

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting
May 20, 2021, 3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Breanna Galuska
Jennifer Germain
Mary Sue Hansen
Hyon Kim
Gaye Adams Massey
Paul Nikstad
Sheri Riemers

Members Absent

Karen Gerdin-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Kenny Cutler, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachel Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Jenny Moore, White Bear Lake Schools
Paul Ramsour – Elpis Enterprises
Dan Rossiter, White Bear Lake Schools
Yer Yang, Hmong American Partnership

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm. Nikstad read the land acknowledgement aloud. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Aasheim/Kim) to approve the March 18, 2021 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2021 Vern Vick Award Recipients

Nikstad introduced the 2021 Vern Vick Award winners, Cutler, Ramsour, and Rossiter. 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 formal award presentation will take place at the June WIB meeting.

ULEAD Transition Update

Molenaar provided an update on the transition of youth programming from Workforce Solutions to contracted vendors, Hired, YWCA Saint Paul and Hmong American Partnership. As of April 1, all client cases were transferred to the vendors and approximately 75 were closed. Vendors are currently making contact with the transferred clients.

Program Provider Highlights - Hmong American Partnership

Yang provided an overview of Hmong American Partnership (HAP) and the programs and services they provide. Their youth job skills program offers short-term career training classes, career navigation, paid internships, financial literacy, digital literacy, mentorship, and over 30 wraparound services for youth ages 16 to 24. They also offer training and certification programs in four career pathways: construction, healthcare, manufacturing, and IT.

Updates

WIOA Youth Preliminary Performance Measures: Molenaar reviewed the four PY20 preliminary performance outcomes:

- Employment after Exit in Q2 and Skills Gains were just outside the 10 percent variance to meet the goal
- Employment after Exit in Q4 was within the 10 percent variance
- Credentialing and Wages met the goal

Youth at Work Grant: Molenaar stated the DEED received nearly \$8 million in grant requests and only has \$3.5 million to award. The grantees will be announced in the next few weeks. There were several organizations in Ramsey County that applied. Workforce Solutions did not apply but instead served as a collaborator and provided technical assistance for the community organizations that applied.

PY21 Local Youth Plan Budget: Molenaar stated that the allocation for WIOA Youth for April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 is \$872,163, a 14 percent increase from last year. WFS is in the process of determining the allocations to vendors which will then be compiled and submitted to the state.

April Youth Engagement:

- *Website:* Using feedback from CARES youth, the communications team in conjunction with three young adult consultants, developed a new resource page (www.ramseycounty.us/youthadults) with resources tailored for youth between the ages of 16 and 24.
- *Youth Convening:* Eight high school and college students met with the seven county commissioners for an engaging conversation on issues important to youth and on how young people can contribute. Questions that were not answered in the allotted time will be answered by the commissioners in a follow-up email.

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Molenaar presented the quarterly data summary which was consistent with previous quarters.

Teen Job Fair: Becker announced the 2021 Metro Region Interactive Virtual Teen Job fair will be held on May 26. Registration for the event can be done online at www.elevatefutures.com.

Youth Homelessness & Employment Alignment: Becker explained that discussions are underway on how to use the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to determine service gaps and how the county can fill them. Additional details will be shared when the county board provides more direction.

American Rescue Plan

Becker explained that the county is receiving over \$100M in ARP funds. The County Board is looking strategically at how to allocate the funds, which can be spent through 2026 if obligated by the end of 2024. There are five tier principals for this funding, ranging from meeting immediate needs (tier 1) to transformational systems change (tier 5). The County's goal is to invest a significant amount in tier five. She urged committee members to think of big, transformational ideas that can make significant impacts in the community.

Committee Member Updates

YMCA: Massey noted the YWCA is moving forward with a plan to redevelop their website to include affordable housing and supportive housing needs. They are also exploring including a small business incubator.

Workforce Solutions: Becker reported that a directory of school district career pathways programs is being developed and will be added to the Ramsey County Means Business sites. The site will also include a directory of all workforce partners in Ramsey County. When more developed, Becker plans to host a virtual open house to show people all the different resources available on the website.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2021, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom