

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 11, 2021, 3:30 – 4:30pm

Present:

Mohamed Alfash
Michelle Belitz
Bob Blake
Becky Degendorfer
Kristin Guild
Lauren Hunter
Karin McCabe
Yolanda McIntosh
Elisa Rasmussen
Tanya Velishek
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson

Absent:

Don Mullin

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Elisa Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves and shared something they are doing during these difficult times to find solace.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Degendorfer/McCabe) to approve the November 2, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Each WIB and committee member is asked to read and sign the Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement each year. Becker asked that the signed forms be sent to Becky Milbrandt by the end of the week.

Board Training Event Proposal

Rasmussen explained that one of the priorities of this committee is to provide continuous diversity, equity and inclusion training for the WIB. She presented a proposal from the Pillsbury House Theater for their Breaking Ice program which could be done virtually in a 60-minute session at a cost of \$3,500. Becker suggested the WIB could invite some community partners or each member bring a guest. Other suggestions included doing this as part of a board retreat or when there is time afterward for additional discussion and requesting that the content be refined/customized for the WIB since some have already seen it. **Motion (McCabe/T. Wilson) to submit a funding request to the Executive Committee for approval. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.** Guild and Degendorfer volunteered to help Rasmussen plan the event.

2021 Initiatives – Center for Economic Inclusion Partnership

Becker shared a slide deck with labor market information showing significant job losses for women, particularly black and Latinx women, in December. Many are mothers who have had to take on school/caretaking responsibilities. The City and County are looking into childcare concerns. Becker is also having RealTime Talent do some work around the childcare career pathway and is talking to the chambers about getting involved in this issue. In the slide deck was also an update on the County's Economic Competitive Inclusion Plan. Some of the key workforce strategies are around young adults and homeless imperatives, entrepreneurship, building on community and aligning with business attraction, retention and expansion.

Employer Toolkit & Inclusive Employer Designation: The Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI) is a partner in the county's vision plan and will work with the Executive Committee and this committee on the WIB's three major equity initiatives: WIB vision planning, the employer toolkit and the inclusive employer effort. CEI will co-create elements of the toolkit and use Ramsey County as the pilot to elevate inclusive employer work. They will come to the next committee meeting to share more details on these efforts. McIntosh agreed to send AGC's Culture of Care initiative toolkit to consider as a possible starting point for the WIB's toolkit. Becker asked committee members to send her any other ideas and resources. She also asked everyone to think about what other small projects they want to add to the 2021 work plan.

Meeting Schedule

Becker proposed changing the meeting schedule to meet monthly on the third Monday from 3-4pm, at least through the summer, and then reassess. In February, the third Monday is a holiday so the meeting will be moved to Tuesday the 16th.

Other

Guild explained that the students from the U of M who came in November would like to come back to present their assessment. This will be added to the February agenda.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 16, 2021 3-4pm.