

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2021
3:00-4:00 pm

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson
Shannon Watson
James McClean

Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County

Call to order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Approve November minutes

Motion (Watson/Olson) to approve the November 12, 2020 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Mullan explained the yearly acknowledgment form can be signed electronically and returned to Becky Milbrandt. Signing the form indicates a person will abstain from discussion and voting if they have a conflict of interest.

2021 WIB Policy Statements

Mullan stated that the WIB's 2019 platform remains aligned with the MN Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) and county platforms; however, it needs updating to reflect current WIB priorities, especially considering the pandemic and civil unrest. After lengthy discussion, Becker will draft the policy statement rewrites using the committee's suggestions. These include:

- Elevate the lens of racial equality by adding bullet points under the "Help address economic disparities in the state" section and moving it to the top of the list. Highlight equity is access to transportation, childcare, and technology resources.
- Update the references to 2018 statistics in the introduction.
- Keep the need for more school counselors; Minnesota is still ranked 50th in student to counselor ratio.
- Add a statement about targeting COVID response funding to populations most impacted.
- Remove references to items addressed with the passage of the Perkins Act.

2021 Committee Work Plan

The committee reviewed and discussed the five priorities in the committee's work plan.

- *Promote legislative training to the WIB Members:* Mullan will send a reminder to the WIB about the training offered by the MN Association of Workforce Boards.
- *Review and Renew the WIB Policy Platform:* This is underway.
- *Visit with key legislators virtually in 2021:* The Ramsey County delegation list was reviewed. After some discussion, it was decided that once the platform is finished, invites will be sent to the entire delegation with a request for a virtual introductory (101 level) meeting. McClean suggested not pushing too hard for meetings unless the WIB has a specific ask or policy initiative.

- *Follow key legislators that serve on key committees:* Becker will contact the County's Government Relations staff for assistance with keeping the WIB updated on workforce issues.

Updates

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboards: Due to time constraints, a write up to support the dashboard information will be sent out.

Check in on Priority of Service: Guetzkow reported that feedback from the WIB was incorporated into the Priority of Service policy. The revised Policy was approved.

Workforce Development Fund: Becker shared information on the Workforce Development Fund which is funded by employers. The money in this fund is used in the event of layoffs, to support Dislocated Worker Program, to fund DEED and DLI programs, and given as direct allocations to certain organizations. There has been some talk about eliminating the direct appropriations and putting more funds out in competitive grants, including a new Workforce Support Services grant and Regional Equity Competitive grants which would likely be administered by DEED. The benefits of having some of these dollars distributed through local workforce boards were mentioned, particularly to get more funds to small organizations that have difficulty competing for grants due to lack on grant writers and other staff resources. Becker will continue to update the committee on this topic.

Job-WF Committees and RC Delegation: Addressed as part of the work plan discussion.

Adjourn

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

Next meeting: March 10, 2021, 3-4pm.