

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 9, 2023

1:00 – 2:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Ama Asantewaa  
Sam Drong  
Caroline Karanja  
Tony Lusiba  
Koami Pedado  
Sabina Saksena

**Absent:**

Mary Rick

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Annie Byrne, City of Saint Paul  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and read the Land Acknowledgement. All in attendance introduced themselves.

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**Approve January Minutes**

**Motion (Lusiba/Drong) to approve the January 12, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

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**Committee Work Plan/Project Updates**

*Tech Month Events Planning:* Becker shared that today's meeting will center on Tech Month events being planned for May and gathering feedback and support from the committee on how to move forward with planning. Events being planned and included on the landing page:

- Ramsey County Board Tech Month Proclamation, May 2 at 9am.
- Johnson High School Tech Expo for students and the community to learn about career opportunities in tech, led by Rick and Byrne.
- Tour of either Minnetronix or Ecolab for boot camper/tech training program participants the week of May 15, led by Karanja.
- Data and Dialogue: Reconsidering Tech Minimum Qualifications to share data and push employers to reconsider their hiring requirements, led by Becker and Milbrandt with support from RealTime Talent.
- Tech on Tap, sponsored by MnTech on May 4. This committee will only promote this event.
- Eastside xChange event for job seekers. The WIB may be asked to be a sponsor.
- Tech focused Job Club for job seekers to learn about local tech job opportunities.

There was also discussion about requesting WIB funds to sponsor an event with Black Tech Talent on a weekend or after school.

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**Positive Usage of ChatGPT**

Lusiba provided a demo and shared his experience with ChatGPT. It can answer questions and assist with tasks like composing emails, essays, resumes, cover letters, etc. It is currently open to the public at no cost.

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**Director Updates:**

*UX Cohort – Hack the Gap:* Karanja shared an update on the UX Cohort led by Hack the Gap. The cohort is made up of women who are Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipients. Karanja shared the program incentives/changes and the Ramsey County support for these recipients.

*Connectivity Blueprint:* Due to time constraints, an update on this item will be sent via email.

*ARPA:* Due to time constraints, an update on this item will be sent via email.

*Career Pathway:* Due to time constraints, an update on this item will be sent via email.

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**Committee Member Updates and Other**

No other items were discussed.

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11, 2023, 1-2pm.