Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2023, 1–2pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:	**Absent**:	**Staff**/**Guests**:
Ama Asantewaa	Sabina Saksena-EA	Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Annie Byrne		Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Len Cacioppo		Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Sam Drong		Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Caroline Karanja		
Tony Lusiba		
Koami Pedado		

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement
Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. Macalus read the Land Acknowledgement. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve November Minutes
Motion (Lusiba/Cacioppo) to approve the November 9, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement
Becker reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded everyone that any WIB or committee member who has a conflict of interest should abstain from discussion and voting. The policy is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. In the past, committee members were asked to sign an acknowledgement form, but the acknowledgement process is being simplified this year to instead ask members to read the policy and acknowledge their responsibility in abstaining as necessary.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates
Tech Month – May 2024: Discussion centered on Tech Month events and gathering feedback and support from this committee on how to move forward. Becker proposed that committee members attend at least one event and then provide insights on that event at the next committee meeting. Event suggestions included family-geared events with focus on emerging job seekers; future of tech (i.e., artificial intelligence) in partnership with Full Stack or MnTech); a tech panel based on the "All Aboard the Talent Ship" webinar from MKE Tech which focused on building a diverse tech talent pipeline through apprenticeship, internship, returnship and entrepreneurship; and reskilling older workers in technology. Becker will check out Bus Stop Mamas. Planning steps will be brought back at the next committee meeting. Asantewaa will connect with Milbrandt about tabling at the Inclusive Hiring Connections Summit in January. Any further ideas for Tech month can be sent to Becker and/or Milbrandt.

Director Updates
Tech Squads: Molenaar stated that a new Program Specialist has been hired to implement this program. The program will provide information technology training and work experience to young adults, ages 18-24. Participants will receive paid IT helpdesk training and a 16-week Tech Squad internship to prepare them to provide IT help desk services to residents. A virtual information session is being held tomorrow and paid training starts at Saint Paul College on January 28.
BEAD Funding: Becker provided information on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. This program provides $42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states. The cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the counties of Hennepin and Ramsey are working together as there is concern on how the state funding is being rolled out. The concern is the border-to-border BEAD funding of $652M. The mapping needs to

focus on the population impact not the geographical impact. Work is being done on improving the mapping aspect to show the magnitude of people impacted. A lot of advocacy work being done. Milbrandt will provide in the follow up the Digital Opportunity Plan response letter that the County Board sent to the MN Office of Broadband.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities: Becker shared the following opportunities and encouraged WIB members to share these events with their networks:

- Inclusive Hiring Connection Summit - January 24, 8:30am-1pm**.** Volunteers from the WIB are needed to help in a variety of ways including greeting attendees and hosting breakout rooms. If interested, please contact Milbrandt.
- Top Trends to Watch Webinar – January 17, noon-1pm. The event is free and open to all.
- Applications are now open for the third Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. Applications are due January 31.

Tech Trainers and Conversations: Becker shared the idea in the fall of adding to the work plan conversations with tech trainers/providers to hear what is going well and what is challenging for them. The committee will work on this in facilitating questions, etc. to see what would help to make it better.

Action Plan and 2024 Work Plan
Becker provided an update on the 2024 Action Plan efforts and included the tech training conversations. Aligning with Full Stack Saint Paul workforce efforts has been placed on hold due to waiting on the City Council member appointment.

Committee Member Updates and Other
No further updates.

Adjourn
Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1-2pm.