



Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1:30pm–2:30pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Annie Bryne
Sam Drong
Caroline Karanja
Tony Lusiba
Sabina Saksena
Jenni Severson
Jaime Wascalus

Absent:

Ama Asantewaa
Len Cacioppo-EA
Koami Pedado-EA

Staff/Guests:

Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Abdi Mohamed, IT Metrohub
Matt Saari, Workforce Solutions
Sharon Kennedy Vickers, Software for Good

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. Severson read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Lusiba/Wascalus) to approve the September 5, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

2025 Committee Meeting Schedule

Lusiba shared the proposed 2025 meeting dates, stating it follows the same schedule as 2024, with meetings on the 2nd Thursday of odd-numbered months from 1-2pm. Anyone with concerns about the schedule should contact Milbrandt. Milbrandt will send the meeting invites soon.

Motion (Lusiba/Drong) to accept the proposed 2025 Committee meeting schedule noting an adjustment to the May meeting date. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Tech Committee Work Plan Review: Lusiba recapped the Tech Committee work plan that was written in 2022 and has been revised annually to keep the committee on track through the year. Most of the items are in process, with continued effort placed on Hidden Worker opportunities in technology, community tech hubs, and support in new funding streams and opportunities as the new year approaches. This committee would like to look further into digital equity and was wondering about BEAD funding. Milbrandt will check further into whether Ramsey County continue to lead the work around digital equity and will report back to this committee about BEAD funding. She also shared that the Policy and Oversight Committee could also look at the digital equity platform/funding opportunities. Drong shared that money has been approved on the federal level and has been given to the states, though he has not heard anything yet from the broadband development office as to what the plan might be in dividing up the funds. Wascalus and Milbrandt will connect further on this.

2025 Vision Tracker Organization (VTO) Planning: Wascalus provided an overview of Full Stack Saint Paul's ten-year targets. Today's discussion is around its 2025 VTO plan reminding everyone that they are utilizing the EOS model to set strategy and goals for the year in three areas: culture, workforce and entrepreneurs. The one-year proposed plan is focused on training and connecting an agile tech workforce with three goals identified; 1) tech training and placement; 2) building employer relationships, and 3) ecosystem advocacy/coordination with partners. There was discussion on goal 2 to get employers to develop plans to hire early career participants since there is a significant amount of training investment. What are ways to engage employers in developing pathways to get people hired and advancing at those workplaces? The concern is that nothing comes out of the investment as employers say they will hire but do not. Those that do hire there's a story to tell so they should be recognize/awarded/highlighted in the community. For goal 3, discussion pertained to proposing better documentation in developing employer relationships with the key players and the impact on the ecosystem by those key players. A small advisory group will be formed to

work with RealTime Talent on the trainer survey/interviews. Employers need to have a voice in all the areas of building a work plan too. It was also suggested that monthly employer networking events are held for them to acknowledge their role in hiring and other forums for match up.

MSP Tech Hire 2025

Byrne provided an overview of this year's MSP Tech Hire which was in response to the rapid growth of tech jobs. The cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul teamed up with regional employers and high-quality accelerated learning programs continuing to produce innovative programs and solutions to help meet this demand. Byrne explained the scholarship eligibility, size and this year's successes. She then provided an update on ways to improve next year's MSP TechHire Scholarship and Internship Program. There are several options under consideration: continue internship model and invite recent tech training graduates to apply for an internship; restructure the scholarship program and package scholarships with internships; have details of internship to be determined by organization(s) placing interns; and select multiple organizations to manage intern placement and support. There was discussion about opening the scholarships to more providers, pairing training with internships and better data.

The Opportunity Project for Cities (TOPC) Demo Day

Milbrandt provided a recap of today's Demo Day. This was an opportunity to learn how governments, community organizations, and Google.org worked together to solve a local problem. Technologists from google unveiled the innovative digital tools they are co-creating with local communities. The platform for Saint Paul/Ramsey County connects residents to green trade careers, focusing on building pathways to sustainable, living wage jobs. Participants were able to share what they learned over a 20-week program working with their communities to understand, design and test a product that meets residents' needs. The link to the discussion will be sent to the committee members once it is available.

Committee Member Updates and Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2025, 1-2pm (tentative)