

MID-SIZE AGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MACC)

TXMF Museum, Hall of Honor

Camp Mabry

2200 West 35th St.

Austin, TX 78703

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Announcements

Amanda Fletcher, MACC Secretary, called the meeting to order and introduced the guest speakers.

2015 Legislative Updates for State Agencies

Texas Workforce Commission

Tommy Simmons, Senior Legal Counsel to Commissioner Hope Andrade

Tommy.simmons@twc.state.tx.us

- Provided an overview of the most significant Texas bills that passed in 2015 (see handout for list and details)
- Provided recommendations for properly handling unemployment claims (see handout)
- Members are encouraged to contact Tommy Simmons with any questions.

E-Verify – State Agency Requirements

Texas Workforce Commission

Ron Murray, Director of Human Resources

Ron.murray@twc.state.tx.us

- Executive Order RP 80 issued 12/3/14 directed immediate use of E-Verify
- SB 374 “...requires state agencies to participate in the federal electronic verification of employment...E-verify”
- E-verify is an internet-based system that compares information from Homeland Security and Social Security Administration records to confirm employment eligibility.
- Information outlining requirements will follow, prior to the effective date of 9/1/15

Legislative Updates for State Employees

Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) <http://www.tpea.org/>

Employees Retirement System <http://www.ers.state.tx.us>

Amy Chamberlain, TPEA, Governmental Affairs Consultant

Kate Johanns, TPEA, Director of Marketing & Communications

Leah Erard, ERS Governmental Affairs Liaison

- For a summary of the key victories for state employees, visit <http://www.tpea.org/advocacy/84th-legislative-session-wrap-up/>
- Eligible employees contributing to the retirement fund will receive a 2.5 percent pay raise to offset the increased employee pension contribution rate. The 90 day waiting period for new hires to contribute to the retirement fund will be eliminated effective 9/1/15. At this time, it's unclear whether new state employees hired from June-August 2015, who are within their 90 day waiting period, will receive the 2% pay increase once eligible for retirement contribution.

- A new option for employees enrolled in Health Select will be available on 9/1/2016 called the Health Savings Account (HSA). The focus this year is on educating employees about the HSA. This is a high deductible healthcare option that will be slightly cheaper and the agency cost savings will go into an account that will operate similar to the current TexFlex program except the unused money will roll over each year and includes contributions from both the employer and employee.
- Summer Enrollment has started and is over the end of July. Employees are encouraged to attend Summer Enrollment Events, for more information visit <https://www.ers.state.tx.us/Employees/Annual-Enrollment/>.
- SB 1968 did NOT pass - proposed to prohibit payroll deductions from membership associations like TPEA.
- Kate is soliciting ideas from state agencies to help reduce state employee turnover. TPEA offers resources to provide to new employees during onboarding. Contact Kate at kjohanns@tpea.org.

MACC Officer Elections 2015-16

The slate had three volunteers, one for each officer position. The vote was called by Leah Erard from ERS and seconded by Lynn Ward from THC.

- **Chair:** Amanda Fletcher, Texas Military Department
- **Vice Chair:** Maggie Freeman, Office of the Governor
- **Communication Officer:** Carol Harper, Office of Court Administration

A survey was distributed to attendees for feedback about what members want in future meetings regarding frequency, topics, and training and continuing education opportunities. If you were not present and would like to complete the survey, email Maggie Freeman at Maggie.Freeman@gov.texas.gov

Minutes Submitted by Amanda Fletcher

Resources:

MACC Website: <http://dir.texas.gov/View-About-DIR/Pages/Content.aspx?id=25>

TPEA Website: <http://www.tpea.org/>

TSABAA Website: <http://www.tsabaa.com/>