

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 8, 2024 - 2:30-4pm
Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55108

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Jonathan Banks
Tami Cybulski
Sara Garbe
Jennifer Germain
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Lisa Guetzkow
Cheniqua Johnson
Chad Kulas
Brian Kuzel
Pamela Maldonado
James McClean
Yolanda McIntosh
Rena Moran
Don Mullin
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Donna Rapacz
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens
Aalayha Traub
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Becky Degendorfer-EA
Katie Kapaun-EA
Tony Lusiba-EA
Lauren Reynolds-EA
Carly Voshell-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ama Asantewaa, MNTech
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Devin Boeing, Youth Lens 360
Kevin Boeing, Youth Lens 360
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Carlo Franco, City of Saint Paul
Karen Gerdin, Hubbs Center
Lyric Gray, Workforce Solutions
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap
Tad Hagen, Harmony Learning Center
Lemus Hernandez, Juliza, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Trevonte Marshall, Youth Lens 360
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Erin Olson, RealTime Talent
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Dario Otero, Youth Lens 360
Mary Russell, Member-At-Large
Nardos Tesfalidet, City of Saint Paul
Emanuel Williams, Workforce Solutions
Fitzpatrick Womack, Youth Lens 360

Call to Order and Announcements

Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 2:31pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- Welcome to Tami Cybulski and Bryan Kuzel who were recently appointed to the WIB.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. All committee meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are also posted on the WIB's webpage.
- Article 8 of the WIB's Bylaws state that "...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member". If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today's agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.
- The next WIB meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2:30-4pm in the 1st Floor Conference Center at Plato.
- Last week it was announced that Ling Becker was selected to become the next County Manager for Ramsey County. Although I am thrilled for her and the opportunities for her to bring her energy and passion to this new role, I am sad that after more than five years, this is her last meeting as the Executive Director of the WIB. Commissioner Moran and Councilmember Johnson both have a few words to say. Everyone is invited to stay for a few minutes after the meeting to have cake and wish Ling well. Rasmussen added that there are so many leading the way she wanted to thank everyone.

Land Acknowledgement

McIntosh read the land acknowledgement aloud.

New Member Introduction – Tami Cybulski and Bryan Kuzel

Cybulski introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her role as the Assistant Vice President Human Resources at Blaze Credit Union. Kuzel also introduced himself and shared about his job as the Human Resources Director of Mississippi Market. Both are excited to be part of the WIB.

Approve Consent Agenda

August Meeting Agenda

June Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

Motion (Aasheim/Johnson) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

WIB Bylaws Amendments

Milbrandt provided an overview of the proposed WIB Bylaws amendments and stated that approval by 2/3 of all voting members is required. The amendments include:

- Small edit to the abbreviation for Local Workforce Development Area – LWDA
- Adjustment in the expenditure approval thresholds and authorities to correlate with the WIB's larger budget and to comply with Open Meetings Law given the preference of the Executive Committee to meet virtually.
- Change the term of WIB officers to two years.
- Adjustment to the language to make the election of a committee vice-chair optional.
- Removal of the reference to the length of the terms of committee chairs.

Motion (Perlich/McIntosh) to approve the proposed WIB Bylaws Amendments as proposed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Director Updates

Becker provided updates on the following:

CareerForce Relocation:

- The floor plan has been finalized.
- Staff have been working to finalize costs and reached out to core partners to discuss the Infrastructure Funding Agreement.
- After core partners have reached agreement, staff will connect with other Memorandum of Understanding partners to discuss their expected contributions.
- The WIB can expect to approve at the December WIB meeting.
- Anticipated open date at Metro Square is February 2025.

WIOA Reauthorization: Most significant for the upcoming 2025 federal fiscal year is the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bill that would put dollars back into Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This bill will maintain funding for most workforce development programs, including \$2.9B for WIOA formula grants.

WIB Leadership Transition: Milbrandt was recently promoted to Manager of Administration and the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County. Becker will work closely with Milbrandt and the WIB to work on the transitions occurring with Becker being appointed to be the County Manager. The job posting for the Workforce Director is forthcoming.

Right Track Summer Internship Program: Ramsey County recently welcomed 26 interns. The program will help youth and young adults ages 14-21 with professional development and work experiences. Workforce Solutions is excited to have two interns – Juliza Lemus Hernandez and Lyric Gray.

Recent Events Recap

Becker shared the following events:

- *Midway Job Fair*: This was the 4th Midway Job Fair which is the largest job fair the county supports annually. There were 400+ job seekers that came to Allianz Field and 40 exhibitors, including 33 employers. Attendees were applying and interviewing for jobs on the spot. This year the marketing campaign included a large billboard near Snelling and University.
- *Youth Works! Spring Networking Event*: This event is held twice a year in spring and fall to support community partners working with youth and young adults. There were over 50 partners in attendance for networking and brief learning sessions about the Youth Systems Building Academy, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, Saint Paul Public Schools, Saint Paul College, the City of Saint Paul, and Face to Face. There was also another recognition of the Youth Workforce Champions award recipients.
- *Future of Work Event Series*: There have been several Future of Work events held this year, including:
 - How Technology is Changing the Way We Work – focused on how advancements in technology are reshaping industries and transforming traditional work practices.
 - Semiconductor industry panel discussion on the growing opportunities for job seekers in microelectronics and semi-conduct production.
- *Right Track Intern Orientation*: Twenty-six summer interns recently worked in the county across 23 different departments. Some of their experiences were processing subpoenas, accounting practices, public relations, data collection, property management, community corrections, and public safety.

Funding Request

Becker made a request for a second batch of funds to allow staff to be nimble in executing WIB strategic efforts. Anticipated expenses include manufacturing month initiatives, sponsorship and tabling of Selby JazzFest in support of fair opportunities efforts, event coordination and expenses related to the Include Hiring Connections Summit planned for January 2025, and development and printing of a workforce resource guide brochure. A request was also made for funding of the 2025 Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. By continuing this program, additional employers in Ramsey County will have the opportunity to participate in this peer learning community while advancing equity and inclusion in their organizations.

Motion (Riemers/Johnson) to approve \$50,000 for events and marketing support as presented and for \$51,500 for the 2025 Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

AI and Emerging Technology in Job Search, Recruitment and the Workplace

Becker introduced Olson of RealTime Talent. Olson gave a presentation on the benefits and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in job search, recruitment and the workplace.

Roadtrip Nation Portal

Becker introduced Otero of Youth Lens 360 and panelists Fitzpatrick Womack, Jayda Davis and Devin Bowling. Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are working with RoadTrip Nation on the YouthWork! Career Pathway Portal. The portal aims to help job seekers explore local career options and access tools, guidance, and resources for training, education and support.

Other

After completion of the agenda, a cake reception was held to thank Becker on her leadership and to congratulate her on her new role as County Manager.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2024, 2:30pm-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul