

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Policy & Oversight Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 7, 2020  
9:00-9:30 am

**Present:**

Lisa Guetzkow  
James McClean  
Sean Mullan  
Sheila Olson  
Shannon Watson

**Absent:**

Ryan Hauschild  
Greg Mellas-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Ramsey County

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**Call to Order**

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

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**Support Letter - Relaunching America's Workforce Act (RAWA)**

Becker explained the need for the committee to consider providing a letter of support for the RAWA and a letter of gratitude to Senator Smith in alignment with the timing of letters being sent from other workforce organizations and the Ramsey County Board. She shared information about the bill which would provide \$15.1 billion in COVID response funding for all WIOA programs, Adult Education, and Career and Technical Education. It also provides state and local workforce areas flexibility to serve people eligible for pandemic unemployment assistance, for incumbent worker training and to expand the amount the governor can hold in reserve for COVID response. Projections show the Dislocated Worker program could have a funding gap between \$73 and \$146 million. After lengthy discussion, it was decided not to send a letter of thanks to Senator Smith. There was support for developing a letter supporting additional investments in the workforce development system but not for this specific bill, partially due to its lack of bipartisan support. The letter should use data to highlight the need for additional funding for existing federal programs to meet the anticipated demand for reemployment services. A draft will be reviewed at the regular committee meeting next week and then sent to the Executive Committee for approval. Becker will ask the state association if WIBs in areas represented by congressional Republicans are signing on to RAWA.

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**Other**

No other items were discussed.

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34am.

**Next meeting:** May 14, 2020, 2:00-3:00pm via Zoom