

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

March 18, 2021, 3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Breanna Galuska
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Paul Nikstad

Members Absent

Gaye Adams Massey--EA
Allan Mwamba
Sheri Riemers--EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solution
Peg Thomas, Sundance Family Foundation

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. Nikstad read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve January and February Minutes

Motion (Aasheim / Gerdin) to approve the January 21 and February 11, 2021 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Unified Local Youth Plans

Becker explained that both the PY20 and PY21 Plans reflect the same information. The only difference is a potential shift in the Outreach to School program for the 2021-2022 school year intended to broaden its reach. Instead of having interns in just a few schools, Becker would like to explore opportunities to provide drop-in sessions at all schools. The committee could create a small work team to look at career counseling gaps later in the year.

Motion (Aasheim/Kim) to recommend approval of the PY20/SFY21 Unified Local Youth Plan Update and PY21/SFY22 Unified Local Youth Plan as presented. Motion carried.

ULEAD Transition & Program Provider Highlights

Becker explained that Workforce Solutions (WFS) is transitioning its youth services to being entirely provided by existing community-based vendors: Hired, YWCA Saint Paul and Hmong American Partnership. Stanton reported that WFS's youth team has been preparing client files for digital conversion and communicating with clients to prepare them for the shift. With this internal restructuring, Stanton will be supervising the Adult program, so this will be his last committee meeting.

2021 Vern Vick Award Nominations

Nikstad reported that this award is given annually to someone in the community who has had a positive impact on youth. Each three nominations for the 2021 Vern Vick Award were submitted: Kenneth Cutler, Dan Rossiter, and Paul Ramsour. Each nomination was reviewed and after discussion, it was decided that all three nominees were very deserving of recognition. They will be invited to the next committee meeting for a meet & greet. The awards will be presented at the June WIB meeting.

Youth Report

Becker stated that work is being done on the state of youth report to get youth engagement from several organizations. Once collected, the committee will correlate and compile the information and give it a voice. Becker shared highlights of a report released by Ramsey County on youth employment. There is urgency to create a jobs program this summer, using the American Recovery Program funding, to help ease the scarring (long-term harm to income levels and career growth with the social burdens of instability) the youth are experiencing.

Updates:

Youth Program Monitoring: No discussion

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Milbrandt presented the outcome data for youth exiting between April 2020 and March 2021. The dashboard provided average increase in wages, exit reasons, and credentials obtained. Despite the

pandemic, many youth participants are exiting due to employment. Overall, wages and credential attainments are increasing.

Committee Member Updates

Sundance Family Foundation: Thomas thanked Ramsey County for releasing the youth employment report. The Sundance Foundation plans to cite it in a compendium of data being releasing soon.

Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative: Hansen shared information about her work with youth equity advisors. Some of the youth have been hired to sit on the community advisory board alongside adult equity advisors and elders to make recommendations about community initiatives. Becker suggested engaging with this group in the future.

Other

No other discussion.

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2021, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom