

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Youth Committee Meeting

September 15, 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Shaina Abraham
Karen Gerdin
Mary Sue Hansen
Paul Nikstad

Members Absent

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

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Cynthia Booker, Tree Trust
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Jolene Rotich, Tree Trust

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nikstad called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. All in attendance introduced themselves. Hansen read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve July Minutes

Motion (Aasheim/Abraham) to approve the July 21, 2022, Youth Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Youth Program Provider Spotlight: Tree Trust

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Workforce Solutions partnered with Tree Trust. Booker and Rotich shared about Tree Trust's youth programs that help teens and young adults build sustainable careers with training and hands-on-experience in skilled trades and green career pathways. In addition, youth learn about taxes and career exploration exercises. Tree Trust recruited and hired two crews to work on several projects throughout the Ramsey County Parks system this summer. It was a great partnership that created a wonderful experience for youth. There was a discussion around future programming, including in the suburban areas. Funding comes from the state legislature so this could impact programming. Tree Trust also is a partner with the Right Track program and is currently working on a contract with them.

Updates

Brookings Transforming Cities Lab: Becker shared information about the Brookings site visit. Three meetings were held with leaders from Ramsey County, City of Saint Paul, City of Detroit and City of Cleveland that were structured as an initiative to promote experimentation and piloting of new ideas and practices around the diversity in workforce. This has allowed Ramsey County to get technical assistance from Brookings, which does a lot of research around what makes more successful workforce systems. There was discussion around Ramsey County being a service provider, focusing on reduction in duplication and using resources strategically, how to create a more coordinated, higher-capacity and higher-quality system and steps needed to spur greater coordination. There is an opportunity for this committee to work with the Partnership & Outreach Committee to host a networking event with youth and young adult employment workforce professionals. Plans are underway for the event to be held November 30, 3-4:30pm, potentially at the Roseville Library. Consensus was this would be a good event. A special meeting of this committee will be next month to go into depth on the information from Brookings. The meeting will be either October 11 or 13. A meeting invite will be sent.

ARPA Initiatives: A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being released next week. Ramsey County has a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for a \$10 million investment in the gateway occupations with a Learn and Earn model for young people and in entrepreneurship. Some committee members will be asked to review the RFPs. Cobbs then shared an update on the Phase I Driver's License Academy launch and related resources and services. An advisory board might be helpful in translating some of the resources.

Manufacturing Month: Milbrandt shared that October is Manufacturing Month across the state. The manufacturing industry plays an important role in our local economy and is critical to the economic strength and vitality of our state. A webpage with resources, events and industry information will be live next week to learn more about the large array of career opportunities in manufacturing.

SPAC Career Expo: Milbrandt shared that Career Connect Day is scheduled for October 18 at the St. Paul RiverCentre. The WIB is supporting this event as a table sponsor and as the transportation sponsor so all 10th

grade students in Ramsey County have the opportunity to attend. Students will be able to explore pathways for their futures and connect with a mix of local businesses in six different tracks of interest. If interested in joining county staff at the event, please contact Milbrandt. The construction industry needs to be added to the list.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

WIOA Youth Dashboard: Molenaar presented the second quarterly summary, noting youth-served numbers are down slightly due to vendor transitions; otherwise, consistent with previous quarters. There is more effort in out-of-school programs and older adults that will be happening in the fall. The data is in alignment with what's been seen historically.

Youth Vendor Service Update

Molenaar provided an update on the vendor services and the enrollment numbers. The Young Adult Employment Programs provides employment and training opportunities to low-income and/or at-risk young adults. Services provided by vendors include career planning, job search assistance, paid work experience and assistance with tuition costs. A link to learn more will be provided in the follow-up material.

Committee Member Updates

Hansen shared information on the Financial Health and Wealth Creation Resource Fair scheduled for October 12 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: November 17, 2022, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom