

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting**

January 16, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm
Humphrey Job Corps Center – Building 1
1480 Snelling Ave. N., Saint Paul, MN 55108

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Jennifer Germain
Brian Goodspeed
Camila Mercado Michelli
Allan Mwamba
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers

Members Absent

Karen Gerdin
Larry Gilbertson
Gaye Adams Massey-EA
Robert Morse
Tim O'Brien

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Breanna Galuska, Saint Paul Public Schools
Hyon Kim, MN Best Inc.
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:32pm and welcomed everyone to Job Corps. All those in attendance introduced themselves. Mwamba shared about his experience as a student at Job Corps.

Approve November Youth Committee Minutes

Motion (Aasheim/Germain) to approve the November 21, 2019 Youth Committee minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Nikstad explained that all members are asked to read and sign the conflict acknowledgement annually.

WIOA Youth Dashboard

The dashboard report was reviewed. As requested at the last meeting, data on race and ethnicity are now being reported separately. Molenaar shared several program highlights for 2019. She also mentioned that WIOA Youth Program services are being provided by Workforce Solutions (WFS) and three new vendor agencies - HIRED, Hmong American Partnership and YWCA of Saint Paul. The next dashboard report will include data from the vendors as well as WFS. Becker explained that an RFP for providers offering services around the 14 WIOA Program elements is being finalized. The RFP will allow WFS to more readily partner with a short list of organizations that do niche work.

Ramsey County Youth Works! Initiative

Becker reported that Youth Works!, an initiative designed to highlight the importance of youth work experiences and elevate the organizations that support youth work, launched on Monday. The initiative is being done in three phases: awareness, acknowledgement, and action. Funding from the Sundance Foundation and a service project through the Saint Paul Area Chamber's Leadership Project are helping to support bi-monthly newsletters, a youth community engagement event, a toolkit of employer resources, and a youth nominated award for a business excelling at employing young people. Other pieces of this initiative include surveying youth employment professionals on best practices and organizing a networking event for school counselors and HR professionals. Becker is going to cities, businesses, chambers, schools and non-profits throughout the county asking them to sign on as Youth Works! partners by agreeing to six tenants. She distributed a partnership memo and asked everyone on the committee to consider asking their organization to sign on. The partners will be highlighted in the newsletter. The goal is to have 100 partners by June; Youth Works! month. Becker asked the committee to provide some leadership on the employer award event, which could be done at the same time as the Vern Vick Award presentation. She also asked members to call out exemplary employers. Molenaar also suggested members share the newsletter and visit the new website.

2020 Vern Vick Award

Nikstad shared information about Vern Vick and the award given annually in his memory. The application, award criteria, timeline, and list of past recipients were reviewed. Nominations will be collected and reviewed at the next committee meeting. In the past, the recipient has been invited to the May committee meeting for an

informal meet and greet prior to the award presentation at the June WIB meeting. Becker proposed the idea of elevating the award presentation and combining it with the Youth Works! awards to make them both more festive and honoring. She and Nikstad will get input from the WIB's Executive Committee. The nomination application will be posted on the county's website.

Updates

Youth Cohorts: Molenaar shared information about some new cohorts: the EMS Academy in partnership with Saint Paul Fire, a CNA program with CLUES starting in February, and a Public Sector Academy with several Ramsey County departments starting next week. Kim suggested developing success metrics for these cohorts. Becker reported that there will be a county job fair on March 18 at the Maplewood YMCA where several county departments will be recruiting for summer employment. Details on this event will be sent to the committee.

Right Track/Ramsey County Partnership: Becker reported that Mayor Carter added an additional \$200,000 for Right Track in his addendum budget. Conversations about deepening the partnership with Right Track have centered around the county filling gaps the city can't provide, such as enrolling the youth who need wrap around services and working with justice involved youth.

Entrepreneurship Class: Stanton explained that 12 youth attended a class given by Noah Her from Ramsey County Economic Development on how to start a small business. Feedback on the class was very positive.

Youth Committee Work Plan Dashboard

Nikstad provided an overview of the WIB's strategic planning activities to date. There was discussion about this committee's tasks. Nikstad noted that "Add youth member to the Youth Committee" has been completed with the addition of Mwamba, a Job Corps student interested in a career in the travel industry. Mwamba will serve on the committee for the remainder of his time at Job Corps. Nikstad also stressed the need to recruit more business people to this committee. Becker suggested starting a small research project where the committee will learn about different youth employment barriers at each meeting. This will be added to the dashboard. Reimers and Becker agreed to bring information about youth homelessness to the next meeting.

Committee Member Updates

Finishing Trades: Aasheim reported that Finishing Trades starts its first PSEO class later this month. Their goal was to enroll ten students, but they have 19 enrolled.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office: Goodspeed announced his resignation from the committee. Dan Young, who attended the last meeting, will apply for membership.

Saint Paul Public Schools CTE: Galuska explained that in her new role, she is responsible for expanding and enhancing partnerships to provide more experiences for students. She is excited to participate in the committee.

WFS: Becker highlighted the need to recruit census workers. She stressed the long- and short-term importance of getting an accurate count. Molenaar mentioned that the Outreach to Schools program will add an additional 1-2 interns for the second semester.

Ain Dah Yung: Reimers stated that their new 42-unit supportive housing site opened and is fully occupied. She extended an invitation to the committee and WIB members to attend an upcoming neighborhood celebration. Reimers will also send information about a pow wow on February 8-9 that is open to the community.

CLUES: Mercado Michelli shared information about CLUES' "I Have Been Counted" census campaign. She will send the promotional materials to Becker.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): Germain provided an update on the 23 new VR staff who are working in schools across the state. The local staff person has worked with over 108 students at four schools since September.

MN Best Inc.: Kim shared some information about herself and her career, including being the first Asian American to serve on the U of M Board of Regents. She talked about the need for minority communities to learn about business ownership.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2:30-4:00, Job Corps – Building 1, 1480 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul