

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting
May 19, 2022, 3:00-4:30 PM

Members Present

Shaina Abraham
Breanna Galuska
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Gaye Adams Massey-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Murray Death, Sundance Family Foundation
Sareen Dunleavy Keenan, Greater Twin Cities
United Way
Emily Geray, Mentor Minnesota
Scott Herold, High School for Recording Arts
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Jenny Moore, White Bear Lake Area High School
John Savereide, Sundance Family Foundation
Peg Thomas, Sundance Family Foundation

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

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

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Hansen/Abraham) to approve the March 17, 2022, Youth Committee minutes as presented.
Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

2022 Vern Vick Award Recipients

Nikstad introduced the 2022 Vern Vick Award winners, Thomas, Herold, and Moore. He thanked them for the tremendous impact they have had on local youth. Each recipient then shared about their experiences working with young people. The people who submitted the award nominations shared their enthusiasm in nominating these individuals. Committee members shared their good fortune with working with these individuals as well. The formal award presentation will take place at the WIB meeting in June.

High School Career Day Transportation Support

Nikstad stated that funds are available that committees can request to support initiatives that align with the WIB's action plan goals. He presented a fund request for transportation to support the high school career day, which is being sponsored by the Saint Paul Area Chamber in October. The request is to fund the cost of getting 10th grade Ramsey County students to and from the event at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. Discussion occurred around opening the event up to encompass all 10th graders, not just from the public schools. Hansen can assist with connecting to the suburban school districts and Galuska for St. Paul schools, including Native American students.

Motion (Riemers/Abraham) to recommend approval of the Transportation Fund Proposal for the Saint Paul Area Chamber Career Connect Day in the amended amount of \$17,500. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Molenaar reviewed the 2022 first quarter youth employment services data. Only 12% of participants report last wage above \$15/hour. Next quarter data will be adjusted as there will be ten vendors rather than just three vendors.

Director Updates

Becker provided the following updates:

ARPA Funding: Recapped the projects that everyone is working on. The Drivers' License Academy project is moving quickly. The other projects are also moving forward.

Fair Opportunities Initiative: Anyone can join this in-person event which is being held tomorrow at Saint Paul College. This is a chance to visit resource tables and learn more about resources available to hiring people who have a criminal background. This is the first of a series of events that will be forthcoming.

Leveling Up: This is a new partnership with Hack the Gap. Hack the Gap creates a more diverse and equitable future for women and non-binary people in the tech world. Becker explained the Tech Career Readiness Program for Ramsey County MFIP participants.

Committee Member Updates

- Hansen thanked everyone who came to the Financial Health and Wealth Creation Resource Fair and shared the success of this event.
 - Abrahams indicated that Right Track still has a few spots for internship opportunities. If you know young people between the ages of 14 and 21 who are still looking for an internship opportunity, let her know.
 - Nikstad shared that if Jobs Corps can assist in any way at job fairs, etc., let him know.
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Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2022, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom