

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 2024, 1–2pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Ama Asantewaa
Len Cacioppo
Sam Drong
Caroline Karanja
Tony Lusiba
Koami Pedado
Sabina Saksena

Absent:

Annie Byrne-EA

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Mary Rick, City of Saint Paul
Matt Saari, Workforce Solutions
Jenni Severson, Vivacity Tech
Jaime Wascalus, City of Saint Paul

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Introductions were made. Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve June Minutes

Motion (Lusiba/Cacioppo) to approve the June 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote after noting an adjustment to the next meeting date. Saksena abstained.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

WIB-Full Stack Alignment: Becker thanked Lusiba, Wascalus, Rick and Byrne for helping to bridge the work with Full Stack. For this committee there are two chairs; Lusiba is the primary chair for the WIB Tech Committee and Wascalus is the Full Stack/WIB Tech Workforce Committee Co-Chair. Both provide leadership to the WIB's Tech Committee leading meetings and guiding initiatives. The Full Stack organization structure was shared noting that the Tech Workforce Committee Strategic focus is training and connecting an agile tech workforce as a strategic priority. The three action areas that are in alignment are: tech training and placement opportunities; build employer relationships and ecosystem advocacy; and coordination with partners. Wascalus shared Full Stack's goals and visions utilizing the EOS Vision/Traction Organizer model to set strategy and goals for the year in three areas: culture, workforce and entrepreneurs. There was discussion on the word "agile" to clarify its meaning in the context of the Organizer.

Tech Training Organization Project: Becker shared that earlier this year the WIB hosted a Tech Trainer Roundtable with 18 leaders from tech training organizations. The purpose of the event was to define the specific challenges and needed interventions in talent program completion and successful employment in technology careers. The current hiring landscape for tech talent overall appears to be challenging and somewhat negative. The focus is how to change these perceptions. One idea is to consider a partnership with RealTime Talent to help identify best practices in IT training programs; identify potential methods to align employers and align workforce partners more intentionally with the long-term goal being to establish funding requirements around tech programs that incorporate best practices/components that have been vetted by the training providers and employers. Committee members thought the project sounds great especially with continued focus on key outcomes, including feedback from employers, small businesses, and a big part of this is having organizations being honest and what are their hesitations in hiring someone from boot camp, etc. The next step is to have a small group work with Real Time Talent Advisory Committee. A follow up email will be sent.

Twin Cities Start Up Week

Rick provided an overview of the pilot that is being led by BETA. The Twin Cities Startup Week (TCSW) is a multidisciplinary festival celebrating Minnesota's expansive startup ecosystem. Events hosted over several days build relationships and drive collaboration to support and develop the state's most innovative

businesses. In addition to the dozens of community-driven sessions, every evening starting September 13, TCSW features an anchor event for startup and tech enthusiasts. Rick shared that Full Stack is promoting a number of events beyond TCSW.

Committee Member Updates and Other

Becker shared that anyone who supports tech training can be in the ecosystem. Any further questions can be directed to Milbrandt and Byrne. Everyone thanked Becker for her leadership in workforce development and know she will continue to be successful in her new with as County Manager.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 2:03pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1-2pm.