

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
3:00pm - 4:00pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Jonathan Banks
Lisa Guetzkow
James McClean
Camila Mercado Michelli
Sheila Olson
John (JP) Perlich
Donna Rapacz

Absent:

Hanna Getachew-Kreusser-EA

Staff/Guests:

Karyn Berg, Ramsey County
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County
Catrice O'Neal, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Perlich called the meeting to order at 3:06pm. Rapacz read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval of March Minutes

Motion (Rapacz/Olson) to approve the March 12, 2025, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan Updates

Legislative Updates: O'Neal provided an update that the request to extend use of direct appropriation dollars for the delivery of the Tech Squad has been approved. The other priority that Ramsey County is committed to aligns with the Driver's License Academy program, supporting a bill that YouthPrise was bringing forward to have driver's licenses identified as a credential for employment for young people. This bill did not go through so they are pre-planning to bring it again and the county will continue to support it. Regional priorities include increased funding for the MN Youth Program; establishing a floor for the Dislocated Worker (DW) program (this program gets what is remaining in the Workforce Development Fund after appropriations); and defining "credentials" in the House Workforce Omnibus Bill to include licenses and certificates. Additional updates included a decrease to the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant; Drive for 5 has either been eliminated or fully decreased into the next biennium; and changes to the Youth at Work program language that DEED administers to expand eligibility criteria for local organizations. Perlich and Banks shared there might be at least one special session if not multiple special sessions and extra time is going to be needed on some bills.

Federal Funding: O'Neal shared that the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards is working to respond on three concurrent processes: ongoing WIOA reauthorization, 90-day review of workforce development programs for administrative reforms, and appropriations process moving through Congress now that the Trump administration has made its budget proposal.

WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Dashboard: Berg shared DW and WIOA Adult wage outcome data for 2024, stating that the actual wages exceeded the negotiated goal in both programs. Compared to last year, the Adult program numbers are slightly down. This could be due to the fact that the individuals in the program are different from year-to-year, and they are pursuing different types of employment along with different backgrounds. The numbers for last year and this year for DW are relatively the same. Occupational placement data was also shared, using ONET codes which is a way for categorizing occupations. Areas of top occupations for DW were management, financial and transportation. For the Adult program, healthcare support, computer and mathematical, personal care and service, and business and financial operations were the top occupations areas.

Staff Updates

Milbrandt shared the following:

Upcoming Event

- Drive for 5: Unlocking High-Growth Career Pathways Webinar: May 15, 9:30-10:30am, addressing each of the Drive for 5 sectors' top five gateway careers which meet the wage and demand requirements of Drive for 5. This event is sponsored by the metro area workforce boards. A link will be added to the follow-up email.
- Midway Area Job Fair: June 18, 10am-2pm at Allianz Field. This is the fifth annual job fair in the Midway and county's largest job fair of the year. New this year is Tech Skills and Resource Corner. A link with more details will be added to the follow-up email.
- May Tech Month: A Tech Month landing page has been created with resources and events taking place throughout the month. The Tech Committee is sponsoring two tours of leading tech companies – US Bank and BetterYou. WIB members are encouraged to visit the webpage.

Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 3-4pm