

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
3:00-4:00 pm

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
James McClean
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson

Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli-EA
John Perlich-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County
Funlola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Berg read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval of November Minutes

Motion (Olson/Guetzkow) to approve the November 15, 2022, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Mullan reminded everyone that WIB and committee members are asked to read and sign this Acknowledgement each year. He asked that Committee members send the signed form back to Milbrandt if they had not yet done so.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Updates

Program Year-End Summary: Berg provided a comparison summary on the WIOA Adult program for the periods 2021 and 2022. Barriers are not unique and fluctuate over the years. Training has increased. There are a lot of similarities in wages, outcome and demographics. Soyomokun provided a comparison summary on the WIOA Dislocated Worker (DW) program for the periods 2021 and 2022. Wages went down due to changes in the types of participants being served. This program's participants have typically had two-year degrees and higher. Now there is a larger mix of professions, education, etc.

Committee Work Plan Updates

Legislative Efforts:

- *MAWB Legislative Priorities:* Becker reviewed the three MAWB Legislative Priorities. She encouraged the committee to review the one-pager that was included in the pre-reading.
- *2023 WIB Policy Statement:* Becker is proposing changes from a WIB Policy Statements to a WIB Funding and Policies Priorities document. There was lengthy discussion about having a more thorough background document with the WIB's policies and principles. Also adding a statement about helping those who have been justice impacted. Mullan suggested that before a position on justice reform is added, it should be run by Chad Kulas as it will impact a lot of businesses. Olson and Guetzkow agreed to review the revised documents, which will be presented for approval by the WIB at its February 2, 2023, meeting.
- *2023 WIB Legislative Introduction:* Becker shared that after the approval of the WIB documents, an introduction to the new members in the Ramsey County delegation will be sent so they know the WIB's initiatives and what work is being done by the Board.
- *Legislative Connections:* Becker shared information about some upcoming meetings and efforts to connect workforce with the legislative committees. Rep. Jay Xiong, who's district is in Saint Paul, is the chair of the House Workforce Development Finance Committee.

- *In-Person Committee Meeting:* Becker shared that each committee is being offered the opportunity to hold an in-person meeting over the lunch hour to connect with each other. There was interest in having an in person either in March or May at the Association of Minnesota Counties, with a tour at the Capitol.

Director Updates

DOL Monitoring Report: Becker provided an update on the Federal WIOA Adult, DW and Employment Services monitoring by the Department of Labor (DOL) held back in October. This was a monitoring of DEED that focused on Ramsey County. The monitoring report listed three findings (two for the state and one for the county), three areas of concern (one for the state and two for the county) and two notable practices (one for the state and one for the county). The county finding was related to the WIOA Adult Eligibility and Priority of Service Policy not being aligned with the state policy. The county policy will be revised with technical assistance from the state and shared with DOL by June 30, 2023.

CareerForce Saint Paul: Becker provided an overview of the CareerForce responsibilities of providing employment services (ES) programs. DEED previously met with WIB leaders as part of a series of statewide engagement visits to discuss the evolving models for DEED's ES programs and staff. Becker believes the lemonade model to service delivery needs to be enhanced. The WIB has mandatory oversight responsibilities of the service delivery at CareerForce. Given this oversight responsibility, Becker shared a plan to garner input, data and ensure effective service delivery at the CareerForce location. There are also opportunities to explore relocation (current lease expires January 2025) and optimize new service delivery models. She shared some proposed next steps, including implementing an engagement and outreach report that will be reviewed by the One Stop Operator Consortium and Executive Committee quarterly and the formation of a CareerForce Operations and Service Delivery Ad Hoc Work Group. A shared community engagement effort and customer satisfaction survey are planned for later in the year.

Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 3-4 PM