

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Via Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Jonathan Banks  
Lisa Guetzkow  
James McClean  
John (JP) Perlich  
Donna Rapacz

**Absent:**

Hanna Getachew-Kreusser  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
Sheila Olson-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Karyn Berg, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Catrice O'Neal, Ramsey County  
Funlola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

---

**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

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

---

**Approval of January Minutes**

**Motion (Banks/Guetzkow) to approve the January 8, 2025, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice/chat vote.**

---

**Election Updates**

Milbrandt provided an update on the federal and state election results:

- David Gottfried won the State House election. The House is back to a 67-67 party split.
- Doron Clark won the State Senate election, returning the senate majority to the DFL after a temporary 33-33 split.
- Garrison McMurtrey won a special election for Ramsey County Board District 3, previously held by Trista Martinson.

---

**Committee Work Plan Updates**

*Legislative Funding Requests:* Perlich shared that the state budget outlook has been adjusted downward. Because of this downward movement, financial asks at the legislature are becoming more challenging. The state is obligated to have their budget done by the last day of June or there will be government shutdown. The legislature is mandated to have their work completed by May 19 otherwise they'll have to come back for a special session. O'Neal shared that Ramsey County/Workforce Solutions priorities are focused on extending use of the direct appropriation for Tech Squad through June 2028 and supporting of YouthPrise bill to expand access to driver's license education for low-income students. These are in alignment with the MN Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB). Other MAWB priorities include a supplemental funding increase for the Minnesota Youth Program and prioritization of support for the Dislocated Worker program in the Workforce Development Fund. Strategic and contingency planning has been done to determine what programs to sustain and which need to be sunset based on outcomes and performance.

*WIB Legislative Priority Handout:* Milbrandt thanked Guetzkow, Olson and Banks for their work on updating the 2025 legislative priorities handout which was approved by the WIB in February. Ramsey County's Communications department reviewed it and had no significant changes. This committee will now give it a final review and offer input on outreach strategies. MAWB is coordinating workforce boards across the state to send introductory emails to legislators to increase awareness and build relationships with their local delegations. Another opportunity in the coming weeks is for employer partners and program participants to testify at the Jobs Committee hearing. This is a great opportunity from those who are directly impacted to share their stories. The WIB's policy handout was designed to have a place to add specific funding requests and bills of interest. There has been activity making connections with Representatives Pinto, Lee and Xiong.

*WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Dashboard:* Berg shared the 2024 training outcomes. The effectiveness of training funding comes in two ways; 1) measuring credentials that are successfully completed by participants, and 2) a measurable skills gain. The highest training interests are in computer mathematical, transportation, community & social services and management training. The Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are both on the open data portal that go into more details on credentials.

---

### **Staff Updates**

*2024 Annual Report:* Milbrandt provided an update on the report which will go live on the county's open data portal. New this year is added narratives and visualizations on Career Services and the Dislocated Worker program dashboard.

*CareerForce Relocation:* Milbrandt announced the relocation of the CareerForce Center to Metro Square and shared that the first day of service was successful with about 30 visitors. Pictures of the center were shared and its features were highlighted. Signage is up at the previous location to direct people to this new location. She shared the outreach campaign that will start March 13. Milbrandt noted the alignment of the grand opening with the county's expanded Service Center opening sometime this summer.

*Upcoming Events:* Milbrandt shared the following and asked that committee promote the upcoming WIB-supported events and initiatives and will be shared in the follow up email.

- Green Ramsey Expo & Career Fair: March 19 at Minnehaha Rec Center – 10am- 1pm.
- Level Up Young Adult Career Resource Fair: April 24 at YMCA – St. Paul Eastside 9am-1:30pm.
- Youth Job and Resource Fair: May 3 at Maplewood Mall 10am-noon.
- Tech Month: Planning is underway to host 1-2 events in May and share other local events.

---

### **Other**

No further items discussed.

---

### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 3-4pm