



Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Integration Committee Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2018

1:00-2:30 pm

Present:

Don Mullin
Kate Probert
Mary Russell
Ramona Wilson
Anivuinn Xiong

Absent:

Toni Carter-EA
Chris Kondo-EA
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests:

Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Noel Nix, Ramsey County (by phone)

Call to Order

Russell called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Mullin/Probert) to approve minutes from the November 6, 2017 Integration Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Russell read the policy out loud. All those in attendance signed the acknowledgement form.

WIB Supported Grants

Support Services Grant: Probert reported that Workforce Solutions (WFS) applied for the full grant amount of \$150,000 to fund a racial equity project with Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD). Up to four cohorts of 15-20 African American young adults per year will engage in a culturally specific curriculum centered around leadership and gaining a better understanding of community and self. WFS will provide navigation, placement, and measurement services. There was discussion about the definition of African American as it relates to this grant application. Probert explained that the focus of this program is on multi-generational African Americans rather than new immigrants from Africa because immigrants are not experiencing the same level of disparities as those who have been in the United States for many generations. The committee will receive an update when the grant awards are announced.

Workforce Solutions Racial Equity Initiatives Presentation

Probert presented an overview of WFS' racial equity initiatives. Emphasis is being placed on staff and leadership development and evidence driven programs, such as FAST and the Lifelong Learning Initiative. Probert noted that services are maximized by connecting with business, education and other agencies for WIOA, TANF and SNAP funding. Russell suggested that an abbreviated version of the presentation be shared with the full WIB. It was also mentioned that the WIB should be reminded that WFS works with people from all income levels.

Regional Update

Brady provided the latest information shared at the monthly regional board meeting she attended this morning. Included in the handouts were a workforce system overview chart, the agenda from today's meeting, a presentation outlining the board's goals and structure, program participant enrollment data for the region and the regional work plan. Brady indicated that this committee will likely review the regional participant enrollment data on an ongoing basis. Nix, who was also at today's regional meeting, reported that the board reviewed frameworks for the work ahead and a working committee structure. He also noted that the board voted to give the core team the authority to move forward. It was stated that the

regional board will have an impact on local boards but will not usurp the authority or work of the locals. Russell expressed support for an employer engagement demonstration model within the identified sector academies. She encouraged this committee to think about ways to collaborate with others within the region around business engagement. Committee members expressed the need to focus on collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts and confusion of roles.

WIB Targeted Industry Sectors

An analysis of the hospitality sector prepared by Tim O'Neill was distributed. It was noted that most of the jobs in this industry are entry-level with fairly low pay. There is a hospitality career path, however, most people jump sectors after gaining some work experience. After some discussion, it was decided that the committee will make a recommendation at the next full WIB meeting to add hospitality and educational services to the WIB's targeted sectors. Tim O'Neill will be invited to share the data that lead the committee to this recommendation. The discussion with the WIB should also point out which sectors mirror the key sectors identified by the regional board and which ones are unique to Ramsey County. The regional sectors are healthcare, IT, manufacturing, construction, educational services, public administration and professional services.

Strategic Plan

Russell noted that the topics discussed at today's meeting all align with the committee's work plan.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Motion (Xiong/Probert) to adjourn. The motion carried at 2:25 pm.