

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

3:00pm-4:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Jonathan Banks
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Lisa Guetzkow
John (JP) Perlich

Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli
James McClean
Sheila Olson-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County
Jeanna Fortney, MN Association of Workforce Boards
Marcel Hofker, Strive Staffing
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County
Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Becker called the meeting to order at 3:03pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud. Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of September Minutes

Deferred until next meeting.

2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

Becker shared the proposed 2024 meeting dates, stating it follows the same schedule as 2023, with meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every odd month from 3-4pm. Anyone with concerns with this change should contact Milbrandt. She will send the meeting invites after this meeting.

Committee Work Plan Updates

WIB Policy Statements – Alignment with Other Platforms:

- MN Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB): Fortney explained the work of MAWB, which represents the cooperative efforts of 16 area Workforce Development Boards across the state, whose programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of their communities. MAWB's main focus in on professional development and training; communication and coordination across the workforce system; and advocacy. Fortney shared MAWB's key strategies for this legislative session which includes securing significant funds (which is a challenge) and opportunities for Ramsey County that align with the county's strategic priorities, values, and community needs that minimize the levy impact to county residents and businesses. One concern during this legislation session is whether the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will be reauthorized, modifying the program to ensure effectiveness and broad service delivery to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving economy.
- Ramsey County Legislative Efforts: O'Rourke stated that 2024 is the bonding/policy year and shared items Ramsey County submitted and explained the State and Federal legislative outlooks and platform ideas. The county's delegation remains positioned well to support Ramsey County. Becker shared the fiscal impact to counties as it relates to workforce: Driver's License Academy; training stipends as part of all workforce programs; creating more employment and training supports and opportunities for those who are justice impacted and digital navigators/digital literacy training in the county to support job seekers. More information on legislative efforts will be included in the deck.
- Local Delegation Outreach: No discussion or update.
- WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboard: A written update will be provided in the meeting follow up email.

Action Plan Update and 2024 Work Plan

Becker shared the Action Plan efforts for each of the committees are being revisited. One effort this committee should review are the WIB's bylaws. An initial discussion will take place at the January meeting.

Director Updates

CareerForce Ad Hoc Committees: Becker and Guetzkow are working on a relocation of the CareerForce Center. Guetzkow provided a brief update of the operations efforts done to date which focuses on service delivery, operations, and facilities around the customer experience. More detailed information will be provided in the follow up email.

Clean Slate Act: Becker shared information on the Clean Slate Act that passed in early 2023. This Act does not get to a true clean slate. Hofker shared what was passed and the challenges. Even with the progress made, a policy the WIB might want to explore is a shorter waiting period for expungement of records, even with arrest records without conviction. There was discussion around background checks and how they are tied to expungement as there might be a need to educate employers and job seekers. A suggestion was to connect with Sen. Bobby Joe Champion, who is the Senate's chief author of the new law, if he is considering any changes.

Other

No other items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 3-4pm