



Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Joint Business Services and Integration Committee Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2018
8:30-10:00 am

Present:

Don Mullin
Kate Probert
Ramona Wilson
Tracy Wilson

Butch Howard
Jennifer Roettger

Absent:

Toni Carter-EA
Kristin Guild-EA
Mary Russell-EA
Anivuin Xiong

Michael Fondungallah
Chad Kulas

Staff/Guests:

Karyn Berg, Ramsey County
Leon Boeckermann, Ramsey County
Elena Gaarder, Nexus Comm. Partners
Matt Hill, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Shannon Watson, SPACC (by phone)
Dunn Yoshitani, Ramsey County

Call to Order

In the absence of the Chair, Howard called the joint meeting to order at 8:34 am. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion (Mullin/Probert) to approve the May 14, 2018 Joint Business Services/Integration Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

WIOA Program Outcomes

Yoshitani introduced himself. He provided an overview of the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs and reported that all performance goals have been met for the current program year. Enrollments and placements are a little behind for the current quarter, partially due to changes in the intake process and staff roles, but Yoshitani is confident these goals will be attained by the end of the 2018-19 program year. He also stated that current clients are experiencing a greater need for support services, such as transportation, bus cards, rent support, and clothing. Although the economy is strong, there has been a shift in the populations being served. Many customers have multiple barriers, such as mental health, criminal backgrounds and substance abuse. This shift has challenged Workforce Solutions (WFS) to change its service delivery model. Counselors are working with clients to get them into career pathways rather than simply placing them in jobs. WFS can provide support services and do check-ins for six months after placement. Howard encouraged stronger partnerships between employers and the public workforce system. Businesses need employees and many are willing to offer flexibility and guidance if they are aware of employee needs. R. Wilson noted that seasoned workers often mentor new workers in the construction industry and suggested this model might help businesses in other sectors. Employer members of the committee shared some of the qualities they look for in job applicants, such as a good application with correct grammar, related skills if not formally trained, on-time arrival for the interview, proper dress and the ability to sell themselves. It was decided that a discussion about specific employers asks will take place at the next committee meeting.

Grant Updates

MJSP Advanced Manufacturing Grant: Probert provided a final summary of this grant. She explained that the biggest challenge was recruiting participants. Manufacturing was selected due to high local demand and high wages being offered for these jobs. The total grant award was \$198,000 but was underspent by 24%. Probert noted that the training was run through Century College with several community partners hosting classes and helping with recruitment.

Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Grant Collaboration: Probert reported that a convening of P2P training providers took place because of the suggestion made by this committee. All but one of the P2P grant

recipients attended. The convening elevated the need for enhanced communication among the training providers. Internal and external materials are being created to cross promote training programs and plans for localized sector-based resource and education fairs as well as a large conference from staff are in development. Gaarder suggested connecting with the East Side Employment Exchange, which is working with the Port Authority and several employers on the east side. A representative from the Exchange could be invited to an upcoming committee meeting to share information about their work.

Resilient Communities: Probert reported that this grant connected Ramsey County with graduate level students from the U of M to look at ways to address transportation barriers in the suburbs. Focus groups will be convening in early 2019. There are also plans to survey the WIB as part of this assessment.

2-Gen Network: Probert reported that 25 families living in the Promise Neighborhood are participating in the People's Fellowship. Several community partners, such as NdCAD, Nexus, Aurora, and Wilder have come together on this initiative. Emphasis is being placed on support services, securing jobs in African American owned businesses and helping families become entrepreneurs.

APEX Career Exploration Program Grant: Probert reported that this is a Washington-Ramsey apprenticeship collaboration for youth. Ramsey County is a referral partner.

Sector Updates

College/P2P/WFS Sector Based Events: Probert reported that the idea for these sector-specific events came from the P2P meeting. The first one, focusing on trades, will be at one of the union halls. It will be a hybrid job fair/service fair, painting a picture of how the sector and career pathways work. Higher education, employers, and service providers will be on hand. Mullin suggested working with school districts, such as White Bear Lake, and Construct Tomorrow, which are already holding similar events. It was also suggested that there be evening hours so parents can attend.

Section 3/Construction Initiatives: Yoshitani explained that this initiative is a collaboration of municipalities. Ramsey County's role is to manage the Job Connect site which is open to workers and employers. New contracts with this group and with Hennepin County are being developed.

Digital Learning Center: Yoshitani stated that a computer classroom has been created in North St. Paul. The space is being used to provide a variety of computer trainings to program clients and walk-in customers. These classes are meant to be a starting point that can branch out to other training partners for more advanced courses.

Regional Sector Academies: Boeckermann explained that the regional academies are bringing together workforce, business and education to establish training programs that will fill skills gaps in the construction, financial services, IT, manufacturing, and public administration sectors. Boeckermann will continue to update the WIB as the academies evolve.

2019 Meeting Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2019 meeting dates was reviewed. Mullin indicated that he has an ongoing conflict that would prevent him from attending in the afternoons of these dates. It was suggested that the meetings be moved to 9:00-10:30am. Milbrandt will confirm this change with the rest of the committee before sending calendar invites.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, Howard adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.