

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7:30am - 9:00am
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present

Susan Jambor
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Rena Moran
Don Mullin
Sean Mullin
Paul Nikstad
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell
Chris Tolbert

Members Absent

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Kat Choumboua, Workforce Solutions
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Kulas called the meeting to order at 7:32am and read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Nikstad/Rasmussen) to approve the November 16, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Kulas noted that WIB and committee members are asked to read and sign the acknowledgement each year and shared the full policy with the committee. Becker asked that committee members send the signed form back to Milbrandt if they had not yet done so.

WIB Financial & Strategic Funds Reports and Amended 2023 WIB Budget

Becker shared information on the County's fiscal team consolidation. She provided an update on the November and December 2022 Financial Report. Milbrandt noted the WIOA & MFIP Admin Allotment and levy have been collected for the year. The Direct WIB Support is larger this time due to an accounting issue on the percentage for both Milbrandt and Macalus. All other expenses are routine. Becker also shared the supplemental budget report for strategic priorities and provided detail as to the approved/planned uses of the budget. Most of the current requests are for events and community outreach. Additional requests for strategic priority money for broader approval by this committee are shared below. Becker explained the proposed 2023 budget will be brought to the WIB next week. Milbrandt explained the carryover amount.

Funding Requests: Event Support and Right Tract Intern

Becker explained that a request of \$40,000 in WIB strategic priority funds to support industry focused events and to cover direct expenses and marketing support to reach local businesses and disconnected job seekers will be on the February WIB agenda. A request of \$4,000 to host a Right Track intern again this year will also be on the consent agenda for approval by the WIB.

Membership

WIB Demographics Dashboard: Becker provided an update on her meetings with the noted prospects in filling WIB vacancies. She will follow up on prospective applicants. Milbrandt reviewed the membership dashboard indicating the information has been transitioned over to the County's Open Data Portal.

Ratification of Committee Appointment: Gerdin: Rasmussen shared that Gerdin would like to move from the Youth to the Equity Committee.

Motion (Jambor/Nikstad) to ratify the WIB Chair’s appointment of Gerdin to the Equity Committee. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Updates

Meeting Recaps: Becker provided a quick summary of the committees’ activities, noting the Equity Committee is ready to launch the second Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. Lusiba provided an update on the in-person Tech meeting around the IT talent gaps and the data compiled by RealTime Talent. Nikstad gave an update on the Vern Vick award.

2023 WIB Policy Statements: Becker shared the 2023 legislative priorities of the MN Association of Workforce Boards(MAWB). Mullan provided an update on the revised WIB policy documents that the Policy & Oversight Committee discussed at their meeting last week. The Policy Statement was amended to focus on WIB Funding Priorities and included two areas from the MAWB platform: increase funding for the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) and funding to support business-led talent solutions to meet workforce needs and support an equitable economic recovery. The candidate introduction sheet was renamed to Legislator WIB Introduction and Policy Statements which was revised to expand beyond WIB background to include the WIB policy statements. The statements were simplified and support for fair opportunities hiring was added. The 2023 Policy Statements will be on the consent agenda for approval at the WIB meeting next week.

Director’s Updates

American Rescue Plan Act: Becker provided an update on the Connectivity Blueprint. Ramsey County is looking at digital equity as a basic need along with housing, food and access to healthcare. A steering committee was formed to engage in the Connectivity partnership. The four recommendation areas are to build awareness around this topic not as an issue about infrastructure but about the people: devices, ability to stay connected and the digital literacy.

Oversight of CareerForce Saint Paul and Relocation Exploration: Becker provided an overview of the CareerForce responsibilities of providing Employment Services (ES) programs. DEED previously met with WIB leaders as part of a series of statewide engagement visits to discuss the evolving models for DEED’s ES programs and staff. The “lemonade” model of service delivery needs to be enhanced. Becker shared that the WIB has mandatory oversight responsibilities of service delivery at CareerForce in Saint Paul. Given these responsibilities, Becker shared a plan to garner input, data and ensure effectiveness at the CareerForce location and indicated the opportunity to explore relocation (the current lease expires in January 2025) and the opportunity to optimize new service delivery models. She shared the proposed next steps of a new model on behalf of the WIB’s oversight responsibilities.

Business Networking Event at 3M Advanced Training Center: Becker reminded the committee of the Career Pathways event today from 4-6pm

February WIB Meeting: Becker recapped the agenda for next week’s meeting.

Program Snapshots: City-County Youth Efforts

Introductions were made of the Youth team. Becker shared Covid challenges for youth and young adults, and the new model under Youth Works! Belitz explained that the goal of the Youth team is to balance program compliance with the participant services in being collaborative, communicative, proactive, positive and supportive with strong processes/tools. Mahr gave an overview of the WIOA and MYP programs and the program providers. Becker recapped the Youth Committee role of supporting local youth and young adults. She briefly shared the MYP participant spotlight through Hmong American Partnership. Becker recapped the Youth Plan which will be on the Consent Agenda for approval at the WIB meeting next week. Youth team members highlighted ARPA program work: Molenaar recapped the Learn & Earn proposals; Cobbs and Choumboua recapped both the Public Sector Academy and Driver’s License Academy. Becker and Gill shared information on the new Power Within Us project in coordination with Ramsey County Community Corrections and the judicial system. Young people have been involved in the

program design, which will be launched in March. Much of this work has come out of the work done with Brookings Institute. In addition, an application to the Department of Labor was submitted for technical assistance to further the work.

Other

Becker welcomed Commissioner Moran. Moran shared her background and is excited to work the WIB.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7:30-9:30am.