

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Mary Sue Hansen
Paul Nikstad
Nardos Tesfalidet

Members Absent

Breanna Galuska - EA
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Hyon Kim
Gaye Adams Massey
Sheri Riemers

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions
Oluwayemisi John-Kolawole, Restoration for All
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Dr. Tolulope Monisola Ola, Restoration for All

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Introductions were made. Nikstad read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval March Minutes

Motion (Hansen/Aasheim) to approve the March 16, 2023, Youth Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.

2023 Vern Vick Award Recipient

Nikstad introduced the 2023 Vern Vick recipient Dr. Ola. He thanked her for the tremendous impact she has had on local youth. Dr. Ola then shared about her experience working with young people. John-Kolawole who submitted the award nomination shared her enthusiasm in nominating Dr. Ola. Committee members shared their good fortune with working with Dr. Ola as well. The formal presentation will take place at the WIB meeting in June.

2023 Career Connect Day Transportation Support

Nikstad recapped last year's Career Connect Day. He presented a fund request for this year's event that will take place again in October at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. The request is for \$15,000 to get Ramsey County students to the event.

Motion (Hansen/Aasheim) to recommend approval of the Transportation Fund Proposal for the Saint Paul Area Chamber Career Connect Day in the amount of \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Youth Employment Data Walk Follow Up: Gill provided an update of the Youth Employment Data Walk that took place at the May General Membership meeting. The big picture helped to understand the workforce population -- areas of substantial unemployment requirements and demographics -- for youth careers of today and tomorrow. Testalidet indicated that her group would like to see the full RealTime Talent presentation as she was not at the presentation. A lot to do to build strong partnerships and it would be helpful to know where to start -- which employers can give our youth the best outcomes and what's the best venue to engage a meaningful partnership? Discussion around career technical education participation among BIPOC secondary students. Suggestion that committee members go on a tour of St. Paul Public School.

Youth and Young Adult Job & Resource Fair: Molenaar shared information on the May 13th Youth Job & Resource Fair held at Maplewood Mall. A lot of positive feedback from partners/employers with a lot of enthusiasm. Suggestion given that since the partners/employers wasn't charged a fee might they consider something in-kind, like a food shelf?

Director Updates

Legislative Update: Becker provided a summary of workforce funding: the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) for FY24 and FY25, doubling current allocation; Drive for Five funded at \$10 M each year; established the Office of

New Americans at \$750,000 per year; and Targeted Populations Workforce Programs at \$25M each year for the biennium. There were other direct appropriations that went directly to organizations. She also summarized other Ramsey County specific funding for which we did not lobby, asking this Committee to help frame out \$1M for Tech Hubs.

2023 Young Adult Program Funding Allocations:

Becker shared information on the antiquated formula in the area of substantial unemployment for WIOA Allocations. She noted that Minnesota received an overall decrease of 8% noting that allocating federal youth funding based on adult unemployment rates is unfair.

Becker shared the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Externship held March 21 for SPPS high school teachers. The goal was for the teachers to experience and understand different public-sector careers to adequately advise and prepare students for employment pathways.

ARPA Updates

Goodwill Easter-Seals Advanced Manufacturing: Cobbs shared the advanced manufacturing six-month program supported by Goodwill Easter Seals and MPMA who are recruiting young adults, targeting those who are unsure of what their career path might be. This will launch in July. Flyer will be included in follow up email for sharing with Committee members' networks.

Committee Member Updates and Other

Nikstad shared that Jobs Corp is having their graduation this afternoon for students who were enrolled during distance learning and Covid. Suggestion that maybe this Committee can attend next time.

Molenaar/Becker shared that Change Inc. is hosting an open house May 23 at the house on the West Side that is going on the market in July

Hansen shared the Mental Health Fair being held at Snail Lake Park on May 21.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2023, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom