

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 2024.

3:00 – 4:00pm

Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Mohamed Alfash
Jonathan Banks
Becky Degendorfer
Karen Gerdin
Yolanda McIntosh
Lauren Reynolds
Mary Russell
Tracy Wilson

Absent:

Michelle Belitz-EA
Tanya Velishek-EA

Staff/Guests:

Nicole Beane, Workforce Solutions
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Jason Yang, County Clerk's Office

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Reynolds called the meeting to order at 3:01pm. Degendorfer read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Wilson/Russell) to approve the March 18, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Board Equity Training: Becker reminded that in previous discussions there was interest in equity training for the WIB in 2024. She shared that the County has already developed, implemented, and is monitoring a countywide racial equity plan. This would be an opportunity for the WIB to support the county's goal of providing equity training for its multiple boards and commissions in addition to the WIB. Yang shared an overview of the training that was developed by the County Manager's team. There was agreement that this training would be good for the WIB members and the plan is to conduct the training at the October WIB meeting. There was discussion on the length of training, common language, and the collective experience. The training will be about an hour and in person, with networking afterwards.

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort: Milbrandt and Russell provided an update on the April cohort session. The participants are feeling more comfortable in discussions especially on vulnerable topics. Results of the latest cohort feedback survey will be provided in the follow up email.

Inclusive Employer Toolkit: Becker shared the work being done on a refresh to the Ramsey County Means Business website and the creation of a new postcard with a QRC so individuals can get to the webpage easier. The toolkit continues to be accessed frequently.

Upcoming Events: Becker highlighted the following events:

- Tech Trainers Roundtable - May 29
- Fair Opportunities - Events
 - Fair Chance Job Fair at Goodwill Easter Seals – June 25
 - Selby Avenue JazzFest – September 14
 - Workforce Solutions/Ramsey County Correctional Facilities conducts a presentation three times a month to help assist the soon-to-be-released residents to apply for general assistance and getting all their needed documents such as IDs and Social Security cards.

Director's Updates

American Indian Initiatives/Economic Mobility Hub: Becker shared the newly established American Indian Community Coordinator position which is housed in Workforce Solutions but works countywide. Beane, who is the coordinator, shared the work she has been doing.

Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator: Becker provided an update on the partnership for the MN Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator program. WIB members can participate in an upcoming one-hour session to receive a condensed version of the program in May or June. Reminders will be sent this week.

Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm. via Zoom