

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
December 5, 2019, 2:30-4:30
Meeting Minutes

WIB Members Present

Elena Gaarder
Lisa Guetzkow
Kristin Guild
Chad Kulas
Cindy Larson
Karin McCabe
James McClean
Sean Mullan
Don Mullin
Paul Nikstad
Sheila Olson
Koami Pedado
Tanya Velishek
Carly Voshell
Shannon Watson
Brooke Walker
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Toni Carter-EA
Dillon Donnelly-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA
Larry Gilbertson-EA
Butch Howard-EA
Gaye Adams Massey-EA
Sheri Riemers-EA
Chris Tolbert

Staff/Guests Present

Ilyas Ali, DEED
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Becky Degendorfer, Baldinger Bakery
Liz Jennings, DEED
Angelica Klebsch, CLUES
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Beth Pacunas, Saint Paul Public Housing
Mary Russell, Community
Holly Schnetzler, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Karin McCabe called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. Angelica Klebsch, Sr. Director of Policy and Community Development, shared information about the programs and services offered at CLUES and provided a tour of their facility.

Announcements

McCabe read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests.
- Thank you to Ruby Lee, Camilla Mercado Michelli and the staff at CLUES for hosting today's meeting.
- Welcome to new WIB members Tanya Velishek from Fairview Health Services and Lisa Guetzkow from Workforce Solutions.
- We also welcome Hyon Kim from MN Best Inc., Becky Degendorfer from Baldinger Bakery and Tony Lusiba from Gopher Resource, who have applied for membership.
- We are actively recruiting new WIB business members. If you know of an individual or organization that would be a good fit for our Board, please send their contact information to Ling and we will follow up with them on your behalf. Please keep our focus on diversity in mind.
- 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.
- The next WIB meeting is February 6, 2020 from 2:30-4:30 at the YWCA of Saint Paul.

Director's Report

DOL Youth Audit Update: Becker reported that the WIB's business membership still needs to be brought into compliance. A membership application was received yesterday, bringing the number of vacancies to three. Becker asked members to consider those in their networks who may want to be appointed.

Ramsey County Youth Works!: Becker shared information about a new initiative promoting the value of youth working. The steering committee established a three-year plan with the first year centered on awareness, year two on acknowledgement and year three on action. Some of the activities that will take place in the first year are a bi-monthly newsletter, a resource guide for youth employment agencies, a youth employment award for an outstanding youth employing business and a series of community conversations that will inform a toolkit. A list of 7-10 tenants of youth employment is being developed in hopes of getting 100 organizations to sign on in support. WIB members will also have the opportunity to pledge support.

2020 Youth Cohorts: Becker explained that a series of youth cohorts is being launched in response to low enrollment in the WIOA Youth program. This model allows Workforce Solutions to work with groups of kids who have common interests and with other youth serving partners. A list of cohorts taking place before June 2020 was provided.

Outreach to Schools Update: Becker reported that three interns are working now and two more will be added in January.

OSO Training: The OSO is hosting a free, half day training for front line staff on de-escalation and serving those with disabilities. The National Alliance on Mental Illness and Vocational Rehabilitation will be the presenters.

Employer Training Listening Session: A flyer with details on an employer listening session was provided. The event is being held at the Ramsey County Library in Maplewood and will focus on learning about employer training needs to ensure training dollars are being directed to the right areas.

Workforce Solutions Community Engagement 2020 Plan: Ramsey County and Workforce Solutions have been engaged in an initiative to increase community engagement. A robust communications plan is being developed for 2020 and includes a feedback mechanism for everyone who receives workforce services.

Approve Consent Agenda

December Meeting Agenda

October Meeting Minutes

2020 WIB Meeting Schedule

Motion (Mullan/T. Wilson) to approve the consent as presented. Motion carried.

Guild suggested having a WIB meeting at Junior Achievement.

WIB Financial Report

Becker stated that all expenses are routine. There is some salary savings in WIB support.

Motion (Mullan/Watson) to approve the September/October 2019 financial reports as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

2020 WIB Budget

Becker noted that the MFIP/WIOA allotments have been combined into one line item. Salary savings and underspending from 2019 have left more money for use on strategic priorities in 2020. This will give the committees some flexibility when considering initiatives they want to undertake.

Motion (Kulas/Mullin) to approve the 2020 WIB Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

WIB Strategic Plan Update

Becker provided an overview of the preliminary plan document which is more of a one year work plan within the framework of strategic thinking. The committees were reset so that the Policy Committee now has an oversight function, the Integration Committee is now called the Partnerships and Equity Committee and the Business Services Committee is focusing on Communications and Outreach. Becker explained that each committee will have at least one lead role and several supporting roles that are linked

to the WIB's identified strategic outcomes. The committee's work plans will feed into a strategic outcomes dashboard so that progress can be tracked. Becker hopes that by February the full plan will be ready for review and approval by the WIB.

Table Talks

Becker explained that the Executive Committee would like to better understand what WIB members want to learn more about in 2020. Members broke into small groups to discuss the following questions:

What goal(s) does your organization have for 2020?

What is a topic related to workforce development that you are curious about and would like to learn more about in 2020?

Some of the suggested learning topics were:

- How to identify the right skills for job seekers that will enable them to better find jobs and careers
- Developing a comprehensive list of barriers for employers in finding qualified employees (transit, childcare, language)
- Child care costs and how this relates to employment
- How technology is affecting jobs
- How to work with Gen Z in the workforce
- Employment wages
- Transportation
- How to do outreach to disconnected people who have taken themselves out of employment
- What work is being done to address implicit and explicit biases
- Diversity and how employers are addressing and targeting nontraditional populations

Workforce Issues in the Upcoming Legislative Session - Sen. Foug Hawj

Senator Foug Hawj: McCabe introduced Senator Foug Hawj. He shared details about his life growing up in Laos. Senator Hawj also mentioned his committee work and the upcoming 2020 legislative session. Although this is a bonding year, there will be some budget discussions and focus on policy issues. Projects impacting this area are the 3rd Street bridge, which is tied to workforce in that it is an important connection to downtown. Senator Hawj also expressed support for policies that strengthen the ability of people of color to enter the trades. WIB members shared their appreciation for his leadership. Walker encouraged the Senate to remove transportation barriers to work such as escalating traffic violation fines and fees.

Other

A photo of the WIB for the 2019 Annual Report was taken.

Goodwill is having its 100th anniversary celebration on Tuesday at 4pm.

The City of Saint Paul approved TIF funding for the Ford site. This project could include 14,500 construction jobs.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

The next WIB meeting is February 6, 2020 at the YWCA of Saint Paul - 375 Selby Avenue, St. Paul