

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**August 6, 2020 2:30-4:30**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Becky Degendorfer  
Jennifer Germain  
Kristin Guild  
Hyon Kim  
Chad Kulas  
Cindy Larson  
Tony Lusiba  
Karin McCabe  
James McClean  
Jim McDonough  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
Sean Mullan  
Don Mullin  
Paul Nikstad  
Sheila Olson  
Koami Pedado  
Elisa Rasmussen  
Sheri Riemers  
Chris Tolbert  
Tanya Velishek  
Carly Voshell  
Brooke Walker  
Shannon Watson  
Ramona Wilson

**Members Absent**

Larry Gilbertson  
Lisa Guetzkow-EA  
Gaye Adams Massey-EA  
Tracy Wilson-EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mohamed Alfash, MNCDHH  
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Sheena Denny, Ramsey County  
Lidiya Girma, Ramsey County  
Mary Sue Hansen, Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative  
Lauren Hunter, MN Dept. of Human Services  
Ellie Krug, Human Inspiration Works  
Becky Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Rachael Molenaar, Ramsey County  
Bob Morse, MidCountry Bank  
Beth Pacunas, Saint Paul Public Housing  
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County  
Mary Russell, Community

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**Call to Order**

Chair Karin McCabe called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

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**Announcements**

McCabe read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners, guests and committee members.
- Welcome to new WIB member Camila Mercado Michelli from CLUES. Camila has been a member of the Youth Committee since September.
- After a short business meeting, Ellie Krug will lead us in a diversity and inclusion training. Thank you to the Partnership and Equity Committee for coordinating this event.
- 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.
- 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.
- A current list of all community organizations under contract with Workforce Solutions is available. Please contact Becky if you would like to review the list.

- 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 current circumstances, all committee 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 regular WIB meeting is October 1 from 2:30-4:30pm. The location is yet to be determined. There is also a special meeting on September 10, 2:30-4:00pm. The WIB will be discussing the County's Economic Development Vision Plan.

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### **Approve Consent Agenda**

#### **August Meeting Agenda**

#### **April Meeting Minutes**

#### **WIB Financial Report**

#### **One-Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding**

#### **2020 SNAP E&T Local Area Plan**

**Motion (Kulas/Watson) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Gilbertson, Guetzkow, Massey and T. Wilson were not in attendance for the vote.**

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### **Director's Report**

*CARES Act Funding:* Becker shared several slides containing statistics on the impacts of COVID-19. Some key points:

- 900,000 people have applied for Unemployment Insurance since March 16. This has leveled off.
- The young, BIPOC communities and those with less education are being disproportionately affected.
- Prior to the pandemic, the unemployment rate in Ramsey County was lower than the metro and state numbers. It is now worse, which indicates the significant impacts on the dominant industries in our community.
- Workforce Solutions (WFS) continues to provide services virtually. On Monday, the county launched six Community Career Labs in partnership with County and Saint Paul Public Libraries. A seventh site at 160 E. Kellogg will open next week. Workforce services will be available at all sites by appointment. DEED has not opened any of its sites for walk in assistance yet but is providing free, online training through Coursera. Flyers with information about the Career Labs, Dislocated Worker program and Coursera trainings will be sent to WIB members to share among their networks.
- WFS is entering into contracts with nearly 100 community organizations to support workforce initiatives with CARES funding. The procurement process has been streamlined to make it easier for these organizations to work with the county.
- CARES funding is being used to provide TechPaks to individuals without access to technology. This is being done in partnership with Tech Dump and Literacy Minnesota. McCabe encouraged businesses to donate retired laptops.

*Other Updates:* A new job board and e-newsletter are being launched. A link to the website will be sent to all WIB members.

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### **Installation of 2020-2022 Chair**

McCabe recognized incoming Chair, Chad Kulas. She shared information about the process for becoming Chair and the leadership roles Kulas has held to date. She also thanked him for his dedication and commitment to the Board. Kulas expressed his excitement for leading this group and acknowledged the importance of the WIB's work at this critical time.

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### **Recognition of Outgoing Chair**

Kulas thanked McCabe for her leadership in advancing racial equity, promoting non-traditional workers in the trades and for leading the WIB during many changing and challenges times. McCabe will receive her engraved gavel soon.

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**Getting Past the Bumpiness: White Fragility and Skin Color**

R. Wilson introduced Ellie Krug. Krug led a 90-minute diversity and inclusion training session focused on race, white privilege and the history of racism in America. The training also included time for small groups to discuss two questions:

1. How and when did you first hear the phrase “white privilege” and what was your initial reaction to that phrase?
2. Have you ever been made to feel “other”? If so, how did it affect you? Has it had a lasting impact on you to this day?

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**Other**

No other items were discussed.

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**Adjourn**

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

The next WIB meetings are September 10, 2:30-4:00pm (Special Meeting)  
October 1, 2:30-4:30pm.