

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
2:00-3:00 PM

**Present:**

Joseph Adamji  
Becky Brink Ray  
Chris Duffrin  
Muneer Karcher-Ramos  
Jodi Pincus  
Russ Stark

**Absent:**

Robert Blake  
Donald Mullin-EA  
Elisa Rasmussen-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

In the absence of the chair, Becker called the meeting to order at 2:01pm. O’Phelan read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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**Approve April Minutes**

**Motion (Stark/Karcher-Ramos) to approve the April 12, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

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**Job Fair Updates**

Becker and O’Phelan shared updates on upcoming job fairs. The first two are both being held on May 19:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Construct Tomorrow: O’Phelan stated virtual training was held and radio ads start soon on KFAI and KMOJ. They are arranging for a diverse group of trades people to do a 15-minute interview on KMOJ to speak about their experience in the trades and also to promote the event.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Union Job and Resource Fair at the Freedom Library: Becker stated the WIB, the City and the County are participating and providing funds, door prizes, etc. This fair was promoted to high school students, especially in St. Paul Public Schools. The flyer will be included in follow-up materials and can be shared with your networks. Milbrandt is working with the City’s social media staff to also get the information out.
- Veterans Career Fair: This one is a state-run in-person job fair being held May 18 with over 100 employers at the Earle Brown Heritage Center.

Becker stated plans are in the works for hosting a series of job fairs throughout the summer: two (June and August) at Allianz Field, one in Roseville, and one being hosted by the St. Paul Chamber at Xcel Energy Center in the fall (October) geared towards 10<sup>th</sup> graders. A request is being submitted to the WIB to fund transportation for all sophomores in Ramsey County. Workforce Solutions and the WIB have the capacity to support other job fairs so if there are any suggestions for potential locations, let Becker know.

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**Committee Work Plan/Project Updates**

*ARPA Project Updates:* Becker provided an update on the ARPA work plan and the stages of all the ongoing projects.

- The Ramsey County Early Childhood Academy is building up the daycare workforce, which is in soft-launch implementation.
- The Connectivity Blueprint (Digital Equity) is well on its way, moving into a community engagement phase. This project aligns well with the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) bill.
- The Drivers’ License Academy is in program design phase. The Academy will be the front facing umbrella of the County and City work around helping young people get their licenses. The first stage will focus on 19+ year-olds, primarily because they have less barriers than 18-year-olds and younger. Ujamaa Place is the only site in Ramsey County that can take the permit test outside the

Department of Motor Vehicles. The challenge for Ujamaa is that they haven't leaned into the availability for what they can do because they are missing some of the other components. Ramsey County will start to fund some of these components such as behind the wheel test and the vehicle to take the test. The County will run the Academy.

- Creative Media and Tech is about building a Youth Employment Hub – Road Trip Nation <https://roadtripnation.com/> which will be a landing page for all youth and young adult employment resources. There will be videos made, so if members know any BIPOC entrepreneurs or BIPOC construction workers, contact Becker.
- The LEAP For Opportunity Youth is a model in Hennepin County to help opportunity youth. Ramsey County is releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to bring LEAP into Ramsey County.
- County PLUS Case Management project won't be implemented until fall.
- Learn and Earn (L&E) effort will be specific projects. L&E Tech, like Whole Pathway, is similar to the UX Academy that the city has been doing. What is different is the addition of wealth creation, which will provide seed money to start a business after they finish the UX Academy. L&E Promising Pathways will be the base RFP. It will be released in September. L&E Green Jobs will be rolled into the RFP.
- The No/Low Barrier Jobs: This will be sort of a County-temp agency as the community needs day employment programs. This is targeted toward homeless and justice impacted residents. It is in the program design stage.

*Infrastructure Bill:* Becker recapped the IIA bill presented at a DC conference she recently attended. This bill is to support lasting growth in transportation, water, energy, broadband and other systematic improvements including workforce. Ramsey County will focus on investing in training, upskilling and reskilling, increasing the diversity of the infrastructure workforce and reducing barriers to innovation.

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### **Director Updates**

Becker provided the following updates:

*Fair Opportunities:* This is a series of events around connecting people who have criminal records to employment. The first event will be on May 20 at Saint Paul College, featuring round table discussions and resource sharing on topics such as incarceration numbers, insurance myth-busting, work readiness and employer resources. The other events are planned for June, August and September, all of which are in the planning stages.

*Margaret House:* Brink Ray and O'Phelan talked about the successful May 4th open house of the renovated Margaret House. This renovation was in partnership with Ramsey County and Goodwill-Easter Seals to fix up a historic-registered Saint Paul home with an innovative job training program.

*Building Strong Communities:* This was a special event with 34 individuals ready to enter the trades, who graduated from the Apprenticeship Preparatory Program. Emotional Intelligence should be more of a focus as individuals enter the workforce. The curriculum presented by Twin Cities Rise was excellent.

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### **Other**

No other items were discussed.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 2-3pm