

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

November 19, 2020, 2:30-4:00pm

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Breanna Galuska
Karen Gerdin
Hyon Kim
Paul Nikstad

Members Absent

Jennifer Germain-EA
Mary Sue Hansen-EA
Gaye Adams Massey-EA
Camila Mercado Michelli
Robert Morse
Sheri Riemers

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve September Youth Committee Minutes

Motion (Nikstad/Kim) to approve the September 17, 2020 Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

WIOA Youth Dashboard/Program Engagement

Molenaar presented data on who has been served during the pandemic:

- largest age group is 18-21year-olds
- over half have annual family incomes of less than \$10,000 and three quarters make less than \$20,000
- the majority identify as Black or Asian

Youth counselors were able to have stronger engagements with youth that were enrolled pre-COVID in areas such as online occupational skills training and subsidized work experiences.

Youth Skills Training Grant Discussion

Ramsey County received a grant from the Department of Labor and Industry focusing on careers in the automotive industry through June 2021. The plan is to offer career exposure, career training and hands on work experiences. Due to COVID, virtual alternatives are being explored. The number of 200-hour paid internships has been reduced from 40 to 20-25. Plans for 48 students to complete an automotive bootcamp at a local college remains unchanged. Plans for three teacher externships are also moving forward. Molenaar asked for suggestions on employer connections. These internships are employer funded with the county handling the administrative pieces. This model is consistent with past discussions about getting employers to invest in their talent pipelines.

Updates

2021 Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan: Becker reviewed the proposed changes to the committee meeting schedule. After some discussion, it was decided these committee meetings will be shortened to one hour, from 3-4pm, and expanded if the agenda warrants it.

Outreach to Schools (OTS) 2020-2021: Molenaar provided a brief overview of the OTS program which places graduate level students in high schools to work with the counseling staff on providing more post-secondary and career path support for students. Creative virtual approaches are being considered for this school year in partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools. The job postings for the interns will go up right before Christmas with a tentative start date of mid-February.

CARES Act: Youth Funding

Becker shared updated unemployment statistics. Youth, those less educated and BIPOC communities continue to be disproportionately impacted. With the Governor's order to shut down bars, restaurants and gyms again, another round of layoffs is expected soon.

Level Up Week: Becker shared information about several youth events planned for Level Up Week, the week of November 30. She encouraged committee members to attend the youth employment community conversation on December 1. Nikstad is serving as a panelist.

Tech4Futures: TechPaks were provided to several community organization to help get them out to youth in need of technology so they can get connected to programs, do career exploration, and attend trainings.

Student Support Kits: A partnership with Metro State, Century College and Saint Paul College is being formed to get 1,500 kits out to students. The kits include bookstore gift cards, support services, headphones, etc. to encourage them to stay enrolled in school. The county is also working with these schools to do healing circles with students who have experienced mental health issues.

Becker expressed appreciation for all of the community partners who helping get the CARES funds out into the community. As of October, over 1,500 young people ages 14-24 had been served.

Committee Dashboard Review

The dashboard was not reviewed.

Committee Member Updates

No updates.

Other

Becker shared information about the county's Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan which she hopes will be approved by the County Board in March 2021. She also provided a brief overview of plans to add a planner to help support the WIB committees, realigning some of the WIB committees, and developing a short-term work plan to get the WIB through the next 6-9 month. The committee reviewed the initial list of Youth Committee goals in the short plan. Some additional items were added. The list includes:

- Continue to oversee WIOA Youth Programs and Plans
- Promote and support Youth Works!
- Deepen community engagement with youth, employers and community partners. (This could include a youth advisory committee that meets separately but attends these meetings to share information.)
- Continue the Vern Vick Award
- Showcase and learn about youth and young adult organizations

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021, 3:00-4:00, Job Corps – Location Virtual/TBD