

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2022, 3-4 PM

Present:

Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash
Michelle Belitz
Karin McCabe
Yolanda McIntosh
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell

Absent:

Becky Degendorfer-EA
Shym Cook-EA
Lauren Hunter
Tanya Velishek
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Russell read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve February Minutes

Motion (Russell/Rasmussen) to approve the February 14, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by vote.

Committee Chair

Becker gave an update on the Committee Chair. Rasmussen is pivoting over to the Constructions-Green Job Committee which is more in line with her new role at Xcel. She will continue to help in the transition. Until another Chair is in place, Becker will ask for volunteers to fill in. If anyone is interested in being the Chair, preferably a business member, please let Becker know and further discussion can be had. Thank you, Rasmussen, for your leadership!

Work Plan Updates

Becker provided an overview of the committee work plan which centers around supporting events. *Inclusive Workplaces Cohort Work Group:* A small group of volunteers (Russell, Newtrax, Phoenix Alternatives) will meet a couple times in the coming weeks to ensure the current cohort is going well, determine how to showcase the cohorts' efforts and look at whether another cohort should be considered by the WIB. Now is the time for any feedback and/or suggestions as the group proceeds. The Center for Economic Inclusion is starting to move the cohort toward their individual projects. Discussion was had on the need to assess. This Committee should come up with a plan on how to assess after the fact and making sure there is a feedback loop.

Untapped Event Series Next Steps and Assignments: These events are to dive deeper into the workforce disparities of specific population. Discussion centered around collaborating with the Partnership & Outreach Committee and their recommendations. Along with the black, those with disabilities and the Hispanic communities, there was discussion around including the Native community in the event and having the capstone with Dr. Hobart, rather than being data specific more of a panel discussion. Other suggestions were Mason's Training Center, Mulki Go Feathers and WIB member Riemers. The work events group (McIntosh, Hunter and McCabe) will do the planning and help kick off the event, welcoming participants, explaining the role of the WIB, review data, etc. It was decided that these events will be pushed out which might help to compile a list of potential untapped communities and the time to review the data to help drive decisions. In addition, the idea of having the State Demographer kick off in August was of interest. Decisions should be made by July to allow time to implement and promote. Other populations to consider were LGBTQ and the deaf/hard of hearing (working with ThinkSelf). Dr.

Mohamed's article on the disability prevalence and employment characteristics will be shared. Next step will be a joint meeting with the Partnership & Outreach Committee in May.

Director's Updates

Becker will provide an update on ARPA Funding highlighting the co-investments the county and city are making together.

Other

Russell provided a short update on the cohorts

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2022, 3-4pm.