

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

3:00pm-4:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
James McClean
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson
John Perlich

Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli-EA

Staff/Guests:

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

Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement

Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Soyomokun read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval of March Minutes

Motion (Perlich/Guetzkow) to approve the March 8, 2023, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Chair

Mullan announced that his term on the WIB will end on July 31, and he is not seeking reappointment. He explained the role of the committee chair and that this person would also be a member of the WIB Executive Committee. Anyone is interested should let Mullan or Milbrandt know.

Committee Work Plan Updates

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Updates: Placement/Employment Trends and Success Story: Mullan shared that his entire work group at 3M has been eliminated due to the restructuring so he and others could possibly use the Dislocated Worker (DW) program. Soyomokun provided an update on the Adult and DW average and median wage outcomes. At the time of intake, previous wages are only mandated for DW; they cannot be requested at time of intake for WIOA Adult. Soyomokun also shared some trend data using ONET codes. Transportation and material moving occupations are seeing an upward trend.

Becker shared that these dashboards will be switched over to the County's Open Data Platform soon.

WIOA Priority of Service and Eligibility Policies: Becker shared that the Priority of Service policy was separated from the Eligibility policy in order to provide more clarity and to address the main finding that came out of the 2022 federal monitoring.

PY23 WIOA Allocations: Becker explained the WIOA program fund appropriation process which starts with the US Department of Labor, flows to the State and then to the local workforce areas. Ramsey County is receiving a 30% reduction in the WIOA Adult allocation and a 15% reduction in DW allocation for PY23.

The formula for these allocations involves unemployment rate, population and geography. Becker noted that the formula is antiquated. She plans to discuss it further with DEED. She also shared that WIOA Youth had a 17% decrease, but the state legislature is likely to pass an increase in for the Minnesota Youth Program which will offset the federal cuts.

Director Updates:

Legislative Update: Becker stated that the constitutional adjournment date for the state legislature is May 22. She provided a summary of some key issues. McClean and Perlich also shared that things are moving along but a lot of work yet to be done. Areas being tracked by Ramsey County are the Diversionary Work Program, DEED's funding request, direct appropriations, cannabis, paid family leave and housing. There's also a \$2M direct appropriation for Ramsey County in the Workforce bill and \$1 million for tech training.

Incumbent Worker Training: Becker shared about the Incumbent Work Pilot initiative utilizing \$20,000 of DW funds to support employers with current employee training needs.

CareerForce Ad Hoc Committees: Becker gave an overview of the two newly created ad hoc committees – CareerForce Operations and Service Delivery & CareerForce Relocation. Guetzkow and Becker provided recaps of the initial meetings of both groups.

Other

No further items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 3-4 PM