

## Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

3:00pm-4:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

### Present:

Jonathan Banks  
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser  
Lisa Guetzkow  
James McClean  
Sheila Olson  
John (JP) Perlich  
Donna Zingsheim-Rapacz

### Absent:

Camila Mercado Michelli

### Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Ramsey County  
Karyn Berg, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Lola Soyomokun, Ramsey County

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### Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Perlich called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Berg read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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### Approval of January Minutes

**Motion (Banks/Guetzkow) to approve the January 10, 2024, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice/chat vote.**

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### Committee Work Plan Updates

*2024-2027 WIOA Local Plan:* Becker provided an overview of the Plan, shared the steps taken to get to this point and highlighted the key themes:

- Multi-faceted labor market data with increased focus on equity..
- Deepening focus on alignment, coordination and partnership
- Optimizing service delivery and operations post pandemic.
- Investing in the Future – a more inclusive workforce and more inclusive employers.

The Plan is due to the Governor’s Workforce Development Board by the end of May. Also, work is being done on the Regional Plan. Approval of the Local/Regional Plan by the full WIB will be requested at the April 4 meeting before it is sent to the Ramsey County Board for final review and approval. Becker thanked everyone for their help to write and give input on the Plan. The Plan is available for public review and comment.

*Local Delegation Outreach:* Becker shared recent legislative efforts and updates. Even though the Office of Management and Budget released the February economic forecast, which is an increase from the November forecast, a structural imbalance is still forecasted for the next biennium, with spending predicted to exceed revenue through 2027. Perlich and Banks shared their thoughts on the unlikelihood of obtaining any additional funds. The County’s focus is on homelessness and downtown infrastructure investments. Workforce Solutions has focused on digital equity with Representative Noor, the Saint Paul Welcome Back Legislators Event and a doula training request from Representative Hussein. The County’s Communications department prepared a one-page handout to be used to introduce the WIB to legislators interested in workforce development. This will open the door for next year to engage the legislators in the work done by the WIB and support needed legislation. One suggestion for engaging the local legislative delegation was to host a round table discussion during the session down time.

*WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboard:* Berg provided a snapshot on training in 2023 for the Dislocated Worker and Adult programs. Of note, 52% of enrollees participated in training with the highest interest in transportation, IT, business, financial and management training. Berg navigated through the Open Data Portal dashboard for the Adult program noting several different references, e.g., the participants served by race, participants trained by age group, by gender as well as other detailed charts that are putting a few factors together like gender and race. The portal will eventually have a similar dashboard for Dislocated

Worker data along with more current data for both Adult and Dislocated Worker. The data will be updated yearly.

*WIB Bylaws:* Milbrandt provided an overview and background of the WIB Bylaws which were last amended in 2017. Suggested amendments to the Bylaws include:

- Edit the abbreviation for LWDA (Local Workforce Development Area)
- Adjust the expenditure approval thresholds and authorities to reflect the WIB's larger budget and to comply with the Open Meetings law given the Executive Committee's preference to meet virtually.
- Change the term of WIB officers to two years.
- Adjust the language to make the election of a committee vice-chair optional
- Remove the reference to the length of the terms of the committee chairs.

If these changes are agreeable to the Executive Committee, they will be presented for a vote at the April 4 WIB meeting for approval by 2/3 of all voting members. A redlined copy will be distributed at least 10 days prior to the WIB meeting.

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### **Director Updates**

*MN Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator:* Becker shared information on the Minnesota Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator. This 4-hour program is in partnership with Goodwill Easter Seals, the Urban League Twin Cities, the Minneapolis Regional Chamber and the Saint Paul Area Chamber to create opportunities for workers who have built competencies through experience but do not have a higher education degree—particularly people who face systemic barriers to job opportunities. The important focus of the WIB is to remove barriers to employment faced by job seekers by helping employers adopt skills-based hiring and talent management practices. Rapacz shared that she attended the workshop twice and found it helpful. Engaging with the legislators might help in getting the Department of Human Services to change their credentialing rules to coincide with the Governor's goals in breaking the four-year degree hiring barriers. The metro region workforce areas are working together using some of the Drive for 5 funds to support this initiative with a goal of having a landing page that will have a calendar of all the Accelerator events throughout the metro. This will help employers be able to go to events that fit their schedule throughout various counties, not just in Ramsey County. There will also be one or two sessions for the metro area workforce board members to attend a shorter program so they can act as champions for the program. There are also plans to have training in the fall for workforce practitioners to support job seekers as they navigate employers utilizing a skilled-based hiring system. A link for the info sessions will be sent when the dates are set.

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### **Other**

No further items discussed.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 3-4pm