

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2019

3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

James McClean (via phone)
Greg Mellas
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson
Shannon Watson

Absent:

Ryan Hauschild
Clarence Hightower-EA

Staff/Guests:

Leon Boeckermann, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Mellas/Watson) to approve the November 8, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Mullan read the statement aloud. Copies of the statement were distributed for the members to sign.

Testimony Training & 2019 Session Preview

Mullan provided a summary of the December 10, 2018 event attended by Mullan, Watson and Milbrandt. The training, sponsored by the Association of MN Counties, included a preview of the upcoming legislative session and an opportunity for attendees to act as testifiers in a mock legislative hearing.

Federal Farm Bill

Mullan announced that the Farm Bill, which includes the reauthorization of SNAP, passed through Congress in December. Changes to the SNAP Employment and Training program in the Bill include:

- Reduces the percentage of SNAP-eligible populations that states can exempt from work requirements from 15% to 12%
- Requires that WIBs be consulted on the development of SNAP E&T programs
- Funding increased from \$90 million to \$104 million

Clarification is need on what is meant by “Establishes workforce partnerships as a non-government option for SNAP participants to fulfill their work requirements”. It was suggested that Probert be invited to a future meeting to give another SNAP update.

Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Platform and Advocacy Plans

The committee reviewed the MAWB (formerly the Minnesota Workforce Council Association) 2019 State Legislative Platform. Mullan reported that a Day on the Hill event is being planned. Details will be shared with the committee when available. Mellas passed out a copy of the MN State Colleges and Universities FY2020-2021 budget request which included \$15 million to address the workforce gap. There was concern that this does not appear to be coordinated through the public workforce system and conflicts with the coordination supported by MAWB.

2019 WIB Policy Statements

A draft of the WIB’s 2019 legislative priorities was reviewed and each line discussed. The following decisions were made:

- The 2017 placement and training data will be updated with 2018 figures when available.
- The first and second statements will be left as is.
- Third statement regarding the development of technical track options in high schools – add a fourth bullet stating, *“Supporting legislation to reduce the time requirements for qualified CTE instructors who possess industry experience to obtain teaching licensure”*.
- Add a fourth statement – *“Support efforts to ensure that every Minnesotan is counted in the 2020 Census by:*
 - *promoting the work of the Minnesota Demographic Center and Ramsey County; and*
 - *supporting coordination with and sufficient funding from the federal and state government.*
- Add a fifth statement – *“Support additional funding for career pathways training in high demand industries with long term employment opportunities that meet employer needs”*.
- Add a sixth statement – *“Help address economic disparities in the state by:*
 - *Supporting updates to the income formulas for public assistance eligibility to minimize the impact of benefits cliffs”*.
- To emphasize the WIB’s focus on diversity and inclusion, the first paragraph under “The WIB exists to:” will be split apart and the last two sentences of that paragraph will be moved to the top of the document, directly under the Mission/Vision statement.
- With the recent passage of the Farm Bill, no statement on the SNAP E&T program will be added.

Milbrandt will incorporate these changes into the document and email the revised version to the committee members for final review. It will then be shared with the Integration/Business Services and Youth Committees before going to the Executive Committee and full WIB for approval.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.