

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2022

1:00 – 2:00pm

**Present:**

Ama Asantewaa  
Caroline Karanja  
Tony Lusiba  
Koami Pedado  
Mary Rick  
Diane Rucker  
Sabina Saksena

**Absent:**

Sam Drong  
Carly Voshell

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
DJ Brooks, World Youth Connect  
Jared Fessler, IT Career Lab  
Ofir Germanic, World Youth Connect  
Darian Lofton, World Youth Connect  
Mass Ka, World Youth Connect  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Mae Paw, World Youth Connect

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. He read the Land Acknowledgement aloud. Introductions were made.

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**Approve September Minutes**

**Motion (Lusiba/Rucker) to approve the September 15, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

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**National League of Cities Youth Excel Grant**

Becker provided context for the presentation by the World Youth Connect (WYC). The work was around how to ensure that the tech field is more welcoming, supportive and attractive to youth. The City of Saint Paul focused on the workforce alignment on how public agencies, schools, community-based organizations and STEM employers all work together to ensure more equitable outcome for youth of color. The goal of the grant is to support cities in creating more the economic success for youth from diverse communities and focused on several factors: expand STEM career pathways; promote job quality and empower youth and youth-serving organizations. As background, WYC is a diverse group of motivated young people from different cultural backgrounds and experiences who came together to make changes. WYC magnifies the important of youth involvement in the community while creating a positive environment in hope to increase youth voice in public. WYC young adults shared their findings and recommendations from the STEM Focus group. One highlighted outcome was that young people want to be treated as human beings. Discussion was had around the presentation. Some of the work the Tech Committee and the WIB should address are rebranding the name of STEM; marketing messages that would resonate about what is in the career pathway sphere; the growth journey of someone who is interested in learning more; and a mentorship network given the virtual world.

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**Committee Work Plan/Project Updates**

*Action Plan Strategies Status Update:* Becker provided an update on the action plan strategies for this Committee.

*Focus on Job Descriptions that Cause Hiring Barriers:* Becker shared the need to reframe gateway occupations and target occupations for reskilling in Ramsey County to increase access to IT Careers.

RealTime Talent will come back in early 2023 with solid data to help this committee determine next steps.

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**Director Updates:**

*Virtual Reality for Career Exploration:* Becker shared a video on virtual reality technology that could help young people explore careers. This could be an effective way to engage with and capture the interest of young people for whom cutting-edge technology is a key part of life and work. The WIB has funds for this type of technology that could be used at job fairs and schools to provide insight into a specific working culture. The idea is of interest to the committee but the message might not be there – it would be more of interest in the “fun” aspect versus the career exploration aspect.

*Digital Inclusion Leadership Summit:* Becker will share update via email.

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**2023 Committee Meeting Schedule**

Becker shared the proposed 2023 committee meeting dates. Lusiba suggested doing a breakfast or lunch to connect with each other in early 2023.

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**Connectivity Blueprint Update**

Becker provided an update on DEED’s role to deploy dollars to the state and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Act.

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**Other and Committee Member Updates**

None.

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 1:59pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2023 1:00-2:00pm