

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
June 3, 2021 2:30-4:00pm
Meeting Minutes

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer
Chris Duffy
Jennifer Germain
Lisa Guetzkow
Kristin Guild
Susan Jambor
Chad Kulas
Cindy Larson
Channon Lemon
Karin McCabe
James McClean
Jim McDonough
Yolanda McIntosh
Sean Mullan
Camila Mercado Michelli
Paul Nikstad
Sheila Olson
Koami Pedado
Elisa Rasmussen
Julie Thiel
Chris Tolbert
Carly Voshell
Brooke Walker
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Robert Blake
Hyon Kim
Tony Lusiba-EA
Gaye Massey
Don Mullin
Sheri Riemers-EA
Trish Stevens
Tanya Velishek-EA
Ramona Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Ramsey County
Stella Center, Wallin Education Partners
Luke Weisberg, East Side Employment Xchange
Rachel Speck, East Side Employment Xchange

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM. Kulas read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome Eric Garcia Lewis—Regional Outreach Director for the Federal Reserve of Minneapolis.
- Welcome to new member Channon Lemon, VP of Economic Development with the Saint Paul Chamber.
- Certificate of appreciation to Carly Voshell and Karen McCabe for their WIB participation.
- 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. The one exception called out in the bylaws is that all members may vote on the Local Plan, which we will be voting on today. It does not mention the Youth Plan, also being voted on today, so please abstain if needed by typing "Abstain" in the chat.
- 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 Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 2:30 PM. The location is yet to be determined but will likely be through Zoom.

Land Acknowledgement

McCabe read the land acknowledgement.

New Member Introduction: Channon Lemon, St Paul Chamber

Lemon introduced herself and gave a brief description of her work at the St. Paul Chamber.

Approve Consent Agenda

June Meeting Agenda

April Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

Designation of Local Workforce Development Area

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

Inclusive Employer Cohort

Rasmussen presented a summary of the Equity Committee's Inclusive Employer Cohort with the start date potentially in September. The cohort will consist of up to 20 small-to-midsize employers, with 100 employees or less, committed to building a more inclusive workforce and workplace. The committee worked with the Center for Economic Inclusiveness to develop ten 90-minute sessions that will cover hiring practices, retention strategies, culture, leadership development, and a capstone project.

Vern Vick Award Participations

Nikstad introduced the 2021 Vern Vick Award winners, Kenneth Cutler, Paul Ramsour, and Dan Rossiter. He thanked them for the tremendous impact they have had on local youth. The nominators shared about the great work the recipients have been doing.

Wallin Education Partners

Center shared information about Wallin Education Partners, an organization providing a college completion program to lower-income and first-generation citizens. The program has a 91 percent graduation rate and an average duration of six years, which includes a research-based curriculum, data-based decisions, and continuous improvement. The biggest need is for students to build social capital through networking. Becker suggested the WIB hold a networking session with Wallin students at an upcoming WIB meeting.

Dreams Pursued - Eastside Employment Xchange

Speck and Weisberg shared information about East Side Employment Xchange, an organization that seeks to create collaborators from previous competitors and strengthen the ability to place East Side job seekers with East Side work that is equitable. Speck talked about a partnership with Ramsey County which surveyed East Side to find out where they are employed now and where they desire to be employed. The over 400 responses found construction, technology, healthcare, arts and entertainment, and entrepreneurship were the most desired industries. Members were given links to participate breakout group for discussion.

Other

Right Track+: Becker announced the County Board of Commissioners has approved Right Track+ as the first American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project with collaboration between Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul. It is a subsidized internship program and provides professional development opportunities for COVID-impacted youth ages 18 to 24. Becker urged WIB members to ask partners to visit www.ramseycounty.com/arpcontracts. More details are available on www.ramseycount.com/righttrackplus.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

The next WIB meeting is August 5, 2021, 2:30-4pm.