

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:30am - 9:00am
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present

Susan Jambor
Chad Kulas
Jim McDonough
Don Mullin
Sean Mullan
Paul Nikstad
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell
Chris Tolbert

Members Absent

Tony Lusiba

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

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

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Jambor/Mullan) to approve the September 21, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Review WIB Financial Report & Strategic Funds Reports

Becker provided an overview of the September-October 2022 Revenues and Expenditures Report. Milbrandt shared that the allocation for WIOA and MFIP is only reflective of the WIOA portion. The MFIP allocations will be higher on the next report. Becker provided an explanation of how the WIB gets its funds. She also reviewed the Strategic Priorities Supplemental Budget report, which gives more detail as to what is being spent on strategic priorities. There are a fair number of strategic priorities left but have already spent \$62,500. Becker thought this would be an appropriate time to ask for funding to pay for the next Inclusive Workplaces Cohort session. This aligns with the proposal from the Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI) to facilitate the upcoming cohort.

Motion (Rasmussen/Jambor) to approve paying CEI \$40,906.25, with the remaining balance of available unapproved budget to spend carried forward to next year. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Becker stated that the proposed 2023 budget will be presented at the full WIB meeting in December.

2023 Committee Meeting Schedule

Becker shared the committee schedule for next year, stating these meetings will remain virtual on the 4th Wednesday of odd-numbered months from 7:30-9am. The only thing that might cause a change to this schedule is the availability of the new commissioner who will replace McDonough on this committee.

Membership

WIB and Committee Dashboard: Milbrandt shared the vacancy report, stating the appointment of Getachew-Kreusser will be on the December 7 St. Paul City Council agenda. Discussions continue with a representative from Blue Plate Restaurant and an application is expected soon. This leaves one County business opening which is actively being recruited. Milbrandt reviewed the membership dashboard stating there have been no significant changes since it was last reviewed. Going forward, the WIB’s demographic information will be shared through a link to the County’s open data portal. Milbrandt also reviewed the Committee Membership dashboard, which changed minimally.

Ratification of Committee Appointment: Asantewaa, Rick: Milbrandt shared that both Mary Rick and Ama Asantewaa would like to be on the Tech Committee.

Motion (Jambor/Nikstad) to ratify the WIB Chair's appointments of Mary Rick and Ama Asantewaa to the Tech Committee. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Updates

Meeting Overviews: Becker provided a quick summary of the Committees' activities.

Action Plan Status – 2023 Target Efforts: Becker provided an update on the action plan status. The committee should focus on convening industry sectors to address industry/workforce alignment as COVID-19 reshapes occupational demand. Becker will work on aligning and measuring against economic competitiveness and supporting small business development and will report back to the committee. The task to get operationalized through the dashboard is for the Executive Committee to receive regular committee updates from the Policy & Oversight and Youth Committees. The Youth Committee will go first in March.

Targeted Populations Initiatives: Becker proposed this Committee lead the support for a targeted population initiative by setting up an advisory committee to focus on fair opportunities and the housing unstable populations. The Committee supported these initiatives.

Director's Updates

Becker shared the following:

American Rescue Plan Act: The goal for having the Learn and Earn Request for Proposal completed and contracts in place is early February.

Brookings Transforming Cities Lab: A need is to align the youth and young adult employment partners in the community, starting with building relationships. A youth provider convening is scheduled for November 30 from 3-4:30pm at Arlington Hills Community Center. Committee members are welcome.

Business Networking Event at 3M Advanced Training Center: The Youth Committee will hear a presentation on Saint Paul Public Schools Career Pathways Center at their upcoming meeting. The WIB is partnering with the St. Paul Area Chamber on a networking event for the St. Paul Public Schools Districtwide Career Pathways Program on January 25, 2023, from 3:30-5:00pm. There was discussion on the need for outreach to connect with small businesses. All WIB members will be invited to the event.

DOL Monitoring: The Department of Labor's monitoring went well, with the focus on the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Wagner Peyer programs for PY20 and PY21. There was an opportunity for WIB leadership and staff to meet with federal program officers and there was a visit to CareerForce Saint Paul. DOL will send a monitoring report in about a month. One finding that DOL noted was that previous state monitoring was lenient, noting areas of concern rather than giving "findings". This could affect future monitoring by the state.

CareerForce Saint Paul: It was challenging during the pandemic for CareerForce to serve clients. In 2023, the Executive Committee will take a larger oversight role and discuss how to connect jobseekers and employers, mandated partners and other partners to "refresh" the system. The CareerForce Saint Paul lease is up at the end of 2024.

Regional Funds: Funds have been extended to March 2023. A large workforce development conference is being held tomorrow for workforce professionals in the metro area at Amherst Wilder Foundation. The funds will also be used for a regional marketing campaign in partnership with some community-based organizations. In addition, the funds will be used for a more coordinated referral system.

December WIB Meeting: The meeting will be held at the International Institute of Minnesota (IIMN). The meeting itself will be short, with a tour of IIMN, followed by an update by the One-Stop Operator Consortium and then the One-Stop Partner Resource Fair. All 2023 WIB meetings will be at Plato Building with the exception of December's meeting, which will be held at the Humanities Center.

Program Snapshots: Employer Services and Partnerships

Introductions were made of the Employer Services team consisting of Becker, Berg, Milbrandt, and O'Phelan. The goal of this team is to increase the number of employer connections in the county for all workforce organizations. Becker provided data on Minnesotans who report having experienced employment discrimination in 2021. She also shared a diagram as to how Employer Services' work infiltrates various areas so the system is in alignment. Each team member provided an overview of the work they are doing in the resetting of the department's efforts.

Other

Kulas thanked Commissioner McDonough for his service and efforts to the county and WIB and wished him well in his retirement.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7:30-9:30am.