

## Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

3:00pm-4:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

### Present:

Jonathan Banks  
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser  
Lisa Guetzkow  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
James McClean  
Sheila Olson  
John (JP) Perlich

### Absent:

### Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Lola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

---

### Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Becker called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. McClean read the land acknowledgement aloud.

---

### Approval of September and November Minutes

**Motion (Olson/Guetzkow) to approve the September 13 and November 8, 2023, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

---

### Committee Chair Election

Becker shared that Perlich has agreed to chair this committee. She thanked McClean for his role as interim Chair. Perlich provided a brief background of his work experience and his current role as Senior Director of Public Affairs/lobbyist for the St. Paul Area Chamber.

**Motion (Olson/McCLean) to elect John Perlich as Chair of the WIB Policy and Oversight Committee. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

---

### Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Becker reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded everyone that any WIB or committee member who has a conflict of interest should abstain from discussion and voting. The policy is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. In the past, committee members have been asked to sign an acknowledgement form, but the acknowledgement process is being simplified this year to instead ask members to read the policy and acknowledge their responsibility in abstaining as necessary.

---

### Committee Work Plan Updates

*WIB Policy Statements:* Becker sought input for revisions to the 2024 Policy Statements. There was discussion about keeping bullet #2 with minor tweaks to the references to policies and waivers that were implemented during the pandemic. Also suggested was the removal of bullet #4 regarding the MN Family Investment Program. Guetzkow will review and provide updated language. Becker shared the MAWB policy statements stating that wording will be added to the WIB Policy Statements indicating that the WIB offers support for MAWB's priorities. There will be no ongoing funding requests. Work will be done on editing the 2024 statements based on the committee's discussion and will be sent out to this group before sharing with the WIB for approval.

*Local Delegation Outreach:* Becker stated there might be an opportunity to have WIB introductory meetings with the local House and Senate delegation members to highlight the impact of the work done by the WIB and how the work intersects with the legislation. There was discussion about the idea of recognizing/inviting representatives, such as Rep. Jay Xiong, to a future WIB meeting. Becker will work on setting up introductory meetings with certain representatives to engage them with the work done by the WIB. A list will be developed of the House and Senate committees that directly align with the WIB's work.

*WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboard Updates:* Soyomokun provided an update on the 2023 dashboard noting the higher average hourly wage for dislocated workers and that more adults have been served than in the previous year along with an increase in identified barriers. Soyomokun also shared success stories of 20-year-old, 60-year-old and 65-year-old participants. Becker shared that the WIOA Adult dashboard will be on the open data portal soon.

*WIB Bylaws:* Becker shared that there are some items that need to be updated which will start with the Executive Committee. Any updates from the Executive Committee will be brought back to this committee for review to provide recommendations and next steps. Items that need to be updated focus around expenditure approvals and the length of the chair's term.

---

### **Director Updates**

*CareerForce Relocation:* Becker shared that this will be brought to the WIB in February for a vote to move forward on the relocation of the comprehensive site to Metro Square. The plan is to have the new CareerForce location open in late December 2024.

*Regional and Local Plans:* Becker gave a preview of the Regional and Local Plan and stated the process to write the Local Plan is starting. The Local Plan will align with the State Plan goals. This committee will have the opportunity to review the Plan before it is sent to the WIB and County Board for approval.

*State Digital Equity Funding:* Becker provided an overview of the federal funding breakdown estimated through 2028 and the legislative priorities that are being asked of the state, focusing on people rather than geographic area. The metro area workforce areas have several concerns with the border-to-border approach to allocating the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding of \$652M which will not benefit the whole state. A letter expressing concerns about the state's plan was sent. A key explaining the map speeds and uploads will be provided in the follow-up email.

---

### **2024 Committee Work Plan**

Becker shared the work plan, noting she will adjust it based on the discussion of deepening the WIB's work on how to engage with the legislature.

---

### **Other**

Becker is asking everyone to share with their networks all the upcoming WIB events.

---

### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3-4pm