

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
April 4, 2019
Meeting Minutes

WIB Members Present

Elena Gaarder
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Butch Howard
Chad Kulas
Cindy Larson
Gaye Adams Massey
Karin McCabe
James McClean
Don Mullin
Paul Nikstad
Sheila Olson
Kate Probert
Sheri Riemers
Jennifer Roettger
Chris Tolbert
Shannon Watson
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Toni Carter-EA
Michael Fondungallah
Larry Gilbertson-EA
Kristin Guild-EA
Sean Mullan-EA
Mary Russell-EA
Anivuín Xiong

Staff/Guests Present

Jodi Bantley, Metropolitan State University
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Brianna Beier, University of Minnesota
Dillon Donnelly, DAC Industries
Jim Durdle, East Side Employment Exchange
Lidiya Girma, Ramsey County
Mike Grecs, University of Minnesota
Max Holdhusen, Ramsey County
Yugie Hou, University of Minnesota
Eva Song Margolis, East Side Employment Exchange
Rebecca Milbrandt, WIB Staff
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Elizabeth Pacunas, Public Housing Agency
Rosemary Parker, University of Minnesota
Robbie Seltzer, East Side Employment Exchange
Brooke Walker, CAPRW
Dunn Yoshitani, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Karin McCabe called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. She introduced the new Executive Director, Ling Becker. Becker shared information about herself, her background and her vision for the WIB.

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 Sheila Olson and the staff of Goodwill-Easter Seals for hosting today's meeting.
- Mike Lang has taken a new position within DEED and will now be the Workforce Development Field Operations Area Manager for suburban Hennepin and Anoka Counties. We wish Mike the best in his new job!
- Welcome to Cindy Larson and Sheri Riemers. Cindy took over for Mike Lang. She brings a wealth of knowledge to DEED and to the WIB, having worked for United Health Group, Goodwill-Easter Seals and TBI Metro Services. Sheri is the Government Relations Director at the Ain Dah Yung Center, an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless American Indian youth located in Saint Paul.
- Clarence Hightower from Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) has submitted his resignation. Brooke Walker, Programs Director for CAPRW has applied to fill his seat on the WIB.
- Dillon Donnelly from DAC Industries has applied for WIB membership. Dillon was also a member of Saint Paul's Minimum Wage Ordinance Task Force.
- We are actively recruiting new WIB members, particularly 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 Becky and we will follow up with them on your behalf. Please keep our focus on diversity in mind when considering members who may be a good fit for our Board.

- The statewide CareerForce launch week originally scheduled for April 15-19 has been delayed. Watch for more CareerForce information in the coming weeks.
- Copies of the WIB/WFS Annual Report are available on the counter. Please consider taking a few copies to share within your organization and in your networks.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any/all committee meetings. In addition to being sent in the WIB meeting packets, committee meeting minutes are available on the WIB website.
- A current list of all community organizations under contract with Workforce Solutions is available. Please see Becky if you would like to review the list.
- 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 June 6, 2019. Watch for more details about this meeting.

Approve Consent Agenda

April Meeting Agenda

December Meeting Minutes

2019 WIB Meeting Schedule

PY 2019 Unified Local Youth Plan

2019 WIB Policy Statements

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

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

McCabe reminded members who have not already done so, to sign and return the form to Milbrandt.

WIB Financial Reports

Becker reported that all expenses are routine.

Motion (Mullan/T. Wilson) to approve the November/December 2018 and January/February 2019 financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2019 WIB Budget

Becker reviewed the proposed 2019 WIB Budget. McCabe explained that although the 2019 budget is balanced, the Executive Committee is working on a new, sustainable funding model for 2020. More information will be shared as that work continues.

Motion (Watson/Germain) to approve the 2019 WIB Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resilient Communities Transportation Barriers Focus Group

Holdhusen provided a summary of the Resilient Communities project and then introduced Dr. Rosemary Parker, the professor leading the transportation barriers project. Parker shared an overview of the work her students have engaged in during the semester followed by presentations by two students on the results of their research. Beier shared information gathered during focus group sessions and Hou reported on her independent research. Parker invited WIB members to share additional input on ways to address transportation barriers through discussion at today's meeting or via email at a later time. Gaarder suggested the students interview residents facing transportation barriers. Howard described the van service available to airport employees working early and late shifts. The service is a partnership between Ramsey County, the airport and the employee which has expanded to three vans and may expand into Minneapolis soon. Greco explained that the students have another month to complete their work. The final report will be shared with the WIB.

East Side Employment Exchange

Margolis, Durdle and Seltzer shared information about the Exchange's work to leverage the voices of the community organizations on Saint Paul's east side to engage employers about placing their clients in jobs. The goal is for the Exchange and employers to be true partners. The Exchange provides a full complement of resident services, including financial, and mental health, and is helping businesses find workers. There was agreement that the WIB will continue to receive updates on their work and look for opportunities to collaborate.

Ramsey County Committee Advisory Council

Girma explained that Ramsey County is assessing how it can more effectively engage with members of advisory boards, council and committees, such as the WIB. An online survey was sent to all WIB members with a request for input. There was also a discussion on three key questions:

- Q1. What are some outcomes and impacts that the WIB has seen from its collective work?
- Q2. How would you describe the value of this group to someone who isn't familiar with this work?
- Q3. How have you benefitted personally?

The feedback from the surveys and the discussion at the meeting will be shared with the County Board.

Updates

One-Stop Operator Consortium: Probert reported that the OSO is working to ensure integration within the One-Stop system. Some of the ways this is happening is through the creation of a Pathways to Prosperity training matrix, planning for a conference for WFS and partner agency staff on how to better deliver services to clients, and regular convenings of the One-Stop partners.

Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council: Tolbert reported that Andrea Ferstan has been hired as the Executive Director. Work on establishing the Council's structure and sector academies is making progress. Ramsey County is serving as the fiscal agent through the end of 2019.

NAWB Conference: Kulas talked about his experience at the Conference. He felt the networking and learnings were valuable and noted that other WIBs are facing the same challenges as this Board.

WIB Strategic Plan: Ling presented her vision for the WIB's strategic planning. She suggested the planning start at the June WIB meeting using the resources of Ramsey County's Policy and Planning Department. The meeting will begin at 12:30 with a short business meeting and the remaining time committed to planning. McCabe encourage the WIB to identify fewer, measurable, and attainable goals that the Board can all be proud of.

Committee Reports

Integration/Business Services: No update.

Policy: Watson provided an overview of the meetings with local legislators. Those who attended agreed that every legislator was supportive of the WIB's priorities. The committee plans to continue building closer relationships with local legislators.

Youth: Nikstad reported that Steve Randall was been chosen as the 2019 Vern Vick Award recipient. He also stated that the Youth Plan budget will be updated when the funding allocations are released by federal and state agencies.

Other

McCabe noted that the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce has a six-part equity series coming up that may be of interest to WIB members.

The Midway Chamber recently hosted an excellent event with Tech Dump highlighting their work with ex-offenders.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.

The next WIB meeting is June 6, 2019 at CareerForce Saint Paul.