

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:30-9:00 AM
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present

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

Members Absent

Chris Duffy

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Holly Pratt, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Kulas called the meeting to order at 7:31am and read the Land Acknowledgement.

Approve January and February Minutes

Motion (Russell/McDonough) to approve the January 27 and February 17, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

WIB Financial Report

Pratt presented the revenues and expenditures for January and February. She noted that some of the reoccurring expenses were not included because they have not been charged through the county system yet. They will be reflected on the next report.

Motion (McDonough/Nikstad) to accept the January/February financial report as presented.

Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

2021-2024 Unified Local Plan

Becker provided an overview of the Local Plan and highlighted the four key Plan themes; expanded use of technology, CareerForce site location change, focus on equity, and COVID-19 pandemic response. Becker confirmed that closure of the North Saint Paul location still aligns with the WIB's federated model since services will be provided at locations in the community, including the suburban area. She acknowledged the panel members who reviewed the Plan: Mary Russell, Mary Sue Hansen, Lauren Hunter, Mee Cheng, and Dr. Mohamed Alfash. Their input lead to adjustments in the responses for questions 11B, 13A, and 14C. Next steps for the Plan are approval by the full WIB on April 1, the County Board on April 20 and then submission to DEED by April 30.

Motion (Russell/McDonough) to recommend approval of the 2021-2024 Unified Local Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Unified Local Youth Plans

Becker explained that both the PY20 and PY21 Plans reflect the same information. The only difference is a potential shift in the Outreach to School program for the 2021-2022 school year intended to broaden its reach. Instead of having interns in just a few schools, Becker would like to explore opportunities to provide drop-in sessions at all schools.

Motion (Nikstad/McCabe) to recommend approval of the PY20/SFY21 Unified Local Youth Plan update and the PY21/SFY22 Unified Local Youth Plans as presented. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Director's Updates

Youth Services Transition: Workforce Solutions is transitioning its youth services to being entirely provided by existing contracted vendors: Hired, YWCA Saint Paul and Hmong American Partnership.

American Recovery Plan: Becker will share more about how the county will use its anticipated \$108M in federal relief funding once the County Board releases its priorities.

Workforce Development Fund: Becker provided an overview of how the Dislocated Worker Fund is currently structured as well as changes DEED is proposing in the funding structure. Funds currently being directly appropriated by the legislature would be shifted into three competitive grants categories: workforce competitiveness, workforce innovation, and workforce services. Becker explained that as more funds are spent through appropriations or grants, funding for the Dislocated Worker Fund decreases.

Economic Competitiveness & Inclusion Plan: The Ramsey County Board has endorsed the Plan. The Plan will frame the WIB's future work. Representatives from the Center for Economic Inclusion are scheduled to attend an upcoming Executive Committee meeting to start planning for that work.

2020 Annual Report: Milbrandt provided a brief overview of the 2020 Annual Report. The theme is Lifting Up.

April WIB Meeting: After a short business meeting, WIB members will participate in the Breaking Ice equity training provided by the Pillsbury House Theater Company.

Other:

- *Youth Labor Market Report:* Becker stated that work is being done on a 'State of Youth' report. Once collected, the Youth Committee will compile the information and give it a voice. Becker shared highlights of the Youth Employment report released by Ramsey County and RealTime Talent. There is urgency to create a jobs program this summer, using the American Recovery Program funding, to minimize scarring (long-term harm to income levels and career growth) on youth.
- *MDE Tech Equity Report:* Becker shared a Minnesota Department of Education report highlighting the TechPak initiative, calling it the model for scaling a digital equity initiative statewide.
- *COVID-19 One Year Event:* The WIB is sponsoring an event on the local impacts of the pandemic on various populations. It will be held via Zoom Webinar on March 24 at noon.

Committee Updates

Policy & Oversight Committee: Mullan explained the WIB's Policy Statements have been updated to include more emphasis on equity and the needs of populations most impacted by COVID-19. McCabe suggested adding increased K-12 funding to the equity section.

Partnership & Outreach Recommendations: Becker reported that the committee is recommending every WIB member be given the opportunity to submit a short testimonial on why serving on the WIB is important to them and the community. A funding request not to exceed \$2,000 to hire a photographer to take professional headshots of WIB members was presented. After some discussion, it was determined that the headshots would not be done at this time.

Youth Committee: Nikstad explained that the Vern Vick Award is given annually to an individual or individuals who have had a positive impact on youth. This year, the Youth Committee selected three recipients: Kenneth Cutler, Dan Rossiter, and Paul Ramsour.

Motion (McCabe/Russell) to ratify the Youth Committee's selection for the 2021 Vern Vick Award recipients as presented. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Reappointment Process: Wilson reviewed the reappointment process. She stated that there are 20 members up for reappointment. Each person will be sent a memo outlining the updated reappointment process and encouraging them to apply for reappointment.

Tech Committee Recommendation: Lusiba mentioned that Workforce Solutions is releasing a Tech labor market report in April as part of Tech Month in Minnesota. The Tech Committee also plans to host a panel discussion on "Preparing our Workforce for the Future of Work". Four panelists will discuss how

to leverage tech skills and our Ramsey County tech ecosystem support a transformative recovery. Lusiba presented a funding request of \$1,000 to cover the cost of speaker honorariums.

Motion (Nikstad/McDonough) to approve the Tech Committee's funding request of \$1,000 for speaker honorariums. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 7:30-9:00 AM.