

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
3:00-4:00 pm

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
Sean Mullan
Camila Mercado Michelli

Absent:

James McClean
Sheila Olson

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County

Call to order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Land Acknowledgement

Guetzkow read acknowledgement read aloud.

Approve January Minutes

Motion (Mercado Michelli/Mullan) to approve the January 13, 2021 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

2021 WIB Policy Statements

Mullan presented a draft of the WIB's 2021 Policy Statements which were revised to reflect the committee's recommendations from the last meeting. An additional statement was added in the equity section to include equitable investments in K-12 and post-secondary education, based on input from the Executive Committee.

Motion (Guetzkow/Mercado Michelli) to recommend approval for the WIB's 2021 Policy Statements as presented. Motion carried.

2021-2024 WIOA Local Plan

Becker provided an overview of the Local Plan and highlighted the four key Plan themes:

- Expand use of technology.
- CareerForce site location. Closure of the North Saint Paul location still aligns with the federated model since services will be provided at locations in the community, including the suburban area. Mullan recommended working with the Partnership and Outreach Committee to notify the community regarding this change.
- Focus on equity.
- COVID-19 pandemic response.

Motion (Mercado Michelli/Guetzkow) to recommend approval for the 2021-2024 Local Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Updates

Workforce Development Fund: Becker provided an overview of how the Dislocated Worker Fund is currently structured as well as changes DEED is proposing in the funding structure. Funds currently being directly appropriated by the legislature would be shifted into three competitive grants categories: workforce competitiveness, workforce innovation, and workforce services. Becker explained that as more funds are spent through appropriations or grants, the funding available for the Dislocated Worker Fund decreases. The MN Association of Workforce Boards is meeting with DEED on the proposal. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Legislature Meetings/Communications: Efforts to get a meeting with Rep. Jay Xiong, Vice Chair of the Jobs Committee, have been unsuccessful. Becker agreed to talk to the County's Government Relations Department about setting up an open meeting for legislators to drop in for a short meet and greet with members of the Policy and Executive Committees. Another option is to send a packet of information to local legislators, especially those newly elected, including a letter introducing the WIB and the Policy Statements.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboards

Berg shared the Adult and Dislocated Worker dashboards for 2020. The reports provided details on the participants being served in each program by age, gender, and race. Also included were the numbers served, entering employment and receiving training.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 12, 3-4 PM