



Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Joint Business Services and Integration Committee Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2018
3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

Toni Carter
Kristin Guild
Kate Probert
Mary Russell

Butch Howard
Chad Kulas
Jennifer Roettger

Absent:

Foster Hackett
Chris Kondo
Don Mullin
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson
Anivuin Xiong

Michael Fondungallah

Staff/Guests:

Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Elizabeth Tolzmann, Ramsey County

Call to Order

Integration Committee Chair Mary Russell called the joint meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion (Roettger/Probert) to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2018 Joint Business Services/Integration Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Local and Regional Sector Initiatives

Labor market data reports on the key regional and local sectors and a regional forecast overview were reviewed. It was suggested that future reports on the two sectors specifically identified by the WIB include gender data. It was noted that technology may displace some hospitality workers but technology advancements also create technology career opportunities. Carter explained that sector academies are being formed around the six industries identified by the regional board. She also reported that the Center for Economic Inclusion has been selected as the fiscal agent and host for the new Executive Director, Kristin Beckmann. There was lengthy discussion about the makeup of the sector skills academy participants. Carter explained that most of the academy participants are from the public sector and training institutions. Private sector stakeholders will serve as advisors to the academies. Carter also stated that there will likely be some changes to the list of participants, including adding a representative from Ramsey County to the government sector academy.

Updates

Pathways to Prosperity (P2P): Probert reported that Workforce Solutions received two career pathways grants; one for those testing below seventh grade levels and one for those above. Focus will continue to be on the healthcare, government and IT sectors; however, all participants will get Microsoft training as part of essential skills development. Probert indicated that the formal approval to receive the P2P funds will be considered by the County Board in June. The committee reviewed the list of other organizations within Ramsey County that were also awarded funding. Probert reported that the City of Minneapolis is pulling all the grantees in their area together to coordinate services. She suggested that the WIB consider convening similar meetings for the grantees in Ramsey County. Additional suggestions for this convening included:

- Plan two meetings; one to share program information, learn about referral efforts and discuss collaboration opportunities, and the second one a follow-up on these efforts
- Consider ways to use the CareerForce platform to highlight the efforts of grantees
- Provide information on what Ramsey County can provide to the grantees
- Tether this work to the regional sector strategies to create better alignment

- Review the P2P grant applications to determine each organization's target clientele

After some discussion, it was suggested that an intern or program participant needing work experience gather the information for the whole region and develop a matrix containing the specifics of the P2P funded organizations and programs. Carter felt the information could be shared with the sector training academies to create broader awareness of the work of these organizations. Probert and Guild agreed to coordinate this effort. Carter recommended sending an initial communication to each grantee introducing the idea of collaboration and congratulating them on their funding award. Boeckermann will be the contact for the letter.

Resilient Communities: Tolzmann reported that Ramsey County was selected for this highly competitive funding. One of the projects proposed will address transportation barriers of suburban participants and large employers. The WIB will be updated as the project progresses and may be asked for input.

State Plan: Probert reported that a focus on gender inclusion and opportunity youth has been added to the State Plan. This change necessitates Local and Regional Plans to also be updated. As a result, the Integration Committee will include gender in their goal implementation strategies. Russell reported that the State is planning to release a definition of gender prior to local implementation. She explained that racial equity will remain a focus area.

Employer Cooperative Model

Russell reminded the committee of the employee cooperative presentation and discussion that took place at the last meeting. It was noted that Nexus Community Partners did not have a formal ask of the WIB; however, Carter emphasized the need to keep small businesses in our community. She reported that Saint Paul is considering a policy to help with these business conversions. The WIB could play an advocacy role. Kulas reported that he spoke to some Midway Chamber members about this model, although, because this is a fairly new concept, there is some concern about financing. It was suggested that information about this model be shared with the regional board.

Other

Guild reported that the City of Saint Paul is joining Minneapolis on a Tech Hire Grant program. There was discussion about broadening this opportunity to Ramsey County in the future. It was suggested that there be a strategic ask for the state to create a pathway for this.

Tolzmann announced that the date for the Saint Paul WorkForce Center grand opening is June 14, 8:00-10:00am. Commissioner Carter, Mayor Carter, Councilmember Tolbert and Commissioner Hardy will be featured speakers. A save the date will be distributed soon.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, Russell adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.