

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:30– 4pm
Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55108

WIB Members Present

Jonathan Banks
Tami Cybulski
Becky Degendorfer
Sara Garbe
Jennifer Germain
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Fidelity Goodlaxson
Lisa Guetzkow
Chad Kulas
Bryan Kuzel
Tony Lusiba
Pamela Maldonado
James McClean
Yolanda McIntosh
Kelly Miller
Don Mullin
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Donna Rapacz
Elisa Rasmussen
Lauren Reynolds
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Ismail Ali
Ethel Garcia-EA
Cheniqua Johnson
Katie Kapaun-EA
Aalayha Traub-EA
Tanya Velishek-EA
Carly Voshell
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Joseph Adamji, Science Museum of Minnesota
Cate Duin, Association of Minnesota Counties
Carlos Franco, Right Track
Breanna Galuska, Saint Paul Public Schools
Karen Gerdin, Saint Paul Public Schools
Cliff Kallemeyn, Community Partner
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Kathleen Murphy, Ramsey County
Catrice O’Neil, Workforce Solutions
Mary Russell, Committee Member
Nardos Tesfalidet, City of Saint Paul
Jolie Wood, Ramsey County
Moua Xiong, City of Saint Paul

Call to Order and Announcements

Chair Rasmussen call the meeting to order at 2:34 pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome any of our partners and guests who are joining us today.
- I’m very excited to welcome the WIB’s new Executive Director, Catrice O’Neal, and Ramsey County Commissioner Kelly Miller. Both of them have been on the job for about a month. We also have Fidelity Goodlaxson attending her first meeting as a member today. Ethel Garcia is not able to join us today. I’ll invite all of them to introduce themselves in just a few minutes.
- A reminder that all WIB and committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes for all meetings are posted on the WIB’s webpage. Committee meetings are conducted virtually and instructions on how to join are also posted on the webpage.
- We will be taking a new picture of the WIB at the end of today’s meeting. We want to get everyone in the photo so please plan to stay to the end.
- I hope you can all make it to the next WIB meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2:30-4pm. This is a meeting you won’t want to miss as we will be celebrating the recipients of the 2025 Youth Champion Awards. Details on the location are being finalized and will be shared soon.

Land Acknowledgement

Banks read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Rasmussen read the Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement and shared that this policy is mentioned at the start of each WIB meeting. It was also sent out with the pre-reading and was reviewed at each committee meeting in January.

New Member and Executive Director Introductions: Ethel Garcia, Fidelity Goodlaxson, Commissioner Kelly Miller, Catrice O’Neal

Goodlaxson introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her work at Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties. Ramsey County Commissioner Miller, Local Elected Official on the WIB, introduced herself and shared her excitement to be appointed to the WIB. O’Neal introduced herself as the new Workforce Solutions Director/Executive Director of the WIB and shared her background in working in workforce development. Garcia was not present.

Approve Consent Agenda

February Meeting Agenda

December Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

2025 Amended WIB Budget

Funding Request: 2025 Marketing and Events

2025 WIB Policy Statements

Motion (Mullin/Maldonado) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

One Stop Operator Consortium Update

Guetzkow, Garbe, Gerdin and Germain provided an update on the efforts of the One-Stop Operator consortium in 2024. The OSO is a consortium of One-Stop partners that coordinates services provided by all the mandatory One-Stop partners to help job seekers and employers. The group has been busy planning for the CareerForce relocation to Metro Square which will open in March. They shared the services and operations highlights for 2024 and some client service metrics at the CareerForce and the Ramsey County Career Labs. County and state staff will be working together in the new CareerForce location with the goal of seamless service delivery and providing a better experience for customers, partners and staff. Milbrandt shared that a billboard on University Avenue is forthcoming to let the community know that the CareerForce Saint Paul is moving.

Legislative Updates: Current Political Landscape from a Federal, State and Local Perspective

Perlich lead a discussion with panelists Cate Duin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) and Jolie Wood, Ramsey County Government Relations, regarding the current political landscape from a federal, state and local legislative perspective. Ramsey County legislative priorities include a need for more dollars for a variety of workforce development initiatives, such as ensuring business needs are met while supporting job seekers; addressing existing economic, racial and gender disparities; and supporting ongoing state funding to provide workforce programming to those who are unemployed, underemployed or under-represented in the workforce. Despite the volatile political climate, MAWB and the county’s government relations team will continue to work with Minnesota House Labor and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committees (Rep. Pinto and Rep. Hussein) to advocate for support for workforce development.

Other and WIB Photo

No further items discussed. A photo of the WIB was taken after completion of the agenda.

Adjourn

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

Next meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:30-4pm – Location will be announced soon.