

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
September 10, 2020 2:30-4:00
Meeting Minutes**

WIB Members Present*

Becky Degendorfer
Jennifer Germain
Lisa Guetzkow
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Cindy Larson
Tony Lusiba
Gaye Adams Massey
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
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Kristin Guild-EA

Staff/Guests Present*

Tom Aasheim, Finishing Trades
Mohamed Alfash, MNCDHH
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Tawana Black, CEI
Navo Emanuel, 4th Economy
Martha Faust, Ramsey County
Andrea Ferstan, CEI
Mary Sue Hansen, Suburban Ramsey Family
Collaborative
Kristina Harrold, 4th Economy
Susan Jambor, SPIRE Credit Union
Bob Morse, MidCountry Bank
Rich Overmoyer, 4th Economy
Denetrick Powers, NEOO Partners, Inc
Mary Russell, Community
Maria Zimmerman, MZ Strategies

Call to Order

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. This meeting is an opportunity for the WIB to review and provide input on Ramsey County's Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan.

Welcome & Agenda Review

Faust welcomed the WIB to this discussion and introduced the consulting partners who are working on the Plan.

Planning Process Update

Overmoyer shared some background information on the planning process, noting that equity and economic inclusion are at its core. Workforce is a key component in the economic development ecosystem and the County Board has made investing in people a key element in the Plan.

WIB Update & Innovation Discussion

Becker shared her excitement about the opportunity that the WIB has to help the county make transformative change in the long and short term. She shared data on the labor market shifts that have taken place at an accelerated rate due to COVID, resulting in a greater need for resident training and education. These shifts are having a disproportionate impact on the young, less educated and BIPOC communities. The WIB will be looking at how to best position itself to fill in needs and gaps that aren't being addressed. Becker challenged the WIB to get outside the box of what is federally mandated, and while still doing those

things, also step into the roles of convener, strategist and optimizer around the transformational work of the Inclusion Plan and creation of a crisis plan and a 2-3 year plan.

Workforce Strategy Development

Ferstan shared some promising practices happening across the country as well as some opportunities the WIB and county could consider engaging in over the next couple of years. Attendees then broke into three small groups, each discussing one of these topics: Advancing the Future of Work, Addressing Income Instability, and Barriers and Opportunities to Job Access and Advancement.

Closing and Next Steps

Overmoyer explained that the notes from the small group discussions and the key areas of focus will be shared out next week. McDonough, as a representative of the County Board, committed to be the keeper of the mission to be transformative and bold, and to hold this group accountable for having an impact on our community. Becker thanked everyone for their commitment to this work. She also thanked the consultants for leading today's discussion.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.

The next WIB meeting is Thursday, October 1, 2:30-4:30pm.

* Due to technical issues with the virtual meeting recording, the list of attendees may not be accurate.