

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2022, 3-4 PM

Present:

Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash
Michelle Belitz
Shym Cook
Becky Degendorfer
Lauren Hunter
Karin McCabe
Yolanda McIntosh
Elisa Rasmussen
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson

Absent:

Mary Russell-EA
Ramona Wilson

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
De’Vonna Pittman, CEI

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Rasmussen shared that she transitioned roles at Xcel Energy as Senior Manager of Community Relations working in St. Paul. Congratulations, Elisa! She will also be transitioning from this committee to the Green Jobs Committee; therefore, a new Equity Chair will be needed. McIntosh read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Degendorfer/McIntosh) to approve the November 15, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Chair Rasmussen asked everyone to review the statement and e-sign and return the form to Milbrandt.

Action Planning

Becker gave a summary of the October action planning session and the work done up to this point. She then introduced Pittman who shared the main points obtained from various small groups during the planning sessions. Committee members then brainstormed action items for the next two years, which resulted in the following:

Equity Committee		
Action	Timing	Strategic Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the changing workforce and workplaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore Hidden Worker Campaign ○ CBO feedback through Convening or Community Conversations 	2022	Systems Alignment and Support Employer Engagement and Support System Innovation Culturally Responsive Leadership
Evaluate and determine on-going commitment to Inclusive Workplaces Cohort	2022	System Innovation Culturally Responsive Leadership
Support Labor Market Information LMI community conversations on specific impacted groups (“Untapped” Series”)	Q1-Q2 2022	System Innovation Culturally Responsive Leadership

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort

Becker stated that the cohorts are moving into the second half of the year.

Director's Updates

Becker provided the following updates:

Hidden Workers Presentation Reactions: Public service agencies face talent challenges. “Hidden Workers” are a pool of potential workers being overlooked. Accenture wanted to find out more about what’s keeping these workers hidden. The survey showed how enhancing public service hiring processes can stop hidden workers from being screened out of job opportunities.

Federal Trial – East Building Relocation Plans: Becker shared Ramsey County’s plans for shifting resident services to Metro Square and staff to Plato over the next six to eight weeks.

Good Jobs Challenge: Becker shared that the Good Jobs Challenge is workforce focused on underserved populations and areas, communities of color, women and other groups facing labor market barriers, serving trainees participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Women, Infants and Children and veterans and military spouses. A Joint Powers Agreement with Hennepin County and the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis was just approved by the Ramsey County Board. Becker also shared a visual explaining how the grant is structured and the timeline.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2022, 3-4pm.