

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 12, 2020
3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

James McClean
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson
Shannon Watson

Absent:

Lisa Guetzkow-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Approve September Minutes

Watson made a correction to the September minutes, noting that she was not in attendance.

Motion (Olson/Watson) to approve the September 11, 2020 Policy Committee meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried. McClean was not present at the time of the vote.

MAWB Board Member Training

Becker explained that MAWB's policy committee created a series of mini training sessions that WIB members can attend. The list of topics was reviewed. This committee will showcase these events and encourage WIB members and other workforce partners to attend at least one training. Becker will share the registration details when they are released. She also suggested this committee consider hosting a virtual meet and greet with legislators in 2021.

MAWB Draft Policy Platform

Becker stated that MAWB created a draft policy platform for 2021. She also outlined the county's 2021 platform development process. The platform should be approved in January. Mullan suggested the WIB's policy statements be reviewed at the January meeting to make sure there is alignment with the MAWB and county platforms. Becker suggested the WIB lift up the tech equity issue and speak to how lack of tech resources limits people's job opportunities.

Dislocated Worker Priority of Service Proposal

Workforce Solutions plans to bring a Priority of Service policy to the Executive Committee in anticipation of increasing demand for Dislocated Worker (DW) funds. The policy is still being developed but will prioritize those with the most need to ensure they are served first. Berg provided details on how DW enrollments have worked in the past and how they will be handled once enrollment reaches 75%. A similar policy will be created for the WIOA Adult program. Communication to those on the waitlist still needs to be determined but there will be coordination across the region. Becker will send both policies out before they are voted on by the Executive Committee next week.

Updates

CARES Act Funding: Becker shared updated information on the disproportionate unemployment impacts on young people, those with less education and the BIPOC community. 63% of Blacks who were part of the labor force in 2019 have filed for unemployment. Olson expressed interest in seeing the raw data to better understand the true numbers. It is unclear if the long term unemployed were eligible for the \$600 federal benefit.

2021 Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan: Becker explained that a new strategic plan will be delayed while the county works on the Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan. In the meantime, the WIB will develop a 6-9 month crisis work plan, make some staffing changes, adjust the meeting schedule, and realign some of the committees, including adding a Tech Ad Hoc Committee. Most WIB members will stay on their current committees. The 2021 Work Plan for this committee will include:

- Promote legislative training to the WIB members
- Review and renew WIB Policy Platform (January)
- Visit with key legislators virtually (new members in mid-December and incumbents after February)
- Follow key legislators on key committees
- Oversee WIOA DW and Adult Programs and Plans

Dislocated Worker Outreach Efforts: Berg provided an update on DEED's mass layoff projects. There hasn't been much communication from DEED because most recent furloughs don't qualify as a project. There is an unusual paradox right now of high unemployment and yet not many people are looking for work. Reasons for this include the need to care for family members and homeschool children and for fear of increased infection risk by essential workers. Becker stated that DW enrollments are down. To increase awareness of available workforce service and other assistance programs, the county sent out 17,000 postcards to people who are behind on their property taxes and to renters in certain census blocks. There's also been culturally specific targeted advertising on radio, streaming platforms and social media.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboards

No discussion.

Committee Dashboard Review

No discussion.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18pm.

Next meeting: January 13, 2021, 3-4pm.