

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting
July 21, 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Shaina Abraham
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers

Members Absent

Gaye Adams Massey-EA
Breanna Galuska-EA
Karen Gerdin-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Kristen Hoyles, Goodwill Easter Seals Minnesota
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Bradley Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Everyone introduced themselves. Nikstad read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve May Minutes

Motion (Aasheim/Abraham) to approve the May 19, 2022, Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Youth Program Provider Spotlight: YouthBuild

Hoyles, Workforce Development Manager at Goodwill, provided an overview of YouthBuild and the programs and services they provide. The program is funded by the Department of Labor and provides specialized training for youth and young adults who are at risk of not completing or have not completed their high school education. It is not simply a GED program but an academic construction leadership program. There are more than 225 programs in the U.S. that have participated in building 17,000 units of affordable housing. Committee members expressed the need for Goodwill to be more out in the community to have a true partnership with county providers. Hoyles hopes to improve on this. Molenaar indicated community alignment/engagement is the focus of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds with the Brookings project that will be shared in the Director's updates.

WIOA Youth Preliminary Performance Measures

Molenaar reviewed the PY21 WIOA preliminary performance outcomes and the PY22/PY23 proposed performance measures. The outcomes are in alignment with the rest of the state on credential, employment and after exit. The measurable skills gain is a new measure added two years ago, which is a challenge getting the documentation from schools. Final performance outcomes will be available in the next few weeks. The PY22/PY23 goals have gone down slightly.

Youth Plan Budget

Molenaar reviewed the PY22 WIOA allocation, noting there is a 27% increase over PY21 and a 45% increase over PY20. Also reviewed was the PY22/SFY23 MYP Budget, noting the amounts are the same as the previous four years. This might be adjusted next year due to the state biennial budget but no huge changes are expected.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Molenaar presented the second quarterly ULEAD summary, noting youth-served numbers are down slightly due to vendor transitions; otherwise, consistent in previous quarters.

Director Updates

Becker provided the following updates:

ARPA Funded Projects: A summary of initiatives was presented, with the biggest part of the funds going to the Learn and Earn Occupational Training. Further details on the initiatives will be provided in the follow up materials. Cobbs provided a summary of the Driver's License Academy progress, which includes individual supports, training cohorts and supportive resources.

Manufacturing Month: October is Manufacturing Month in Minnesota. There is a lot of demand for manufacturing talent and unique opportunities in Ramsey County. Some event ideas were shared and looking for additional ideas/feedback/thoughts. It might be helpful to focus on teams instead of just the participant and case manager, for example, including the employment counselor.

Brookings Transforming Cities Lab: The project is all about alignment of the whole scope of supporting a young person. A site visit by Brookings is schedule for September 7 and will be a convening of workforce partners, funders and other stakeholders to create an efficient, aligned ecosystem.

Committee Member Updates

Kim shared the opportunity she has started to pursue a tech coop.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2022, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom