

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
3:00-4:00 pm

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
James McClean
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson

Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli

Staff/Guests:

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

Call to order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM. Guetzkow read acknowledgement aloud.

Approval of January Minutes

Motion (Olson/McClearn) to approve the January 12, 2022, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.

Action Plan

Becker reviewed the Committee's plan and stated it will be part of the full plan that goes to the Board for approval on April 7. Some actions might be pushed out, but all were discussed previously. There was a suggestion that the bylaws be sent out to review for the next meeting. This came out of the Strategic Planning meeting to find ways to improve the community's voice within the WIB. The staff will create a list of community intersections and what other committees are doing from the residents' standpoint.

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Projects Update

Becker stated that this fund should be kept track of since the WIB lifted up digital equity needs in the policy statement. Becker stated that Minnesota was allocated \$180M and explained what that entails. The concern is to ensure that the flexibility is maintained to support the digital equity needs in the Twin Cities metro area as the State Broadband Taskforce recommended that 100% of the remaining dollars go towards broadband infrastructure.

Committee Work Plan Updates

2022 WIB Policy Platform: Becker shared information on the platform which was approved by the WIB in February along with the committee's recommendations. Discussion was had as to how to elevate the WIB with legislators. It was decided to send an introductory letter that includes a meeting offer. It could also highlight ARPA work and include the TechPak program study. Copies will be sent to the committee.

Legislative Topics: Becker shared the following:

- *DEED/Governor Legislative Agenda:* The focus of the budget is on tech jobs, paid family and medical leave, expanding the marketing campaign to attract talent and business opportunities, and the Office of New Americans.
- *MAWB Legislative Efforts:* Their focus is on improved services at CareerForce locations statewide, outreach to potential job seekers, targeted supports for underserved populations, and other local strategies for addressing workforce shortages.
- *Drivers' License:* Youthprise is leading this legislative effort given the barriers for youth to attain their drivers' licenses. Discussion was had as to working with Youthprise to make this a reality. Becker shared the Ramsey County Drivers' Academy Pilot program with the funding received.
- *Waivers:* Their efforts underway to grant the Commissioner of Human Services temporary authority to reinstate waivers and modifications to certain human services programs.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Allocations & Dashboards: Mullan stated that there are significant changes between 2020 and 2021. Berg explained that the adult population saw some drop which might be pandemic related. There was an increase in wages which was significant as employers are interested in getting positions filled. For Dislocated Worker allocations, Berg explained that there were higher numbers of people entering the workforce and with the percentage the same, represents the driving force from the total exits.

Director Updates

WIOA State Plan: Becker explained that the whole plan has shifted under the leadership of the Governor's Workforce Board and provided a summary of what needs to be submitted.

Adjourn

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 3-4 PM