

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Policy & Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
3:00pm-4:00pm  
Via Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Jonathan Banks  
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser  
Lisa Guetzkow  
James McClean  
John (JP) Perlich

**Absent:**

Camila Mercado Michelli  
Sheila Olson  
Donna Rapacz

**Staff/Guests:**

Karyn Berg, Ramsey County  
Mariann Macalus, Ramsey County  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Ramsey County

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**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

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

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**Approval of May Minutes**

**Motion (McLean/Guetzkow) to approve the May 8, 2024, Policy and Oversight Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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**2025 Committee Meeting Schedule**

Perlich shared the proposed 2025 meeting dates, stating it follows the same cadence as 2024, with meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of odd-numbered months from 3-4pm. Meeting invites will be sent after this meeting.

**Motion (McLean/Banks) to approve the proposed 2025 Committee meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice/chat votes.**

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**Election Recap**

Milbrandt reviewed the outcomes from the 2024 Federal and State elections. Senator Klobuchar and Representative McCollum both retained their seats in the US Senate and Congress, respectively. Control of the U.S. Senate shifts to the Republicans, which impacts committee makeup/leadership. Senator Cassidy (R-LA) will be the new chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee. Republicans are anticipated to retain control of the U.S. House; however, some races have still not been called. Control of the MN House is tied 67/67 after the GOP flipped 3 seats. There is no provision for tiebreaking in a split chamber in the Minnesota Constitution. The DFL maintains control of the Senate with a one-seat majority. It was suggested that this committee dig into areas of concern if funding is cut and what that would mean for workforce development. Even though workforce tends to be less political, areas tied to workforce, such as housing and public assistance funding, could see more substantial impacts. The WIOA Reauthorization bill has passed in both chamber but has not yet been reconciled and is not expected to pass before the new administration takes over.

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**Committee Work Plan Updates**

*2024 Committee Work Plan Status:* Milbrandt reminded everyone that the work plan was written in 2022 and has been revised annually. The committee may want to reconsider some of the strategies given the legislative changes. Further discussion about what this committee's priorities will happen at a future meeting.

*WIB Policy Statements – Alignment with Other Platforms:* The committee typically reviews the platforms of other entities to ensure alignment with the WIB's priorities.

- MN Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB): MAWB is still working drafting its 2025 federal and state priorities but they will likely include advocacy for maintaining adequate funding in the Workforce Development Fund and for the temporary increase in MN Youth Program Funds last session to be made permanent.

- Ramsey County: The Legislative Committee of the Whole met November 5. Platforms will be brought back to the County Board for consideration on November 19. Several State workforce priorities were shared which included the WIB's current priorities, language supporting additional funding and broader allowable use of funds beyond what WIOA/TANF allow, and an additional \$750,000 to continue the Tech Squad program. The county's platform draws from other organizations, such as the National Association of Counties and the Association of MN Counties.

The committee reviewed the WIB's 2024 Policy Statements. A small workgroup of committee members will convene to review the current Policy Statements and make suggestions for 2025. Guetzkow and Banks volunteered to be part of this workgroup. Anyone else interested should contact Milbrandt. The workgroup's recommendations will be brought to the full committee in January and then to the WIB in February. The legislative priorities of other workforce organizations will also continue to be tracked to identify points of alignment and areas that could inform the WIB's priorities.

*WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Dashboard:* Berg shared that the Dislocated Worker (DW) program dashboard is now live on the county's open data portal. It now includes dashboards for both the DW and WIOA Adult programs. These dashboards will be directly linked to the annual report and will include participant summaries and detailed demographics. This data is part of the unemployment insurance statistics which provides demographic statistics on people filing initial and continued claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits.

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### **Staff Updates**

*CareerForce Relocation:* Milbrandt provided an update on the relocation effort, stating that construction started yesterday in the Metro Square building. Several elements of the project are happening simultaneously around space planning and build out; MOU/IFO negotiations with all the partners, and drafting the legal agreements with the state. Milbrandt shared the floorplan and the timeline. The plan is to have the new location open to the public February 2025.

*CareerForce Engagement Dashboard:* Guetzkow gave a quick update on the data the One-Stop Operator collected through September 30, 2024 on services being offered to career seekers and employers at the CareerForce in Saint Paul. This data reflects increasing numbers of visits and 1:1 appointments throughout the year.

*SNAP E&T:* Guetzkow shared that last fall, the state implemented a change in SNAP E&T eligibility, screening and referral roles. These changes shifted some of this program's work within Workforce Solutions. This change resulted in the decision to wind down Workforce Solutions as a SNAP E&T provider as of the end of the 2024 contract year. Guetzkow noted that there are several SNAP E&T providers in Ramsey County so residents will still have ample access to the program.

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### **Other**

No further items discussed.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 3-4pm (tentative)