

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 1–2pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Annie Byrne
Len Cacioppo
Sam Drong
Caroline Karanja
Tony Lusiba
Koami Pedado

Absent:

Mary Rick-EA
Sabina Saksena-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:03pm and read the Land Acknowledgement. Introductions were made.

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Lusiba/Drong) to approve the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

Becker shared the proposed 2024 dates, stating it follows the same schedule as 2023, with meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every other month from 1-2pm. Unless there are any concerns, meeting invites will be sent out. On the even months all committee members are welcomed to attend the WIB meetings even if they are not a full WIB member.

Action Plan and 2024 Work Plan

Becker provided an update on the 2023 Action Plan efforts and stated that Plans for 2024 are being revisited. Efforts for this committee include the Hidden Worker opportunities, Community Tech Hubs, Full Stack workforce efforts and new funding streams and opportunities.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Becker provided on update on the following:

Future of Work Sessions: Workforce Solutions is working on several panels to help the workforce ecosystem and professionals better understand new Clean Economy Pathways. The upcoming session is scheduled for December 4 at Sunrise Banks, focusing on clean technology. These sessions could be aligned with Tech Month in the future.

Skills Based Hiring: Committee members were pleased about Governor Walz’s Executive Order to build and maintain Minnesota’s workforce by removing college degree requirements for most state jobs. The hope is that private sector employers follow. Work for this committee could be to find ways to move the skills-based hiring approach that screens for specific competencies. Information was shared regarding Skills Based Hiring STARs (Skilled Through Alternative Routes) which could be part of the committee’s work plan initiative for next year. Members were interested in this. There needs to be some type of level setting private sector in how it considers experience versus education. Information on Goodwill Easter Seals MN’s Employer Talent Accelerator program will be included in the follow up email. This workshop will help companies build a plan that will attract, hire and retain the best talent. There was a suggestion to have a speaker that could share ideas on how they view skilled based training and how to help job seekers be active participants to help with the process.

Full Stack Coordination and Alignment: There is some overlap of efforts with tech training/tech investments across the City, County and Saint Paul’s Parks Departments. Opportunities for collaboration include Tech month, creating more tech internships (e.g., summer intern at every organization in 370 Osbourne) and a

mentorship program. Byrne also shared some highlights of the meeting between Workforce Solution and the City and the focus on developing training resources. After further discussion, it was decided that the Work Plan should include getting labor market information and placement information.

Director Updates:

These items will be shared in the follow up email:

Inclusive Employer Toolkit

Drive for Five/Tech Hubs

Presidential Executive Order on Safe, Secure & Trustworthy AI

Lusiba provided information on the October 30 Executive Order charging multiple agencies with producing guidelines and taking other actions to advance the safe, secure and trustworthy development and use of artificial intelligence (AI). The reason behind the order is to protect Americans from AI-enabled fraud and deception by establishing standards and best practices for detecting AI-generated content and validating official content. AI is changing America's jobs and workplaces, offering both the promise of improved productivity but also the dangers of increased workplace surveillance, bias and job displacement. To mitigate these risks, there is the need to support workers' ability to bargain collectively and invest in workforce training and development that is accessible to all. AI will not replace jobs but allows people to do their jobs better. The WIB needs to understand the impact AI has in the workforce so will be adding this to the committee's 2024 work plan. Suggestions of things to understand include what are different jobs going to look like over the next 20+ years with AI in place at larger organizations and how to integrate AI in day-to-day life.

Committee Member Updates and Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024, 1-2pm.