

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

January 21, 2021, 3:00-4:00pm

Members Present

Breanna Galuska
Karen Gerdin
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Gaye Adams Massey
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Jennifer Germain
Camila Mercado Michelli
Allan Mwamba

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions
Peg Thomas, Sundance Family
Foundation

Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Approve November Youth Committee Minutes

Motion (Galuska/Kim) to approve the November 19, 2020 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Nikstad read the conflict of interest statement and reminded members to sign and return the form to Becky Milbrandt.

WIOA Youth Dashboard

Molenaar provided a year-end review of the Youth Program for the 402 youth served in 2020. A new item on the dashboard was activities that the counselors are working on with the young people. The most frequently worked on activities were skills training/school, work experiences and work readiness training. Due to the number of homeless youth being served, Ramsey County received a waiver to allow serving 60% out of school youth (as opposed to the 75% mandated in WIOA). Many youth are receiving mental health services along with employment services. During COVID, enrollment has been very challenging because many of the connection places aren't open. Connections to the youth who were enrolled pre-COVID have been stronger.

Dashboard Content Discussion: Molenaar asked members to suggest information/data they would like on future reports. One suggestion was to provide referral and collaborative connection information.

Updates

Youth Skills Training Grant: Molenaar reported that, due to challenges related to COVID, this grant was pivoted from auto mechanic to healthcare. The training will use a hybrid model for high school students to get trained as CNAs. Thomas reported on work being done by the Sundance Foundation to map out organizations that are hiring youth and align career supports. Organizing a stream of youth to fill these jobs has been challenging.

Outreach to Schools Program: No discussion.

Youth Program Monitoring: No discussion.

CARES Act: Youth Funding

Becker will send a written CARES update.

2021 Committee Work Plan

Becker suggested this committee issue a report on COVID impacts on youth in Ramsey County. The report could contain a list of concerns, data highlights, and a set of recommendations. Once the report is finished, it could be shared with chambers, Rotary Clubs, cities, etc. A facilitated convening of various people in the youth employment ecosystem, including youth, teachers, employment counselors, employers, etc. could be considered but will require pre-work and strategic planning around reaching out to various youth populations. The work could start with a survey of youth providers with existing relationships who can speak to the challenges youth are facing right now. It was decided that the committee will meet again on February 11 at 3pm to continue action

planning. In the meantime, committee members will think about the providers and others who should be asked to join this work.

Committee Member Updates

Sundance: Thomas provided an overview of the focus and work of the Sundance Family Foundation, a small family foundation that also does workforce programming to guide participants through career exploration, training, job placement and mentorships. She showed an impact statement created to show the social return on investment for youth programs. Thomas will send the report to Ling to share with the committee. She also talked about their Zoomerkammers program which are hour-long infomercials for youth highlighting businesses and training organizations.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

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