

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County  
Partnership & Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

2:00-3:00pm

Zoom Video Conference

**Committee Members Present**

Fidelity Goodlaxson  
Pai Her  
Katie Kapaun  
Pamela Maldonado  
Trish Stevens

**Members Absent**

Chad Kulas-EA  
Donna Rapacz-EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Catrice O’Neal, Workforce Solutions  
Lisa Xiong, Asian Economic Development  
Association (AEDA)

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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**Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

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**Approve March Minutes**

**Motion (Kapaun/Her) to approve the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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**Committee Work Plan/Project Updates**

O’Neal and Milbrandt shared the following:

*Uplifting Partner Programs and Services:* The aim of this committee is to provide guidance, insights and leadership and how the WIB uplifts services and programs provided through the county and through partnerships. O’Neal asked the group to brainstorm ideas for where Ramsey County could improve in providing additional ways to promote programs and services. Suggestions included: highlight information in newsletters, which is already being done but more specifically highlight partners and ongoing chamber events; leverage social media platforms to connect with students.

*Recent Events Recap:* Milbrandt shared the following:

- Green Expo & Career Fair – March 19 at West Minnehaha Recreation Center. This event was hosted by Ramsey County’s Environmental Health and Workforce Solutions departments. In attendance were 125 job seekers and community members with 21 exhibitors who showcased opportunities in environmental protection, conservation green construction, etc.
- Level Up Young Adult Career & Resource Fair (previously called Launch Pad) - April 24 at the Saint Paul Eastside YMCA. This event was hosted by Twin Cities Talent Hub with support from the WIB, Workforce Solutions and the St. Paul Area Chamber. There were 300+ students as well as young adult job seekers in attendance to learn about available resources to help bridge the gap between graduation and a career.
- Youth Job and Resource Fair – May 3 at the Maplewood Mall outside the county service center. In attendance were over 180 young adults ages 14-18. It was an opportunity to engage with local employers and community organizations to learn about summer employment and resources.

*Tech Month (May):* WIB members are encouraged to visit the Ramsey County webpage to explore resources and events to connect with the people and programs shaping the future of tech in our community. The Tech Committee is sponsoring two tours of leading tech companies – US Bank and BetterYou. There are many other opportunities happening across the metro area throughout the month.

### *Upcoming Events:*

- Drive for 5: Unlocking High Growth Career Pathway Webinar - May 15, 9:30-10:30am via Zoom. This webinar will address each of the Drive for 5 sectors' top five gateway careers which meet the wage and demand requirements. The information will be presented by RealTime Talent.
- Midway Area Job Fair - June 18, 10am-2pm at Allianz Field. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual job fair. New this year is the Tech Skills & Resource Corner with 6-8 providers having resources to help access training and on-line applications.
- Youth Spring Networking - May 29, 2-4:30pm at the Battle Creek Regional Park. This is an event hosted twice a year by the Youth Committee to bring everybody together who is working in support of Ramsey County's youth.

*2024 Annual Report Metrics:* Milbrandt shared some preliminary metrics that were received from the WIB's annual report. The report went out early April and lives on Ramsey County's open data portal. Both the main page and the WIB page received the most views. The hope is that the number of views overall will grow a bit over the course of the year as the county continues to promote the report throughout the year. The ask is to have WIB members help promote the annual report. The links for the report as well as additional program data will be provided in the follow up email. Milbrandt consults with the county's Communications department and they advise on where the prime areas to promote.

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### **Staff Updates**

Milbrandt shared:

- CareerForce Activities: Recently the CareerForce was moved from the previous location in the Midway Area into the Metro Square building in downtown Saint Paul. An open house will happen this summer, in conjunction with the grand opening of the county's expanded Service Center, which will be directly across the hall. A number of other events are taking place in the new CareerForce space, such as tours, Employer of the Day and tabling opportunities for partners.
- Ramsey County Re-platforming Project: Ramsey County is going through a re-platforming project of the public website which will enhance search accessibility

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### **Other**

No further items discussed.

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### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59pm.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2-3pm via Zoom