

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Joint Business Services and Integration Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2019
3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

Kristin Guild
Kate Probert
Mary Russell
Tracy Wilson

Jennifer Roettger

Absent:

Toni Carter-EA
Elena Gaarder-EA
Cindy Larson-EA
Don Mullin-EA
Ramona Wilson
Anivuin Xiong

Michael Fondungallah
Butch Howard-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County
Matt Hill, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff

Call to Order

Chair Mary Russell called the joint meeting to order at 3:03 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves. Becker announced that Dunn Yoshitani submitted his resignation.

Introduction of WIB Executive Director

Becker introduced herself. She shared information about her background and goals for the future work and thanked everyone for being part of the WIB.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion (Roettger/Wilson) to approve minutes from the March 25, 2019 Joint Business Services / Integration Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Youth at Work Grant

Becker explained that this grant requires all applicants to collaborate with their local WIB. Becker requested that all applicants submit a program summary. Those who receive grant awards will be asked to provide ongoing updates through the One-Stop Operator consortium. Probert explained that Workforce Solutions (WFS) applied in partnership with HIRED and Ramsey County Public Health. The proposal focused on existing career pathways and pre-employment activities for youth of color with funds being spent on job shadow and work experience activities. The application was for \$500,000 per year for two years which would serve 60-70 youth per year. Becker also sees this as an opportunity to expand partnerships with other organizations. Russell suggested connecting with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. Notice of awards are expected in June.

Rapid Response

Berg explained that Rapid Response is the DEED program that helps businesses undergoing mass layoffs. After an assessment by DEED staff, some layoffs become eligible for this program and workforce agencies compete for the relocation project. Recently, WFS was awarded a project for the Embassy Suites in Saint Paul and held workshops and a job fair. Berg stated that due to high demand for hospitality workers, most of the employees were placed quickly. Although the timeline between the notice from DEED and when employees are done working is very short, it was suggested that WFS reach out to the WIB more actively to connect to employers, training, and marketing.

Fiscal Grant Management

Becker reported that WFS is 96% grant funded. Staff are working on internal dashboards to make existing data more tangible. Becker's short-term goal is to have the dashboards built by early summer. They will be shared with the WIB to get feedback. The long-range goal is to use the dashboards for improved understanding of cultural populations, better leveraging the knowledge of the WIB and identifying missing opportunities.

Updates

College Collocation: Probert announced that collocation has happened at Metro and plans with Saint Paul College (SPC) are in the works. A press release and flyers to promote the services are being developed. Talks with Century College are still taking place. Wilson believes having these resources available on the SPC campus will be a great benefit to the students. Russell suggested the WIB meet at SPC in the fall so members can see the space and better understand the collaborative work being done.

Civic Engagement Grant Partnership: Probert reported that WFS is partnering with Roseville ABE on their federal grant. If awarded, WFS will provide job search and placement assistance.

P2P Partner Convening: Probert gave an update on the gathering of Pathways 2 Prosperity (P2P) grant recipients. As a result of the discussion, WFS developed two documents, an internal chart that frontline staff that can be used in meetings with clients, and an external chart outlining high-demand career training opportunities being offered locally. The documents have been shared with all the partners and the external document has been circulated broadly. Additional feedback from the convening was the need for frontline staff training to deepen their knowledge of career pathways. WFS staff are working on plans for a staff conference that will be education focused, based on the full-family approach, and will include table talks on in-demand sectors facilitated by employers. Probert would like to end the conference with a motivational speaker. Becker will ask WIB members to lead the table discussions. Russell expressed the need to contact employers soon because their calendars are already filling for the fall. She also expressed the need to establish and explain the learning objectives when talking to employers. Russell suggested that the deadline be pushed back to 2020 in order to execute the event well. Becker would like to expand the event to other organizations to better equip the community with these tools. Russell suggested running scenarios about all the steps and challenges that people face when trying to navigate the system. She expressed her willingness to help with the planning.

MOU Partners Convening: Probert explained that a convening of the MOU partners in early fall is on hold and will likely take place after the P2P conference. The OSO is looking at the timeline while continuing to talk about improvements to the system. Job Corps has offered to host.

Two Gen: Probert stated that WFS is working on a Pritzker Children's Initiative with other county departments. The goal is to engage families with children ages 0-5. WFS will focus on parental employment and education to create healthier families and less dependence on public assistance. Russell suggested connecting with Little Moments Count and Think Small, organizations already involved in early childhood and mother's work.

Director Update/Business Outreach

Becker provided short updates on several topics:

- The WIB's website has been redesigned and is now housed within the county's website.
- The WIB will engage in a strategic planning session in June.
- The CareerForce launch is temporarily on hold.
- The seasoned worker class being offered in No. Saint Paul is now being offered at other locations. Becker wants to bring more services out into the community.
- Regular email updates will be sent to WIB members.
- The FAST Program won a national award through Goodwill International.

- Progress is being made to strengthen partnerships with the City of Saint Paul's Right Track and Full Stack initiatives.
- Workforce Solutions is in meetings with Tech Dump to address ways to fill the gap once the 18-month training program ends. The hope is to have some guaranteed employers in place at the end.
- A customer resource management system to help with employer engagement is being implemented. Becker plans to use it for documenting relationships and relationship mapping.
- Becker would like to work with local Chambers on their talent attraction surveys to gather additional information on businesses' workforce needs.
- Becker provided a handout created by the MN High Tech Association. She suggested developing a similar flyer each month focusing on jobs in the WIB's targeted sectors. An educational component could be added.
- Becker provided a handout describing details of a Workforce Summit being hosted by the Dakota-Scott WIB. She would like the Ramsey County WIB to consider holding a similar event. A smaller event could be done to start in 2020.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, Russell adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.