLL **Owner**: Anna Sainsbury

**Time Allotted:** 5 minutes

Details: update and/or discussion

Discussion:

* Anna shared a poll in the chat asking if the December 2023 Contractors’ Meeting should be held as scheduled, postponed to the first Wednesday in January 2024, or canceled.
* 77% of attendees voted to cancel the December 2023 meeting.

1. WALK-ONS AND CLOSING **Owner**: Anna Sainsbury

**Time Allotted:** 10 minutes

Details: Walk-ons and/or discussion if needed.

Discussion:

* Jody Conner asked: Have the minutes from the October meeting been sent?
  + Anna stated that they will be sent ASAP.
* 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, January 31, 2024

10:30am – 12:00pm

Microsoft Teams