

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 7:30-9:00 AM
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present

Chris Duffy
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Karin McCabe
Jim McDonough
Sean Mullan
Paul Nikstad
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell
Chris Tolbert

Members Absent

Ramona Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 7:32am. Rasmussen read the Land Acknowledgement.

Approve May Minutes

Motion (McDonough/Nikstad) to approve the May 26, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

WIB Financial Report

Becker explained the May/June financial report will be presented at the next WIB meeting.

Construction/Green Jobs Committee

Becker proposed the creation of a new committee focused on the construction and green jobs industry. A group, which includes some WIB members, has been meeting for some time so formalizing this work under the WIB makes sense. Don Mullin has agreed to serve as committee chair.

Motion (Nikstad/Rasmussen) to approve the creation of a new Construction-Green Jobs Committee. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

CareerForce Saint Paul

Becker gave an update on CareerForce, including Commissioner Grove's outlines on a new direction for Job Service. Staff in the Career Labs will provide basic career services by appointment-only from 10am-2pm, M-F. Members of the committee discussed the changes and the proposed new hours of operation. It was decided to wait and see the full details of the new plan before taking any further actions.

Director Updates

Future WIB and Committee Meeting Formats: Becker shared the new meeting format for the committees and the full WIB. The WIB and Executive Committee will be in-person starting in August. The other committees can continue to meet remotely since they don't make up a quorum of the WIB and don't have decision making authority.

Midway Area Job Fair and Future Job Fairs: Becker shared the success of the Midway Job Fair. Several attendees found employment and most of the 25 employers stated they would like to participate again. Committee members suggested venues for future events, such as Allianz Field, the former Junior Achievement site on White Bear Avenue, and the Conway Rec Center. Becker shared information about a new initiative being done in partnership with Visit Saint Paul and Visit Roseville called Hospitality Future Finders. This initiative is specifically for hospitality and retail employers because these industries

have difficulty finding time for in-person job fairs. A new page on the Ramsey County Means Business site for this initiative includes a hospitality specific job board and tools for employers.

Right Track+/American Rescue Plan Act: Becker explained that the Right Track Plus program is serving over 300 young adults and providing wraparound support and internship experiences with 23 community-based organizations. Members of the committee will receive invitations for the upcoming kickoff event on CHS Field on August 16.

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort: Becker stated that applications to participate in the cohort are now being accepted. The deadline is August 9. Rasmussen will reach out to CEI on what acknowledgments cohort graduates can use on their resume.

Comcast Lift Zones: Becker stated Comcast will be expanding their super Wi-Fi hotspots to 1,000 lift zones over three years. The zones will be housed in existing and new nonprofit partners in low-income neighborhoods. WFS is hosting an informational session on Thursday, July 29 at noon, for partners to learn how organizations can take advantage of this free offer.

August WIB Meeting/Strategic Planning: Becker provided an overview of the funding request to have a strategic planning retreat in place of the October 7 WIB meeting. CEI will present an overview of the details at the September Executive Committee meeting.

Motion (Russell/ Rasmussen) to approve a funding request in the amount of \$2,000 for a strategic planning retreat in October. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Strategic Priorities Dashboard Summary: Becker briefly explained the successful accomplishments of the strategic priorities dashboard and stated a final draft will be presented at the WIB meeting.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 AM.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 22, 7:30-9:00am.