

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2022, 3-4 PM

Present:

Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash
Michelle Belitz
Shym Cook
Becky Degendorfer
Lauren Hunter
Aalayha Robb
Mary Russell
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson

Absent:

Shym Cook-EA
Karin McCabe-EA
Yolanda McIntosh
Ramona Wilson

Staff/Guests:

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

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

In the absence of a chair, Becker called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Russell read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Degendorfer/Hunter) to approve the September 19, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Action Plan Strategies Status Update: Becker provided a status update on the action plan strategies for this Committee.

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort: Becker shared the proposed scope, timeline, eligibility, application and process of the proposed second cohort with the Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI). Discussion took place around the focus of the proposed sessions. There was support for going back to CEI and asking them to add additional emphasis on people/workforce and employee life cycle and less on the other aspects of the five Ps (people, procurement, policy, philanthropy and products). Once updated by CEI, the session outline will be sent to Degendorfer and Hunter for final review before being published.

Discussion continued about the eligibility requirements and whether to include nonprofits. It was decided that the communications will use the term “businesses”, but nonprofits could be accepted if they apply. Another discussion was held around the application questions. It was decided that questions 1 and 2 will be merged to place less emphasis on businesses already having an equity plan since that could dissuade people from applying. Becker asked for volunteers to be part of the application review committee. Thank you Degendorfer, Russell and Wilson for volunteering to be on that subgroup.

Untapped Talent Event: Becker shared that this event will be retooled to a bigger disaggregated data event. She suggested there be a community advisory committee of partners to offer guidance and support for the event. Suggestions for organizations to be on the committee were African American Leadership Forum, Hmong American Partnership, CLUES, Prosperity Ready, and Empowered. Since there is limited data for American Indian, it might be a good idea to have testimonials from that population and maybe students. Becker will reach out to volunteers to be part of the advisory committee. The hope is to have the event some time in May at St. Paul College.

Director’s Updates

ARPA Updates: Becker provided updates on:

- Phase 1 of the Drivers Academy and the resources to help navigate the process.
- Ramsey County being selected to participate in the Brookings Metro Transforming Cities Lab, an initiative to promote experimentation and piloting of new ideas and practices through a series of

meetings and educational sessions. The hope is to align some of the WIB's investments and to partner with the county's ARPA dollars to make use of the learnings on a system-wide level.

Other

Becker shared a video featuring National Disability Employment Awareness month in October.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Next Meeting November 14, 2022, 3-4pm