

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting
March 21, 2019 - 2:30 – 4:00pm
CareerForce - North Saint Paul
2266 2nd Street North, No. St. Paul, MN 55109

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Karen Gerdin
Larry Gilbertson
Gaye Adams Massey (phone)
Jane Nicholson
Paul Nikstad

Members Absent

Jennifer Germain-EA
Brian Goodspeed
Kathy Kittel-EA
Robert Morse
Joy Nyabwari
Tim O'Brien

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Dunn Yoshitani, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Introduction of Ling Becker, WIB Executive Director

Becker shared some information about her background and her passion for working with youth. She thanked committee members for their participation.

Approve January Youth Committee Minutes

Motion (Gilbertson/Aasheim) to approve the January 17, 2019 Youth Committee minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

2019 Vern Vick Award Nominations

It was reported that as of March 15, four nomination forms had been submitted, two for the same individual. Each application was reviewed. After lengthy discussion, Steve Randall, lead community youth worker for Saint Paul's Parks and Recreation Department, was selected.

Motion (Gilbertson/Nicholson) to select Steve Randall as the recipient of the 2019 Vern Vick Memorial Award. Motion carried.

Updates

Outreach to Schools Program: Stanton reported that interns are now working at three high schools; Como, LEAP and Humboldt. A fourth could still be added at Creative Arts, but that is unlikely. The number of students served is slightly down this year, partially due to all the interns being new to the program. Stanton hopes some of the interns will want to return for the 2019-2020 school year. It is likely that some or all of the funding from the WIB will be returned.

Youth Monitoring Report: Yoshitani reported that the DEED monitoring report was finally received for the 2017-2018 program year. He touched on four areas noted in the report:

1. low enrollment
2. lower than desired expenditures
3. some case files needed additional documents and/or more detailed case notes
4. a clarification in the financial reconciliation

Yoshitani explained that all these issues are already being addressed and internal procedures enhanced. Stanton stated that he is meeting with each youth counselor monthly to discuss and review recruitment efforts. The youth team is also strategizing about ways to enroll more out-of-school youth. 75 percent of WIOA youth funds must be spent serving out-of-school youth. This is a shift from WIA which focused on in-school youth. A full discussion about how this committee can help with recruitment will be a future agenda item. Stanton will also bring recruitment numbers back regularly.

TANF Innovation Grant: Stanton reported that Workforce Solutions (WFS) received a \$45,000 grant to put 15 MFIP youth in work experiences. These funds will be used to supplement and expand the current summer youth employment program, which would otherwise only be able to provide 26 work experiences this summer due to lack of funding. Stanton noted that students are asked what type of work experience they are interested in before they are placed. The students also receive interviewing and resume writing training.

PY 2019 Unified Local Youth Plan

Yoshitani explained that the Local Plan is required annually to be eligible for MN Youth Program and WIOA Youth funding. He thanked Nikstad, Gerdin and Germain for serving as Plan reviewers. Yoshitani noted that the budget section of the Plan is blank because funds for the upcoming program year have not been determined yet due to delays in information from the Federal Department of Labor to DEED. After some discussion, it was decided that a supplemental page with the current year's budget will be sent to the WIB and the Ramsey County Board as a historical reference. An update will be provided when the 2019 budget is determined.

Motion (Gilbertson/Gerdin) to recommend approval of the PY 2019 Unified Local Youth Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Member Updates

Job Corps: Nikstad reported that Job Corps is having a resource fair on May 3. Job Corps students as well as students from other local schools will attend. He invited members of the committee and WFS youth counselors to come as well. The event typically has about 50 table representatives from the trades, employers, and education. Nikstad will send details to Gilbertson which he will pass along to other trade organizations.

Century College: Nicholson reported that fall enrollment starts next week. They are having an open house on May 2. Colleges are watching the state budget closely due to anticipated cuts in higher education. Nicholson explained that Century can't keep up with employer demand in some of their programs. She also stated they are seeing increased success among their Asian American students who are working with a grant funded navigator.

Hubbs Center: Gerdin reported that she is working with high school counselors to do tours of the Hubbs Center for students who are graduating but aren't college ready. They are also educating the counselors on college readiness programs and how they can assist those who aren't graduating. Gilbertson expressed interest in connecting with these students.

Finishing Trades: Aasheim reported that he is also talking to schools about alternatives for students who are not college bound. Finishing Trades does offer an Associate's Degree program. They are also working on the APEX Career Exploration grant program which is geared toward minority populations and youth.

Local 512: Gilbertson mentioned that they recently held a very successful hands-on session for Karen students from Roseville ABE. Construction season is ramping up in the metro area, Duluth and Rochester and there are a lot of jobs available. The Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of Minnesota is doing extensive outreach to hire from the community. Diversity is increasing in the trades.

Workforce Solutions: Yoshitani noted that he is going to National Association of Workforce Board conference. He hopes to attend a youth related session and will bring information back to the committee.

Other

Becker reported that there is a new Youth At Work grant that requires collaboration with WIBs. Additional details will be shared with this committee as more information is available.

Stanton stated that ELPIS Enterprises, an organization working to end youth homelessness, is holding a fundraiser at Lake Monster Brewing tomorrow.

Nikstad indicated that this committee is looking to add business people and youth members.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2019, 2:30-4:00 in Training Room B, CareerForce - North Saint Paul