

**General Membership Meeting
December 2, 2021 2:30-4:00pm
Meeting Minutes**

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Adesewa Adesiji
Shym Cook
Chris Duffy
Catherine Fair
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Lidiya Girma
Lisa Guetzkow
Scott Herold
Susan Jambor
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Cindy Larson
Tony Lusiba
James McClean
Jim McDonough
Yolanda McIntosh
Camila Mercado
Sean Mullan
Paul Nikstad
Sheila Olson
Tim O'Neill
Elizabeth Pacunas
Koami Pedado
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Mary Russell
Trish Stevens
Chris Tolbert
Carly Voshell
Ramona Wilson

Members Absent

Robert Blake
Becky Degendorfer-EA
Donald Mullin
Gaye Adams Massey-EA
Julie Thiel-EA
Tanya Velishek-EA
Tracy Wilson

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mickey Breeze, Right Track Youth
Norma Carrer, Right Track Youth
Esteban Castillo, Bridgemakers
Jane Graupman, International Institute of MN
Rocko Hale, Right Track Youth
Andres Kainz, Right Track Youth
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Antonio Montez, Ramsey County Racial
Melissa Porter, Ramsey County Human Services
Jasmine Rowe, Right Track Youth
Monse Sanchez, Right Track Youth
Melody Santana-Marty, Ramsey County
Cole Stevens, Bridgemakers
Adam Yust, City of Saint Paul

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:30pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests who join us today.
- Welcome to new member Shym Cook, Field Operations Manager with DEED. Shym will have an opportunity to introduce herself in a few minutes.
- Section 13D.021 of the Open Meetings Law makes it possible for the WIB to have meetings via telephone or other electronic means when an in-person meeting is "not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under chapter 12." Under these circumstances, the law requires that all votes be taken by roll call. We plan to do this through the chat rather than a voice roll call. After each motion, please respond with a YES or NO in the chat so your vote can be recorded.

- Article 8 of the WIB's Bylaws state that "...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member". If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today's agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. Due to the pandemic, all meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are posted on the WIB's webpage.
- The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 2:30. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as Chair of the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County (WIB), I have determined that in-person meetings are not practical or prudent at this time. Unless the COVID numbers shift dramatically, the February meeting will be via Zoom

Land Acknowledgement

Kim read the land acknowledgement.

New Member Introduction: Shym Cook, DEED

Kulas introduced Cook. She then introduced herself and shared a brief description of her work at DEED Job Service. She is excited to be part of WIB.

Approve Consent Agenda

- **December Meeting Agenda**
- **June Meeting Minutes**
- **WIB Financial Report**
- **2202 WIB Budget**
- **2202 Meeting Schedule**

Becker introduced Santana-Marty, the new Finance Manager. She also presented the WIB Financial Report for September/October 2021 and the 2022 meeting schedule. Becker and Santana-Marty reviewed the 2022 WIB proposed budget.

Motion (Nikstad /Stevens) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by vote in the chat.

Afghan Resettlement

Becker gave a general overview on refugees and the Afghan Resettlement. She then introduced Graupman, Executive Director of the International Institute of Minnesota (IIMN). Graupman gave an overview of the services and resources available to immigrants and refugees to achieve their goals of a new life in our community in becoming independent. The United States and, especially Minnesota, has a strong history of humanitarianism. IIMN is one of five resettlement agencies in Minnesota helping to resettle more than 50,000 refugees throughout the country. To date, IIMN has already resettled more than 359 Afghans. The federal government does not pay the entire cost of resettlement, so IIMN relies on donations. While financial support is always a desire, the most important aspect is making the refugees feel welcome in the community by being respectful and supportive as immigration is how to build the labor force.

Right Track Plus Program

Becker thanked Molenaar, the community-based organizations and the employer partners for all their work on this program. Molenaar shared various events at which the interns participated. Becker stated the Right Track Plus interns completed a 15-week paid internship with more than 50 businesses, nonprofits and government organizations. In addition to being paid, interns received mentorship, professional development opportunities, career counseling/case management and support services. Twenty interns were placed with ten Ramsey County departments and more than 50 interns worked within 12 departments at the City of Saint Paul. A total of 212 interns completed internships.

Three employers (Ramsey County, Digital Media Institute and CLUES) and a couple of their interns shared about their experiences and opportunities by being involved in this program. This was a new opportunity for organizations to foster diverse talent and support young people. Exciting news is that a couple of the hosted organizations made job offers to their interns.

Youth Services RFP

Becker explained the upcoming RFP and the timeline which focuses on the WIOA and the MN Youth Programs. The hope is to have the youth be on the forefront for this project with the help of Bridgemakers. This is an opportunity for youth engagement and to hear from young people about what they want and need to help with their education and career pathways. Workforce Solutions is partnering with Bridgemakers and Culture Brokers to design a community engagement process with feedback loops. Becker stated the process started in late September with the Bridgemakers team. Online survey results were obtained, and youth workshops were designed and conducted in late September. Becker shared some of the survey results and explained the next steps. Stevens explained the origin and purpose of Bridgemakers. He highlighted the work they have done around youth unemployment. Castillo shared additional workshop survey results and themes.

Director Updates

Due to time, Becker will provide email updates on the following items:

- *WIB Action Planning*
 - *EDA Good Jobs Challenge*
 - *Year End Thank you:* Becker expressed a huge thank you to the WIB and committee members for contributing over 650 hours in 2021.
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Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2022, 2:30-4pm.