

## Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

### Youth Committee Meeting

June 20, 2019 - 2:30 – 4:00pm

CareerForce - North Saint Paul

2266 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North, No. St. Paul, MN 55109

#### Members Present

Tom Aasheim  
Karen Gerdin  
Gaye Adams Massey  
Paul Nikstad

#### Members Absent

Jennifer Germain-EA  
Larry Gilbertson-EA  
Brian Goodspeed-EA  
Kathy Kittel-EA  
Robert Morse  
Jane Nicholson-EA  
Sheri Riemers-EA  
Tim O'Brien

#### Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff  
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  
CJ Stanton, Ramsey County

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#### Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.

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#### Approve May Youth Committee Minutes

**Motion (Gerdin/Nikstad) to approve the May 16, 2019 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

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#### Youth Program Federal Audit

Becker reported that Ramsey County was selected to undergo a Department of Labor audit in July. She handed out a memo with details about the audit. The auditors will look at program and fiscal data for Program Years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Becker has assembled a core team of staff who are meeting weekly to prepare. DEED, the youth program funder and monitor, is also helping with preparations. Becker indicated that the audit is being looked at as technical assistance and an opportunity to learn and improve. Some anticipated challenges are PY16 files, expenditures, and low enrollment partially due to the fact that Workforce Solutions (WFS) moved twice in 2016-2017 and the WIA-WIOA transition. Enrollment will be a focus going forward. Becker expects that the auditors will interview staff, participants, and possibly some Youth Committee members.

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#### Updates

*Summer Youth Employment Program:* Stanton reported that the program has started. As in past years, not all applicants will be able to be served due to funding. Stanton provided a breakdown of enrollment to date:

- MN Youth Program (MYP) funding is expected to cover approximately fifty youth work experiences
- Ninety-nine applications were received without any marketing efforts
- Fifteen TANF applicants received; 13 enrolled
- Twelve spots held for Saint Paul Public Schools
- Five spots held for Vocational Rehabilitation; three enrolled
- Eight enrolled from MN Trades Academy; three enrolled (five enrolled in WIOA Youth)
- Twenty-five spots open to the general public

Stanton explained that any WIOA program eligible youth will be shifted to that program, leaving the more flexible MYP funded spots available and allowing more youth to be served overall. Youth who aren't enrolled in the summer program initially will be put on a waiting list in case there are drops, although that is rare. Becker hopes to work with businesses/partners so that next year's experiences can be partially funded and/or shortened, allowing more youth to be served with available funds. She would like the Youth Committee to discuss and provide direction on this before the end of the year. Nikstad asked that it be placed on the November meeting agenda. Stanton explained that there are currently 42 employer partners. The list will be shared with the committee. Becker reported that she is meeting with Right Track tomorrow. Ramsey County would like to place some out of school youth who didn't get accepted into Right Track in the WIOA Youth program. Becker stated that developing a partnership with Right Track is a priority and could help WFS fill under enrolled programs. She also stated that a homeless youth waiver would allow 40% of WIOA funds to be used for in-school youth rather

than the standard 25%. Becker asked committee member for their help in recruiting for the WIOA program. ULEAD brochures were distributed.

*Outreach to Schools Outcomes 2018-2019:* Stanton stated that the program is done for this school year. The year ended with interns at Como, Humboldt and LEAP Schools. A late applicant, who could return to the program next year, was placed as a second intern at LEAP for the last few weeks. Stanton explained that the numbers served were down for this year due to challenges in recruiting interns and having all new interns. Overall, 400 students received assistance. Stanton reported that the money contributed by the WIB will be returned. WFS will apply for a HECAP grant which would fully fund the OTS program for next year without additional money from the WIB. With the additional HECAP money, the program could expand to six interns at six schools. Recruiting for interns will start even earlier for next school year.

*Youth Services RFP:* Stanton reported that the first pull of proposals from the continuous Request for Proposal (RFP) is due tomorrow. Becker explained that when she started, the 2017 WIOA Youth grant had \$140,000 remaining. DEED determined that the grant needed to be closed so the funds were de-obligated. Becker wants Ramsey County to be more active in partnerships so this doesn't happen going forward. The release of the continuous RFP will ensure that more local youth are served. She also noted that the youth counselors are actively recruiting for the WIOA program.

*Youth at Work Grant:* Stanton stated that WFS, in partnership with HIRED, was notified last week that it was not awarded a Youth at Work grant for this two-year cycle. The full list of awarded organizations has not been released.

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### **WIB Strategic Planning Session**

Becker announced that WIB committees will take July off. Strategic planning will continue at the August 1 WIB meeting. Becker anticipates the Youth Committee will continue to be a standing committee of the WIB. She expects the planning to result in each committee having three or four realistic goals. Becker also thought the Vern Vick Award presentation was very positive and is something she would like to elevate even more next year.

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### **Committee Member Updates**

*SPPS ABE:* Gerdin stated that ABE programming is continuing at the Hubbs Center and Humboldt High School. An online GED program is available to those aging out of online high schools (under 21). Gerdin also noted that their P2P monitoring visit went well.

*Finishing Trades:* Aasheim reported that eight people graduated from the first APEX cohort and four of them have already been placed in employment. There were sixteen people signed up for the second cohort but only five are currently active. They are actively recruiting for the July event. Aasheim mentioned that he has some Karen students without diplomas. He is interested in working with Gerdin on the online GED program. Becker suggested the WIB meet at Finishing Trades to allow members to see the facility.

*Job Corps:* Nikstad stated that Job Corps will be announcing details on new program offerings soon. Their programming is year-round.

*YWCA:* Massey shared details on a new program that bridges homelessness for young women coming out of the foster system. The program is starting small to test assumptions, but she hopes to scale up after the first year. Massey also stated that the YWCA is redeveloping their site. The recent awards/fundraising event honoring participants was successful.

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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 3:38: pm.

**Next Meeting:** September 19, 2019, 2:30-4:00 in Training Room B, CareerForce - North Saint Paul