

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2022

1:00 – 2:00pm

Present:

Sam Drong
Caroline Karanja
Tony Lusiba
Koami Pedado
Diane Rucker

Absent:

Sabina Saksena-EA
Carly Voshell

Staff/Guests:

Ama Asantewaa, IT Career Lab
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Jared Fessler IT Career Lab
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. He read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve May Minutes

Motion (Lusiba/Rucker) to approve the May 12, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Occupations of Focus for Reskilling in Ramsey County: Becker provided an overview and summary of the high demand IT career opportunities. Target occupations focus on changing employer hiring requirements to increase access to IT careers. Gateway occupations focus on rapid entry from aligned origin occupations. The discussion was around gateway and target occupations using labor market information to bring focus groups together either to discuss career pathways of those who are only able to get gateway occupations, the lower-end certification or do a deeper dive in the target occupations, requiring four-year degrees. The question is whether people who are hired really fit the qualifications employers post in the job descriptions. This committee will continue to work around job descriptions and connecting with Human Resources professionals on opportunities to hire diverse candidates.

Director Updates:

Brookings Transforming Cities Lab: Becker shared about the recent gathering held with leaders from Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul, the city of Detroit and the city of Cleveland to leverage federal funds. Becker shared the discussion the leaders had around entrepreneurship, which is relevant to this committee's work. Data shows that the youth have interest in both entrepreneurship and technology. A request for proposal (RFP) was released by the county and includes workforce training and entrepreneurship. Members of this committee could be asked to be part of the RFP review committee. A follow up survey will be sent to the Brookings' meeting attendees to garner more feedback, which will then be brought back to this committee, as there is value in entrepreneurship as an inclusive workforce recovery strategy.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Becker provided an update with the next phases for the Connectivity Blueprint: talking with residents about their experience living with limited access to technology, focusing on areas of limited access to internet and computers, and assessing the broader impact on different communities. A link to "A Roadmap to Digital Equity" will be provided in the follow-up email. Becker offered an invite for a Digital Inclusion Leadership Summit convening on October 28 with the community stakeholders to explore strategies for achieving a digitally inclusive Ramsey County and Saint Paul.

Workforce Development Month: Becker shared that September is Workforce Development month. She thanked everyone for their services and support as part of the Workforce Innovation Board.

Other and Committee Member Updates

None.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 1:58pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022, 1:00-2:00pm