Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 1–2pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:	**Absent**:	**Staff**/**Guests**:
Annie Byrne	Ama Asantewaa	Ismail Ali, MN Tech
Sam Drong	Len Cacioppo-EA	Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Caroline Karanja	Tony Lusiba-EA	Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Koami Pedado	Sabina Saksena	Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
		Matt Saari, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement
Becker called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. Saari read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve March Minutes
Motion (Byrne/Pedado) to approve the March 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates
Tech Month Recap: Becker and others provided a recap of Tech Month events and shared about the events the WIB supported and/or promoted. She thanked everyone for engaging and helping to promote the events. Event highlights:

- *Ramsey Green Expo & Career Fair*: For job seekers to learn about and apply for green collar careers in emerging industries, as well as conventional businesses and trades who have shifted to more sustainable practices. The event was well attended.
- *Future of Work-How technology is changing the way we work*: A panel discussion for workforce professionals to learn about how technology is reshaping industries and transforming traditional work practice.
- *Public Pathways Tech Workforce Panel:* Panel discussion for people interested in public sector technologist careers or in training/education programs. Speakers were from the Office of Technology at the city of Saint Paul; Ramsey County CIO; Metropolitan Council CIO and Minnesota IT Service CTO.
- *Innovation Lab*: An opportunity for youth to access to recording studio, media lab, 3D printers, laser engraver, etc. at the Central Library. Sponsored by the City of Saint Paul
- *United We Transform:* A large networking event for industry professionals sponsored by Full Stack Saint Paul.
- *NASA Inclusive Innovation Mash-Up Lab*: An event led by Brown Venture Group and NASA designed to accelerate tech commercialization across the MN ecosystem.
- *Upcoming event - MNTech JumpStart - Diverse Pathways in Tech, July 23 at Osborn 370*: An opportunity to learn from and network with local talent and leaders in the technology sector. Panelists will share their journeys through tech and obstacles they have faced. Ali explained that these events are held quarterly in various locations in the metro area.

Tech Trainer Roundtable: Becker provided an update on the roundtable discussion with eighteen leaders from local tech training organizations that provide training, credentialing and career navigation support to entry-level technology talent. RealTime Talent facilitated the workshop. Attendee feedback was very positive. Becker identified best practices, possible action steps, and priority opportunities for individual organizations. The most important next step would be to champion a shift from the current hiring hesitancy to encouraging employers to invest in workforce training as an investment in their future needs, 2-5 years from now.

WIB-Full Stack Alignment: Becker provided a recap of the Full Stack-WIB coordination. With the alignment between the Full Stack workforce committee and the WIB's Tech Committee, more members will likely be added to this committee. There will likely be a Full Stack member who will serve as a type of co-chair connection to the Tech Committee. The Full Stack Bylaws are being developed to provide a framework and clarity on this structure.

MSP TechHire Intern Pilot Program
Byrne provided an overview of the pilot, stating that the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul have teamed up with regional employers and high-quality accelerated learning programs offering innovative programs and solutions to help meet the demand of the rapid growth of tech jobs. Through Full Stack, the city of Saint Paul funds a limited number of scholarships each year to extend training opportunities to community members. Karanja shared that Hack the Gap offer a UX design program and a software development training program in addition to a free on-line Full Stack Foundations course and a UX design starter kit for those just getting started in the field.

Committee Member Updates and Other
Saari gave an update on the Tech Squad program, stating that individuals have been placed in various positions throughout Ramsey County including at Saint Paul College and Northeast Metro 916.

Adjourn
Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 1:57pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2024, 1-2pm.