Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 11, 2021
3:00-4:00 PM

Present:	**Absent**:	**Staff/Guests**:
Sam Drong	Caroline Karanja	Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Tony Lusiba	Carly Voshell-EA	Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce
Kowsar Mohamed		Solutions
Koami Pedado		
Diane Rucker		
Sabina Saksena		

Call to Order
Chair Tony Lusiba called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM

Land Acknowledgement
Lusiba read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve January Minutes
Motion (Lusiba/Saksena) to approve the January 21, 2021 Tech Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Work Plan Discussions
Tech Cooperative: Becker explained that a subgroup met to talk about how to move the county's goal of supporting tech entrepreneurs forward. She started a spreadsheet int Teams and added some of the skills needed for several job categories. After some discussion, it was decided that the identified categories should be narrowed to the following because these are the areas where small businesses will need assistance:
- Design and Creative
- Web/Mobile & Software/IT & Networking
- Digital Marketing& Analytics
- Administration/IT Support

The subgroup will continue to work on the spreadsheet. Once done, Becker would like to find a way to share the information on the Ramsey County Means Business website.

Ecosystem Mapping: Rucker explained that the ecosystem stakeholder model is a proxy for showing the ease of a startup company to succeed in an environment. The five pillars that compromise this model are entrepreneur, risk capital, corporate, government, and university but the most important element are the intersections. Committee members will populate the spreadsheet in Teams with groups they are aware of that have some intersections. This information will be reviewed again at the next meeting. Once developed, it can be shared with corporations on the Full Stack Committee as a response to the "we don't have enough talent" claim. It can also be used to inform middle and high school student about the skills and training needed for tech careers.

Individual Tech Journey Map: Becker asked the group to consider one additional piece of work this committee could do this year to help an individual develop their skills so they can start a career in tech. After some discussion, the idea of developing a technology skills ladder was suggested. This would be a common rating to determine the level of tech skills needed to be successful in a job and outline a skills path to help people achieve higher levels on the ladder.

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Director Updates
MN Department of Education Equity Report: Becker reported that the MN Department of Education Equity Report highlighted Ramsey County's TechPak initiative, calling it the model for scaling a digital equity initiative statewide.
April Tech Month: Governor Walz declared April as Tech Month. Workforce Solutions commissioned a report that will be released in April looking at current job postings and the skill sets employers say they need. Becker shared a list of events happening across the state. Ramsey County is planning a social media campaign to spotlight data, WIB members, and success stories. Mohamed will provide a story about the MSP Tech Hire initiative. Committee members were asked to think of other items that could be highlighted and send them to Becker. The possibility of hosting a small panel discussion on the future of tech was mentioned.
American Recovery Act: Becker reported that cities and counties are getting large amounts of federal funding. A slice of Ramsey County's $108M will go to workforce services. Becker suggested this committee think about creative ways to use some of these funds. One suggestion was development of a community tech center supported by Ramsey County.
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Teams Collaboration
Lusiba encouraged committee members to continue sharing ideas and information between meetings using Teams.
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Other
No discussion.

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Adjourn
Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 1:00-2:00pm