

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2018

3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

Trixie Golberg
Greg Mellas
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson

Absent:

Ryan Hauschild
Clarence Hightower-EA
James McClean

Staff/Guests:

Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Kate Probert, Workforce Solutions
Elizabeth Tolzmann, Ramsey County

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Olson/Mellas) to approve the November 20, 2017 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Mullan read the conflict of interest statement aloud. Tolzmann indicated that a list of organizations contracting with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions (WFS) will be shared at the next WIB meeting.

Transportation Research Project & 2-Gen Network Update

Tolzmann and Probert shared information about The People's Fellowship, a partnership between the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood, the Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD), WFS and Ramsey County Family Assisted Services, which was one of four sites selected by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a two-generation pilot project. The pilot will support 25 African American families who have been on MFIP for 36-48 months and live in the Promise Neighborhood in developing a self-determining employment plan and gaining work experience. WFS, DHS and Wilder will handle the evaluation and work with the families and community leaders if the families become disengaged. The WIB will continue to receive updates and may be asked to support legislative language promoting the two-generation approach and/or provide input into the evaluation.

Tolzmann reported that WFS applied for funding for the Resilient Communities Project. The goal of the program is to remove transportation barriers to employment. Funding will be used to hire graduate level students from the U of M to do assessments and then develop recommendations on a long-term action plan for addressing transportation barriers. It was suggested that the Met Council be asked partner in this work.

United States Census 2020

Mullan explained that the Census will be taken in 2020. Tolzmann stressed the critical nature of counting everyone, including those whose legal status is in question. It was also noted that census taking jobs are good part-time, temporary positions. The Ramsey County Policy and Planning Department is taking an active leadership role in the census. Many corporations and organizations are supporting the census effort. Mellas noted that colleges and universities could play an active role in reassuring those who may be concerned about why the government wants their information.

Policy Updates

MWCA Legislative Committee: Tolzmann reported on the legislative work of MWCA and the regional board. Because this is a non-funding year, the legislative platforms focus on reporting and equity.

Committee members reviewed a draft of SF 2434, a bill which modifies the use of workforce development funds and includes language related to career pathways, sector partnerships and regional boards. There was discussion about the need for more flexibility and agility in public workforce funding. It was agreed that this is a message than needs to be emphasized with policymakers.

Ramsey County Federal/State Platforms and Strategic Priorities: No discussion.

WIB Priorities: No discussion.

SNAP: Probert provided details on the SNAP E&T program and 50/50 match available from the federal government. She stated that implementing the 50/50 reimbursement would allow Ramsey County to expand the program. Probert indicated that Commissioner Carter would like a letter from the WIB supporting the 50/50 match. Olson explained that Goodwill's finance department has been cautious about the 50/50 reimbursement due to lack of written accounting rules. There was discussion about the WIB's role in requesting clarification on the accounting guidelines. There was also discussion about the limitations of the SNAP E&T program due to Minnesota's decision to be a mandatory participation state. Probert expressed support for Minnesota becoming a voluntary participation state, which would allow participants to extend their time on the program to engage in education. She asked the WIB to advocate for this change. It was suggested that this also be advanced by MWCA and the regional board. Based on the discussions, the following steps will be taken:

- Mullan and Probert will draft a formal letter from the WIB requesting clarification on the 50/50 match accounting rules and a one-page summary with background information to accompany the letter
- A brief update will be shared with the Executive Committee in March. The letter and summary will be considered by the Executive Committee in May and the full WIB in June
- If approved, the letter will then be shared with other WIBs and the regional board

2018 Meeting Schedule

Motion (Olson/Mellas) to approve the proposed 2018 Policy Committee meeting scheduled as presented. Motion carried.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm.