

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Via Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Jonathan Banks  
Lisa Guetzkow  
James McClean  
Sheila Olson  
John (JP) Perlich  
Donna Rapacz

**Absent:**

Hanna Getachew-Kreusser  
Camila Mercado Michelli

**Staff/Guests:**

Karyn Berg, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Catrice O'Neal, Ramsey County  
Funlola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

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**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Perlich called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. Soyomokun read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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**Introductions**

Introductions were made to welcome Catrice O'Neal, new Workforce Solutions Director and Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Board (WIB). O'Neal shared information about herself and expressed her excitement about working with the WIB.

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**Approval of November Minutes**

**Motion (Guetzkow/McClearn) to approve the November 13, 2024, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice/chat vote.**

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**Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement**

Perlich read the Conflict of Interest Policy. Milbrandt explained that any WIB or committee member who has a conflict of interest should abstain from discussion and voting. The policy is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. The policy will be included in the follow-up email.

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**Election Updates**

Milbrandt provided an update on the federal and state election results noting that the Republicans retained control of the House and gained control of the Senate. The Minnesota House of Representatives will be evenly divided during the 2025-2026 session. The DFL kept control of the state Senate but given a death in the Senate, a special election will be held to fill the seat. Until that time, the Senate is also tied. There is also a burglary case involving a DFL state senator that could affect control. Changes in the county board were shared noting new Commissioners Miller and Jebens-Singh were declared winners in their respective districts. A special election will be held in February for the remaining open seat vacated by Commissioner Martinson. The county board also approved their committee assignments. Commissioner Miller was appointed to serve on the WIB, with Commissioner Xiong remaining as the alternate.

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**Committee Work Plan Updates**

*February WIB Meeting:* Milbrandt shared that the February WIB meeting will feature the Policy Committee with focus on the approval of the WIB policy statements, an update on the One-Stop Operator Consortium and legislative updates from MAWB, Ramsey County Government Relations on county priorities and local business/chamber updates.

*WIB Policy Statements:* Based on last meeting's discussion, a small work group (Guetzkow, Banks and Olson) convened to review the current policy statements. Guetzkow shared the recommendations of the group, noting there are no significant changes in priorities. The changes are mostly to simplify the message and layout into more of a flyer rather than a document with verbiage in the affirmative. Any additional

comments or suggestions can be sent to Milbrandt. Once the draft is finalized, it will be shared with the WIB in February. The WIB's priorities closely align with the Minnesota Association of Workforce Board's (MAWB) 2024 Legislative Platform. MAWB's 2025 State and Federal priorities will be shared in the follow up email.

*Local Delegation Outreach:* Milbrandt provided an update that Representatives Pinto and Hussein will remain on the House Labor & Workforce Development Finance & Policy Committee. The Senate committees for 2025 are not yet decided. There could be additional opportunities for building relationships with Senators Ourmou-Verbeten and Marty along with Gustafson and Hawj if they remain on the Senate Jobs and Economic Development/Transportation Committee.

*WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Dashboard:* The successful Request for Proposed resulted in two new Dislocated Worker contracts that began July 1, 2024, and will run through June 30, 2025. Berg shared a program summary for 2024. She reminded everyone that the WIOA Adult dashboard is on the open data portal for more details. The hope in 2025 is to show a snapshot of resident work with the CareerForce relocation to Metro Square

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### **Staff Updates**

*CareerForce Relocation:* Milbrandt shared that the CareerForce location at 540 Fairview Avenue N. will close at 4:30pm on January 9. The new location will open in late February/early March 2025. Residents can get help with job search during the move at the St. Paul, Maplewood and Roseville Career Labs.

*Upcoming Events:* Milbrandt shared the following and asked that committee promote the upcoming WIB-supported events and initiatives:

- Inclusive Workforce Summit – January 29, 8am to 1pm at the Science Museum of Minnesota. WIB and committee members are asked to volunteer to help in a variety of ways including greeting attendees and hosting breakout rooms.
- Top Trends to Watch in 2025 Webinar – February 19, Noon to 1pm, facilitated by Erin Olson from RTT.
- Artist Job & Resource Fair – February 27, 2-5pm at Springboard for the Arts.
- Ramsey Green Expo & Career Fair – March 19, 10am-1pm at Minnehaha Rec. Center.
- Inclusive Workplaces Cohort - Applications will open this month.

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### **Other**

No further items discussed.

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### **Adjourn**

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

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 3-4pm