

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 7:30am - 9:00am  
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

**Committee Members Present**

Chad Kulas  
Tony Lusiba  
Jim McDonough  
Don Mullin  
Sean Mullin  
Paul Nickstad  
Mary Russell  
Chris Tolbert

**Members Absent**

Susan Jambor-EA  
Elisa Rasmussen-EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions  
Lisa Guetzkow, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Melody Santana-Marty, Ramsey County  
Lola Soyomokun, Workforce Solutions  
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

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

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**Approve May and July Minutes**

**Motion (McDonough/Mullin) to approve the May 25, 2022 and July 27, 2022, minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

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**Review WIB Financial Report**

Santana-Marty reviewed the July-August 2022 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

**Strategic Funds Report**

Becker provided a recap of the newly created Strategic Priorities Supplemental Budget and thanked everyone for their support and commitment to the events this past summer. Monies have been spent wisely and there continues to be funds to spend if the committees wants to do additional events.

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**Executive Committee Meeting Format**

Milbrandt reviewed the potential Executive Committee meeting format. She provided an overview of the Open Meetings Law and Bylaws. Discussion took place indicating the Policy Committee should take up the Open Meeting Law to see if it could be changed if a call-in number was published in advance. There was agreement that technology has changed, and the law is behind the times. There are efforts to make statute changes at the legislature. This committee will continue to meet virtually and give up routine approvals and do more review, transferring full approval to the WIB. If this committee is needed to make a timely approval on behalf of the WIB, the meeting will be done in-person.

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**Membership**

*WIB and Committee Dashboard:* Milbrandt gave an update on the vacancy report as well as the WIB membership and the committee membership dashboard. Priority focus is on diversity/ethnicity and on industry representation.

*Membership Applications:* A membership application received from Hanna Getachew-Kreusser of Face to Face was reviewed. She is applying to fill the vacant City-CBO seat. Efforts are also underway to recruit someone from Blue Plate Restaurants. Blue Plate participated in the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. That leaves one County-Business seat open.

*Committee Appointment:* Maldonado has requested to join the Partnership and Outreach Committee.

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## **Committee Updates**

*Meeting Overviews:* Becker provided an update on the Partnership and Outreach Committee, indicating that Jambor is willing to be the new Committee chair. She also provided a recap of the work being done by the Equity Committee. Mullin provided a recap of the work being done by the Construction-Green Jobs Committee. Lusiba provided a recap of the work being done by the Tech Committee. Nikstad provided a recap of the work being done by the Youth Committee. Becker stated that the Policy and Oversight Committee meeting has not yet taken place. Discussions will begin on the legislative platform development.

*Action Plan Status:* Becker provided a snapshot on the action plan strategies for this committee and indicated that each committee will also be provided status updates on their plan. Regular action plan status updates on the will be provided quarterly to this committee as well as at each of the committee meetings.

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## **Director's Updates**

The following updates were given:

*American Rescue Plan Act:* Becker highlighted four projects that are most active: The City-County Joint Powers Agreement will be finalized by the County Board soon; the Request for Proposal for the Learn and Earn was released and the timeline was shared for contracting opportunities and gateway occupation model; the Public Sector Academy will be launched in October with nine interns, partnering with Project Restore MN and St. Paul College and then working at various Ramsey County departments and Councilmember Tolbert will be doing the same for the City; and the Driver's Academy has had a soft launch, including the establishment of an advisory committee.

*Brookings Transforming Cities Lab:* Becker provided a recap of the meeting between Brookings and leaders from Cleveland, Detroit, and St. Paul/Ramsey County to establish the strategic use of the American Rescue Plan funds. This project will require new ways of doing business in local government. Becker shared data where all the funding is coming into in the workforce ecosystem and shared the takeaways from the provider survey. Committee members were encouraged to review the slide deck. The next step is to have meetings with the Deputy Mayor, Council Member Tolbert, Commissioner McDonough and County Manager on how the County and City will lead this effort. Providers asked for two things: more networking opportunities and asset mapping.

*Manufacturing Month:* Milbrandt shared that October is Manufacturing Month across the state. There are a number of resources, events and industry information that can be found on the County webpage to learn more about the array of career opportunities in manufacturing.

*Regional Funds Update:* Becker provided an update on Region 4 funding. This year's focus will be a workforce development professionals conference in November; a marketing campaign entitled "What's Next" and a more coordinated referral system.

*Department of Labor Monitoring:* Becker shared the Department of Labor will be conducting an in-person monitoring visit the week of October 24, focusing on PY 20 and 21 Adult, Dislocated Worker and Wagner Peyser programs. This will include interviewing program staff and Becker, and reviewing participant files, Memoranda of Understanding, policies, etc.

*Fostering Independence Grant:* Becker shared information about the Fostering Independence Grant. There will be a free webinar about this financial aid program that seeks to eliminate barriers for Minnesota students who were in the foster care system. It is scheduled for September 27 at 5:30pm. She also shared data on why Ramsey County is facilitating this information session.

*Career Connect Day:* Becker shared that this is a program in partnership with the St. Paul Area Chamber welcoming students from St. Paul area high schools to learn about a variety of career pathways. The event will be held at the St. Paul River Centre on October 18. It is an opportunity for students to connect with Minnesota businesses in six different tracks of interest. The WIB is funding the bus transportation for all Ramsey County schools to get their students to the event. Becker encouraged members to join the County staff at the event.

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**Program Snapshots: WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker**

Belitz, Berg, Stanton and Soyomokun provided an overview of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker services, highlighting who that team is, what they do and the impact of those services on job seekers. They shared the services, goals, outcomes, eligibility and success stories of the programs and the challenges during COVID.

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**Other**

No other items discussed.

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**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:30-9:30am.