

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2019
2:00-3:30 pm

Present:

Lisa Guetzkow
James McClean
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson
Shannon Watson

Absent:

Ryan Hauschild
Greg Mellas-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve October Minutes

Motion (Watson/McClean) to approve the October 17, 2019 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Mullan explained that an every other month meeting schedule is being proposed for 2020. Becker noted that the January and March meetings will be held at MCIT and the remainder of the 2020 meetings will be at AMC so that the committee can be closer to the Capitol.

Motion (Watson/McClean) to approve the 2020 Policy and Oversight Committee meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Legislative Priority Alignment

MN Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB): Mullan explained that there was effort made in the past to align the WIB's platform with MAWB's priorities.

Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council (GMWC): Becker reported that the GMWC has not developed its platform yet, but they have been looking at the National Skills Coalition platform. Mullan pointed out that there is alignment between the National Skills Coalition and the WIB's priorities.

Other: The legislative platform for Ramsey County was sent in the packet. Because it is a bonding year, the county platform doesn't get into a lot of detail about program services.

2020 WIB Legislative Platform

The WIB's 2019 platform was reviewed. It was decided that the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) will be added to the list of organizations whose platforms the WIB supports. Watson noted that SPACC's Board just approved their 2020 Areas of Focus document. Because this is a bonding year, it was decided that the committee will place more emphasis on legislator visits/relationship building and researching key issues supported by local legislators. It was also decided that the committee will participate in legislative visits being coordinated by MAWB as part of a larger workforce day. Becker agreed to inquire about MAWB's plans for this event. She will send the dates out as soon as possible. It was suggested that a one page overview about the WIB and its priorities be developed to educate the person who replaces Rep. Mahoney and other candidates who are challenging for locals seats. Becker also suggested that Rep. Mahoney be invited to a WIB meeting before he retires to thank him for his commitment to workforce. This will be discussed further in the spring.

WIOA Refresher

Becker provided a handout on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). She shared a brief description of how the six key purposes of WIOA are being addressed in Ramsey County, as well as information about the mandatory partners, funding and services. There was discussion about the need for changes to the state's rapid response process for mass layoffs and the eligibility requirements for individuals impacted by these layoffs. The cooperation level of the business does impact this process. There was agreement that this is an area the committee should learn more about so that administrative rule improvements could be suggested. Guetzkow and Becker agreed to bring more information on this to the next meeting. This could include inviting Jason Wadell from DEED Rapid Response to provide an overview. Some other members of the WIB, such as Kristen Guild, could also be mobilized to be part of this discussion.

Becker noted that the State, Regional and Local plans will be due in the spring. The WIB will be involved in reviewing and then approving the Local Plan. Berg anticipates that the Plans could require a more significant rewrite in 2020.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Draft Dashboards

Becker explained that the dashboard provided is a first attempt at an oversight report that this committee will review at each meeting. The results will help program staff inform program approaches and identify needed partners. Becker noted that next month's report will have some additional information. There was agreement that this is a good start.

WIB Strategic Plan/Policy & Oversight Committee Work Plan

Mullan explained that the committee needs to develop a work plan to guide its work for the coming year. The full plan document was reviewed and a needed change to the committee's focus statement was identified. The Policy Committee is leading the *Influence Public Policy and Workforce Needs* strategic outcome and supporting other outcomes. It was suggested that, based on the discussion about administrative rules, this committee also be listed as supporting strategic outcome five involving driving systematic change. A preliminary work plan that came out of the spring planning session was considered. The following changes were made:

1. Learn more about the rapid response program for dislocated workers will be added to Q1. Guetzkow, Becker and Berg will lead this item.
2. Develop an information sheets for local candidates will be added to Q1. Watson and McClean offered to lead this effort. A draft will be reviewed at the January committee meeting.
3. Map out information and the policy interests of current local elected officials will be added to Q1. Watson will work on mapping the policy alignments.
4. Cloning legislation will be moved out to Q4.

Other

Olson asked that a list of members on each committee be shared with the full WIB.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Next meeting: January 9, 2020 at MCIT, 100 Empire Drive, Suite 100 - Saint Paul