

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 27, 2022, 8:00am - 9:30am  
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

**Committee Members Present**

Chris Duffy  
Chad Kulas  
Tony Lusiba  
Don Mullin  
Sean Mullan  
Elisa Rasmussen  
Mary Russell  
Chris Tolbert

**Members Absent**

Jim McDonough-EA  
Paul Nikstad-EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Lisa Guetzkow, Workforce Solutions  
Natasha Isaac – Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Melody Santana-Marty, Ramsey County  
C.J. Stanton, Workforce Solutions

---

**Introduction**

Introduction of Right Track Intern Natasha Isaac.

---

**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Kulas called the meeting to order at 8:04am and read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

---

**Approve March Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

---

**Committee Meeting Structure & Format**

Becker asked for direction about whether this committee should remain meeting virtually and the preferred start time if it remains virtual. If the committee has items to vote on, the meeting would need to be in person unless items are presented to the full WIB. Everything from the Executive Committee is a recommendation. There is one clause in the bylaws that states the Executive Committee can make decisions on behalf of the full WIB should the full WIB not be able to meet. Overall discussion leaned toward remaining virtual even though it takes a little away for voting by the Executive Committee. Becker will write up a summary and talk with McDonough and then bring it back to this group. Milbrandt will review the bylaws to ensure nothing needs to be changed. Further discussion will be had at the next meeting, which will be virtual and moved to a 7:30am start time.

---

**Funding Request: Training Dashboard Enhancement**

Duffy recapped the enhancements the Partnership & Outreach Committee has provided for the Ramsey County Means Business website. Development cost for the enhancements to Job Connect would be approximately \$4,500.

---

**WIB Financial Report**

Santana-Marty reviewed the May-June 2022 Revenues and Expenditures report. Included in this recap was the newly created Strategic Priorities Supplemental Budget report. There is money remaining to spend if the Committee wants to do future events, sponsorships, etc.

---

**Membership**

*Vacancy Report:* Candidates are needed to replace the vacant business seat previously held by Hunter as well as Duffy and Olson's seats that will open August 1 due to them not seeking reappointment.

*WIB and Committee Dashboard:* Potential prospect were discussed, such as someone from Blue Plate Restaurants. A new recruitment flyer was developed outlining the value of being part of the WIB. It can

be used to recruit Board or committee members. Tolbert will reach out to Blue Plate. Isaac put the numbers together for the Committee Membership dashboard and provided a recap.

---

### **CareerForce Engagement Visit Recap**

Becker gave an update on how DEED is repurposing work throughout the state in the way they operate CareerForce locations. The hope is that the county and state can avoid duplication of efforts.

---

### **Committee Updates**

*Equity/Partnership & Outreach:* A joint meeting of these committee focused on the Untapped Talent events which present de-aggregated employment and education disparities data for the Hmong and Black populations in Ramsey County.

*Equity:* The August WIB meeting will focus on Inclusive Workplaces Cohort and then the Committee's focus will be to design the next cohort.

*Construction Green Jobs:* Becker shared that there was a meeting with the Minnesota Business Vitality Council designed to tackle complex economic development issues.

*Tech:* Lusiba gave a recap of the listening session on challenges to supporting workers and employers due to digital divide and future workforce needs.

*Partnership & Outreach Recruitment Flyer:* Duffy shared the recruitment flyer which focuses on the benefits of being on the Board.

*Youth Committee Updates:* The Committee had an opportunity to hear from Goodwill Easter Seals YouthBuild Program and also reviewed the WIOA Youth Dashboard.

---

### **Director's Updates**

Becker provided the following updates:

*ARPA Update:* St. Paul Mayor Carter hosted a press conference to announce the city's investment of \$15.3 million in workforce; the County previously passed \$9.5 million. The total funding is for high-quality job training programs and workforce initiatives throughout Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Becker also recapped the Driver's License Academy initiative. She also mentioned the Request for Proposal that will focus on gateway occupations, which are jobs in the mid-wage (\$42k/year); low-to-middle skill (typically a certificate, some college or a two-year degree) and moderate-demand steppingstone careers.

*Job Fairs and Other Industry Connection Events:* Not covered at meeting.

*Brookings Institute and Aspen Opportunity:* Not covered at meeting.

*Business Retention and Expansion Survey Pilot:* Not covered at meeting.

*August WIB Meeting:* Reminder that August 11 WIB meeting will be a celebration luncheon recognizing the completion of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort at Minnesota Humanities Center.

---

### **Program Snapshots: Career Services**

Guetzkow and Stanton provided an overview of Career Services highlighting who that team us, what they do and the impact of those services on job seekers.

---

### **Other**

Kulas thanked Duffy for his services on the WIB. He also recognized Becker on her receiving the St. Paul Chamber's Herbie Award.

---

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 8:00-9:30am.

---