

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023

3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Breanna Galuska
Jennifer Germain
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers
Nardos Tesfalidet

Members Absent

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Bradley Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. Nikstad read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval September Minutes

Motion (Aasheim/Tesfalidet) to approve the September 21, 2023, Youth Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.

2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

Mahr shared the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. Virtual meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Thursday of every odd-numbered month from 3-4pm, except in January which will be held in person, possibly at Jobs Corps. Meeting invites will be sent soon.

Committee Work Plan/Project

Vern Vick Updates and Discussion: Mahr lead the discussion which resulted in:

- Two category awards: Legacy and Rising Star presented at the April WIB meeting.
- Award name will be Youth Workforce Champion Awards.
- Creation of a page on the Ramsey County website with a “Hall of Fame” naming current and past winners. The Hall of Fame will be mentioned in a letter/email sent to previous Vern Vick Award winners informing them of the name change.
- Refined questions indicating “career/lifetime achievements for the Legacy category and “recent and growing list of achievements within the last calendar year” for the Rising Star category.
- Nomination period will open in December.
- A suggestion of providing a gift card to youth workers.
- The location of the plaque was left for further discussion at a later time.

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Mahr provided a summary of data from April 1, 2022 to November 6, 2023, noting the most important data is the barriers data, with the highest being basic skills deficiency, followed by homelessness. He explained the work readiness skills and the occupational skills training, noting the occupational skills is more targeted activities/specific training program; i.e., CNA and work readiness is more general.

PY22 WIOA Final Youth Performance: Mahr reviewed the performance metrics provided by DEED for 2022. The metrics compared Ramsey/Saint Paul, Hennepin/Carver and Minneapolis. Ramsey County has better outcomes than its peer jurisdictions.

Director Updates

Inclusive Employer Toolkit: Becker shared that the Toolkit is now available on the Ramsey County Means Business website to help employers provide a more welcoming and inclusive workplace for all by offering practices to build diversity, equity and inclusion in all areas of the employee lifecycle.

Unleash Potential: Molenaar provided an update on the Unleash Potential Employment Resource Fair which is an opportunity to explore employment opportunities, training, wealth building and other supportive resources for youth ages 16+ with their families. These sessions will be relaunch and revamped in the new year. Further discussions will be had around family resources and partners with the Collaborative.

Future of Work - Clean Energy Pathways: Molenaar is working on a series on the future of emerging industries. The first session will be held December 4 at Sunrise Bank on Clean Economy Pathways. These sessions will be quarterly to explore new and emerging career pathways and industries with community partners.

YACA Cohort: Becker, Reimers and Cobbs shared highlights of the county's Public Pathways efforts, noting the graduation which occurred last week. The young people in this cohort are affiliated with Ain Duh Yung's Intertribal Youth Advisory Council. They had a chance to rotate through Ramsey County Public Works, Parks & Rec., the Commissioner's office and the Emergency Community Center. The cohort is supported by Project Restore MN. This was a successful fourth cohort. There are other success stories including Right Track intern Zaire Mays, who struggled at first but then completed the Earn and Learn program.

Exploring Global Competencies: Becker shared that investment in the education, training and career advancement of Ramsey County's workforce is crucial to the ability of the county and state to compete in the global economy and to achieve economic equity. She shared the global competence matrix from World Savvy and is interested in knowing whether this committee is interested in working on global competencies. This is a credential that would be available for training that young people in the community could access. Agreement was to explore and work with schools. One idea is to get one large employer from the big industries in the community to be on the front end which would add more value. The county would need to release an RFP with World Savvy and then have someone build the micro-credential curriculum. More exploration is necessary.

Skilled Movie and Build Your Own Future: Becker briefly shared that the Construction-Green Jobs Committee is working on strategies around promoting construction jobs, including a webpage, connection events, and community outreach.

Committee Member Updates and Other

There was a suggestion to have an Instagram or Tik Tok page to share all the success stories and promote events. Three new programs specialists are being hired to support all the work that needs to get done. Committee members were asked to share this opportunity with any potential candidates.

Action Plan Update and 2024 Work Plan

Becker shared she is working with each committee on updating work plans. For this committee, global competencies would be added as well as a deeper connection with schools (along with United Way) and career pathways committees and bringing youth voices to this committee.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom