

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2018

3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

Ryan Hauschild
James McClean
Greg Mellas
Sean Mullan

Absent:

Clarence Hightower-EA
Sheila Olson-EA

Staff/Guests:

Leon Boeckermann, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (McClean/Mellas) to approve the March 15, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Minimum Wage Increase/Benefits Cliff

Mullan explained that Saint Paul just released the first draft of a minimum wage ordinance and has set the first public hearing date. A Pioneer Press article on the ordinance was distributed. Key elements of the ordinance include:

- Phased implementation, based on the size of the business
- No tip credit
- Carve out for “City approved youth training and apprenticeship programs”

There was discussion about the impacts on small businesses, tip-earning workers and benefits recipients. It is unclear at this time if the youth training program exemption only applies to Right Track and if the business size determination is based on the corporation or individual location. Boeckermann provided an explanation of a benefits cliff analysis done by County staff. Highlights from the analysis included:

- A livable wage for a single parent with two children in Saint Paul is \$28.
- The most significant cliffs (loss of healthcare, childcare and rent assistance) occur before the family reaches a livable wage.
- MN Family Investment Program (MFIP) cash grants have not increased in over 20 years.
- Youth with income have no impact on family income as long as they remain in school.

The committee will monitor the progress of the ordinance. McClean suggested the WIB look into taking policy positions on how some public programs work in order to soften the cliffs. He agreed to contact Catholic Charities, which has already done quite a bit of work in this area.

Investing in 21st Century Workforce Partnerships Act

Mullan stated that the main components of this bill were started by Senator Franken and are now being championed by Senator Smith. Mullan hopes to meet with both Minnesota Senators and Rep. Peterson in Washington DC in November to discuss this issue and inform them of the work that 3M is engaged in. The bill has strong bi-partisan support and is a key priority of the Trump Administration.

Ramsey County and the 2020 Census

Mullan explained that Ramsey County is promoting participation in the 2020 census locally. The results of the count define funding and the number of congressional seats each state gets. There was agreement that the Committee should encourage the WIB to support the census efforts. Get out the vote efforts could

be transitioned into be counted efforts. Mellas explained that the colleges will be promoting the census. It was suggested that the census could be promoted in the WorkForce Centers, through community-based organizations, and by the Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA). Boeckermann stated that Workforce Solutions is working with the Census Bureau to identify census takers.

2019 WIB Legislative Platform

The committee reviewed the WIB's 2018 platform. There was discussion about potential items to add or remove. Suggestions included advocacy for the census, support for re-entry programs, and racial equity. There was agreement that the WIB should participate in any MWCA sponsored advocacy events at the Capitol. Boeckermann reported that Ramsey County is finalizing its platform. It will be sent to the committee after being approved by the County Board. Claudia Brewington, Ramsey County Lobbyist, and City policy staff will be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss legislative priority alignment.

Other

Mullan shared a flyer promoting a Women in the Trades sampler being offered at Saint Paul College. It will be posted in the resource room.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.