

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

July 26, 2018

2:30 – 4:00pm

HHH Job Corps Center

1480 N. Snelling Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108

**Members Present**

Karen Gerdin  
Jennifer Germain  
Kathy Kittel  
Karin McCabe  
Jane Nicholson  
Paul Nikstad

**Members Absent**

Tom Aasheim-EA  
Larry Gilbertson  
Brian Goodspeed-EA  
Robert Morse  
Joy Nyabwari  
Tim O'Brien-EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Leon Boeckermann, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff  
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions  
Tim O'Neill, DEED  
Job Corps Students

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**Call to Order**

McCabe called the meeting to order at 2:44 pm. She thanked Nikstad and the Job Corps staff for hosting the meeting. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

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**Approve March Youth Committee Minutes**

**Motion (Nikstad/Nicholson) to approve the March 22, 2018 Youth Committee minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried.**

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**Updates**

*Outreach to Schools (OTS) Program:* Stanton shared highlights and statistics from the 2017-2018 OTS Program Final Report. Despite losing an intern mid-year and having one start late, 934 students were served at Creative Arts, LEAP, Humboldt and Como High Schools. Stanton hopes two interns will return and a fifth intern can be re-added at Roseville High School for the 2018-2019 school year. He plans to start the intern recruitment process earlier this year. Funding from the WIB for 2017-2018 was returned because it was not spent but a request for financial support for 2018-2019 could be made, if needed.

*Summer Youth Employment Program:* Stanton reported that the program is going well. Approximately 60 youth are working at over 30 different employers. Most of the youth participants will be working June through August. He thanked the host businesses, including WIB member Michael Fondungallah from Fondungallah & Kigham Law. McCabe suggested that a partnership with Saint Paul's Right Track Program continue to be explored. Stanton plans to seek opportunities for collaboration between the City and County.

*Workforce Solutions Staff:* Boeckermann explained that Workforce Solutions has 78 employees and four primary leadership positions. He reported that Dunn Yoshitani was recently hired to fill the WIOA Manager position and the accountant position should be filled within the month. The Executive Director position will be filled once the other leadership positions are filled and the new staff oriented, likely in the fall. Boeckermann noted that Yoshitani will be the staff lead to the Youth Committee.

*State Plan:* Stanton reported that the recently revised State Plan emphasizes youth in foster care and youth who have dropped out of school. He suggested these youth be more fully integrated into the Youth Committee's planning going forward.

*CareerForce:* Boeckermann explained that CareerForce is a statewide rebranding effort brought forward from DEED, the Governor's Workforce Development Board and the Minnesota Workforce Council Association. Key elements of CareerForce include a new logo, renaming of the WorkForce Centers to CareerForce Centers and an updated website which will have resource for job seekers and employers as well as tools for partner agencies. The official roll-out will take place in October.

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**Job Corps Presentation and Tour**

Several Job Corps students were in attendance to talk about the training they are receiving and their plans for the future. Highlights from these presentations included:

- Culinary – Training is done with the school chef and provides opportunities to prepare meals for the other students. He hopes to open a 50's malt shop when done with his training.

- Certified Nursing Assistant – This is a 4-6 month program that allows students to earn several certificates and provides opportunities to help the staff nurse. She plans to enroll in the EMT Program at Century College.
- Medical Office Support – Students can earn multiple certificates in this program. She plans to continue her education with the goal of being the ambassador to China.
- Office Administration – Students can earn multiple certificates in this program. She wants to work in Human Resources.
- Painting – Students in this program get to paint items on the campus grounds and earn certifications such as the OSHA 30. They also go to the painters’ union to train on industry equipment and have opportunities to paint at other community projects. He wants to become a journeyman.
- Sign and Display – This program teaches sign making, welding, blueprint making, and electric sign fabricating. The Humphrey Job Corps Center is the last Job Corps location to have a sign shop. When completing this training, students can enter an apprenticeship program and earn an Applied Science Degree when completed. She wants to open her own sign shop.

Committee members were impressed by the passion each student showed for their trade. McCabe offered to help the construction industry students make connections with employers. Students also receive training from HBI, a contractor that partners with Job Corps for the construction and building maintenance trades. McCabe asked Nikstad to share a list of Job Corp’s other business partners.

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### **Other**

O’Neill provided a labor market report. Some of the key elements of his report were:

- Minnesota’s labor market is recovering nicely, adding over 340,000 since the end of the recession and 17,300 in just the last two months
- The growth rate in MN is 1.5%, just a little behind the national growth rate of 1.7%
- Unemployment is 3.1%, the lowest in 18 years
- Wages are fairly flat
- There are fewer unemployed people than job openings, primarily due to baby boomers retiring and new job growth
- Healthcare, hospitality, construction, professional services and manufacturing continue to grow across the state and in the metro area
- DEED is considering surveys to better understand underemployment
- Newly released 2016-2026 statewide projections estimate that the state will grow by 5.8% with 185,000 net new jobs. The healthcare, professional services, educational services, hospitality and construction industries are expected to continue growing. Manufacturing is expected to decline by 1.6% but this may not be the case in the metro area where manufacturing is strong

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**Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.**

**Next Meeting:** September 27, 2:30-4:00 in Training Room B, North Saint Paul Affiliate Workforce Center