

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

March 17, 2022, 3:00-4:30 PM

Members Present

Shaina Abraham
Breanna Galuska
Karen Gerdin
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Gaye Adams Massey
Paul Nikstad

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA
Sheri Riemers

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and Hansen read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve January Minutes

Motion (Abraham/Nikstad) to approve the January 27, 2022, Youth Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Youth Employment Services Vendor Selection

Molenaar provided an update on the vendor contracts which should be fully executed by April 1, 2022. There will be extensive training and onboarding throughout April and May. Each youth vendor will be invited to a Youth Committee meeting to share about their programming experience starting in the fall. It was suggested that those vendors are also welcomed to come to any of the Youth Committee meetings and that it might be a good idea to have them be available after an in-person WIB meeting.

PY22/SFY23 Unified Local Youth Plan

Becker shared the highlights of the proposed Unified Local Youth Plan, which is due April 1, 2022. There will be new contracts with nine organization for employment services. Workforce Solutions is also requesting a Homeless/Foster Youth Waiver which will allow the minimum spent on out-of-school youth to be reduced from 75% to 60%.

Motion (Hanson/Abraham) to recommend approval of the PY2022/SFY23 Unified Local Youth Plan and Homeless Waiver. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Action Plan Update

The Youth Committee Action plan was reviewed. Becker expanded on the effort to work more closely with the City of Saint Paul around employer support strategies. The hope is to develop better strategies for working with employers and make sure they have support with onboarding, supervisory training, and forming a youth-employer advisory group to meet quarterly to discuss what's working or not working to help fill the gaps, including in the suburban cities. There is need to assess and grow the committee membership to add a youth member.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

2022 Vern Vick Award Nominations: Nikstad stated five nominations were submitted and he summarized each one, with a discussion thereafter. The Committee members will vote for their top three by emailing Milbrandt, with the intention of awarding three awards. It was suggested that letters from the Youth Committee go out to thank all nominees. The award winners will be asked to join the May Committee meeting for a meet and greet and the June WIB meeting, which will be in-person, for the award presentation.

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Molenaar shared the outcomes data with a focus on youth who have exited the program between 4/1/21 – 3/11/22. The gender data for next year is expected to be different with the broader sense of organizations and recruitment. Prior data from the CARES Right Track participants should be reviewed to see which organizations had 50% males, etc. and how to increase that in the period ahead.

Youth and Business Membership: Becker shared that this was an area of need in the action plan. Discussion occurred in having a small group formed to develop membership recruitment resources to help attract more young

people and businesses to serve on the Committee. Anyone interested in being part of this small group should connect with Becker and/or Milbrandt.

Motion (Nikstad/Abraham) to approve three Vern Vicks awards. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Director Updates

ARPA Funding: Becker shared the funding streams and the framework for investments with the City of Saint Paul. The focus is on decreasing economic disparities, Earn and Learn models, supporting and aligning youth and young adult employment and removing barriers to employment.

Driver's License: Becker shared information about the barriers for teens to get their license and the partnership being developed with the Department of Public Safety to make the process more accessible and at a reduced cost. Discussion occurred as to how to expand not just getting a driver's license but earn a down payment on a car, getting a driver's license reinstated, etc. The idea is to bring youth closer to the community rather than further away by providing support.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: May 19, 2022, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom