

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
3:00pm-4:00pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

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

Absent:

Hanna Getachew-Kreusser-EA
Camila Mercado Michelli-EA
Donna Rapacz-EA

Staff/Guests:

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

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Perlich called the meeting to order at 3:06pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approval of March Minutes

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

Legislative Updates

Becker provided update on the following items:

- Eligibility language in the Tech Squads Bill.
- Applications for two \$150,000 grants for fiscal year 2025 for a Justice Impact Navigator and a Digital Equity Specialist to support county residents. Both are in the House bill but not the Senate bill.
- Dislocated Worker Program to improve flexibility and expand eligibility to best meet the needs of Minnesota job seekers and employers.
- The U.S. House passed a WIOA reauthorization bill which has some opportunities as well as concerns for workforce boards. If enacted, the reauthorization would fund the system through 2030. It aims to make improvements to WIOA to help close the national skills gap, provide more accountability in the system, and help workers obtain high-quality, well-paying jobs. The concern is that “training” is narrowly defined and would redirect funding, which has eroded significantly over the last several decades. The other concern is a provision that increases statewide set-asides that further diminish funding available to address local community needs. The next steps are activating partner networks with advocacy letters; using federal lobbyists; and reaching out to Senator Smith’s office. Ramsey County also submitted three federal earmarks (funds that are allocated by members of Congress for specific projects or programs) to Senators Smith, Klobuchar and Representative McCollum. The Workforce Solutions earmark is aimed at an advanced manufacturing accelerator. Becker will reach out to a few committee members for some assistance with support letters.

Committee Work Plan Updates

Local Delegation Outreach: Becker provided an update that the plan has been submitted to the local delegation. The hope is to get a meeting on the hill for next year.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Dashboard: Berg provided an overview of the dashboard highlighting the open data portal (ODP) for the Adult program has been live since last year. The Dislocated Worker portal will be completed by mid-summer. It is significant to note the outreach done that shows the increase in the number of people of color that have been served during the last two years. Another significant note is the increase in wages during the last 12 months. ONET is the tool used to compile occupational information. The occupations that have the most activity are office and administrative careers and transportation careers in the Adult program. The data shared for the Dislocated Worker focused on management, business, computer and office/admin careers.

Director Updates

WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Request for Proposals (RFP) Overview: Becker shared that the RFP was released earlier this spring. Once finalized, recommendations will be brought to the next WIB meeting. Contracts have a lifetime limit of five years, with the current vendor contracts expiring June 30, 2024.

CareerForce Relocation Update: Becker provided an update on the relocation and the work with the CareerForce partners in establishing the Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreement. She thanked the core team of Guetzkow and Milbrandt who are helping to lead the transition and work on the implementation side. This is a great opportunity to reimagine how to increase collective impact. A lot of county services are performed at Metro Square where the CareerForce Center will be located and these partnerships make the community even stronger. The next step is to hold partner info sessions which will include partner site information on new location and operations. A lot of work has already been done but also a lot left to do prior to the opening of the new location in December 2024.

Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 3-4pm