

## Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

3:00pm-4:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

### Present:

Jonathan Banks  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
James McClean  
Sheila Olson  
John (JP) Perlich

### Absent:

Lisa Guetzkow-EA

### Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County  
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Funlola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

---

### Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Becker called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. McClean read the land acknowledgement aloud. Everyone introduced themselves.

---

### Approval of May Minutes

**Motion (Olson/Perlich) to approve the May 10, 2023, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

---

### Committee Chair

Becker announced that McClean agreed to serve as Committee Chair through the end of the year. McClean shared his background and history with the Workforce Innovative Board (WIB).

**Motion (Perlich/Olson) to approve McClean as Chair of the Policy and Oversight Committee. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

---

### Committee Work Plan Updates

*WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboard Switchover:* Becker shared that the performance metrics for a several programs, including the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) programs, are being converted to the County's Open Data Portal (ODP). This will reduce the number of charts and graphs needing to be created for presentations and is more readily available to the public. The hope is to have this done by the end of the year. Milbrandt will send the ODP general page link in the follow up email.

*Dashboard Snapshot:* Berg shared a summary of WIOA Adult and DW program outcomes for the last twelve months. The Adult program outcomes are better than the DW program which is not typical as the outcomes and goals are structured to be a little lower for Adult than DW. Typically, Adult participants come in with more barriers, limited work experience, and less formal education. Adult outcomes exceeded all five performance measures and median wages was 40% higher than the local area goal. This might be because they participate in the skills training that is offered by Workforce Solutions (WFS). DW outcomes exceeded two of the five performance measures. Berg stated that having outcomes slightly below goal is not worrisome given the last couple years. Credentials can lag behind due to clients needing to return documents. The ODP will be able to show more specifics around training. The performance measures were shared for both programs. Goodwill, which is one of the county's vendor partners, contributed to the outcomes. Berg explained how the goals are set. Olson explained the county contracts with other community-based organizations for these programs as well.

---

### Director Updates:

*Federal WIOA Funding:* Becker provided an update on proposed funding cuts to WIOA Adult and the possible elimination of federal WIOA Youth funding.

*Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Monitoring:* Becker shared that this program has recently been audited. Berg explained the purpose of the program which provides long-term training for individuals whose jobs were sent offshore, resulting in their jobs being eliminated. Becker stated the audit findings will be shared with the state within 45 days. The initial report was positive.

*CareerForce Ad Hoc Committees:* Becker provided an update on the work being done to possibly relocate the CareerForce site in Saint Paul and the role and responsibilities of the WIB in this process.

*County Legislative Efforts:* Becker provided an update on the county's Legislative Actions teams in developing strategies and assessing implication for policy, program budgets and implementation. Workforce Solutions received direct appropriations. Additional areas of potential interest to the WIB were the bonding tour and affording housing and new DEED investments.

*WIB Policy Committee Legislative Outreach:* Becker shared information about the WIB's past legislative outreach efforts. The next committee meeting will include a discussion of plans for outreach and engagement for the next legislative session. McClean stated that 2024 is a policy year so if there is something the WIB really wants to advocate for, the timing is good. Suggestions included flexibility of stipends in state workforce programs, challenges with the driver's license process at the Department of Public Safety facilities, and digital equity.

---

### **Other**

For fun, Milbrandt shared that Olson and McClean were both appointed to the WIB in 2013.

---

### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 3-4 PM