**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**

## Youth Committee Meeting

February 11, 2021, 3:00-4:00 PM

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Members Present | Members Absent | Staff/Guests Present |
| Jennifer Germain  Mary Sue Hansen  Hyon Kim  Gaye Adams Massey  Paul Nikstad  Sheri Riemers  Tom Aasheim | Breanna Galuska-EA  Karen Gerdin-EA  Allan Mwamba | Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  Peg Thomas, Sundance Family Foundation |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM.

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**Youth Program Update**

No discussion.

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**2021 Committee Work Plan**

***Report on Youth in Ramsey County*: Becker explained that this special meeting was scheduled so the committee could discuss plans for developing a State of Youth Employment report for Ramsey County. This type of project falls within the strategic role of the WIB to elevate workforce issues. The document, which would mainly consist of existing information, is an opportunity to amplify the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, recognize that pre-pandemic opportunities for youth were not equitable, and leverage/relaunch the existing YouthWorks! efforts. The format for the report still needs to be determined and could be released as part of a community event this summer. Thomas expressed interest in tying indicators into this effort. Massey would like to see one of the goals of the report be to clarify what youth need so they can move into the workforce, such as training, supportive services, and life skills. Becker suggested starting with a smaller report that focuses on statistics, partners and the youth voice, then coming back with 4-5 focus topics (**homelessness, transportation, food security and mental health) **over the following months.** The table of contents will feature:

* Demographics - provided by WFS staff and DEED
* Employment Data - provided by WFS staff and DEED
* Youth Centered Voices - will consider native youth and young adult homelessness by creating strategies and incorporating community mentors
* Amplify Key Partners - through connecting with schools, collaboratives, WIOA providers, community-based organizations, and local employers

It was decided that two work groups will be formed; one to work on youth voice and the other will look at the data. Attendees indicated their preference in the chat as follows:

* Youth Voices: Nikstad, Aasheim, Reimers, Massey
* Data: Thomas, Hansen

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**2021 Vern Vick Award**

Nikstad explained this award recognizes someone in the community who works with youth. It was suggested to have the 2021 award be COVID related and possibly awarding to more than one person. Nominations are due March 15. The award will be presented at the June 2021 WIB meeting.

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**Land Acknowledgement**

Riemers shared some local Native American history and read the land acknowledgement aloud. This practice will be done at all committee meetings.

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**Approve January Minutes**

The minutes will be approved at the March meeting.

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**Other**

**No other items were discussed.**

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

**Next Meeting:** March 18, 2021, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom