

## Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

### Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024

3:00-4:00 PM

#### Members Present

Tom Aasheim  
Breanna Galuska  
Mary Sue Hansen  
Ginny Nayman-Tonn  
Nardos Tesfalidet  
Aalayha Traub

#### Members Absent

Jennifer Germain  
Hyon Kim  
Sheri Riemers

#### Staff/Guests Present

Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions  
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Bradley Mahr, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  
Matthew Saari, Workforce Solutions  
Longkee Vang, Workforce Solutions  
Emanuel Williams, Workforce Solutions

---

#### Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Traub called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Traub read the land acknowledgement aloud. Introductions were made.

---

#### Approval January Minutes

**Motion (Hansen/Aasheim) to approve the January 18, 2024, Youth Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.**

---

#### Review Youth Workforce Champion Awards Nominees

Mahr reminded everyone that the Vern Vick Award has been re-branded to the Youth Workforce Champion Awards for people who have made a significant impact in supporting young people. He reviewed the award timelines stating there are two nominees for the Rising Star Award (given to an individual whose impact and leadership in the field of youth and youth adult workforce development has just begun) and one nominee for the Legacy Award (given to an individual whose impact and leadership in the field of youth and young adult workforce development has been well-established) that the Committee will be voting on today. After discussion of the nominees, the Committee members voted on DeClercq-Ransom to receive the Rising Star Award and Chan to receive the Legacy Award. The award winners will be asked to join the April 4 WIB meeting for the award presentation, which will be in person at the High School of Recording Arts.

---

#### WIOA Dashboard

Mahr shared the preliminary WIOA performance measures for 2023 noting that in some categories, goals are being exceeded while lagging in others, but faring very well with our peer jurisdictions. He shared the Youth Summary dashboard data from April 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, noting the increase in young people being served in all the barriers of enrollment which shows a great outreach of our partner organizations, vendors and clearly meeting the expectations and the priorities of these programs serving the most high-need people. We will share more once the academic school year wraps up.

---

#### Upcoming Events

Molenaar shared the following events:

- Metro State STEM – March 27: Metro State, an MOU partner with the CareerForce System, is hosting this event with the 3M chief scientist. This is an effective way to expose more of Ramsey County’s program participants who are in Workforce Solutions STEM or STEM-adjacent training programs. Participants will attend the Keynote speaker. After the keynote speaker, the add-on portion for these participants will be a WIB-sponsored STEM panel of professors, light lunch, and Metro tour. There are currently about thirty participants and Workforce Solutions continues to share it out to partner organizations. If you know of any young people who are interested in STEM spaces, you can connect with Saari, who is leading the project.
- WIB Meeting-Presentation of Youth Awards – April 4: High School for Recording Arts (HSRA). There will also be an optional tour of HSRA before and after the meeting. Hope Committee members can come to one of the two tours.

- Power Within Us – April 9: Arlington Hills Community Center. This is a session particularly for young people ages 16-24 who are on probation in Ramsey County. Gill hosts these sessions to connect these young people with providers and partners.
- Youth Job and Resource Fair – April 20 at Maplewood Mall. This is for 15- to 18-year-old high school students looking for employment. If you know of any businesses that would like to be part of this event in hosting a table or providing resources, please let Molenaar/Mahr know, and they will provide follow up information to those businesses.
- Green Career & Resource Fair (possible Emerging Professionals Event - May 1 at Wilder Foundation. This is in partnership with Ramsey County Public Works/Environmental Works and other businesses whose missions include recycling, creating green space, environmental clean-up, etc. It is a blend of a resource fair and career fair where attendees will learn about and apply for green collar careers in emerging industries, as well as businesses and trades who have shifted to more sustainable practices. This is a fantastic opportunity if you are interested in learning more about environmental activities in the county.
- Future of Work: Technology & AI – May 6 at a location TBD. This event is targeted to employment counselors, community-based organization partners and other professionals who are supporting job seekers. This quarter session will be about technology and AI leaning towards the labor market trends to what we are seeing and giving some preview of what we think is going to come in the tech spaces.
- Launchpad 2024: Journey Beyond High School – May 9 at Eastside YMCA: A new event which was requested from the schools for those high school graduating seniors and their families who do not have a plan to go to college or any sort of post-secondary plans.
- YouthWorks! Spring Networking – May 29: Location to be determined. All Committee members will be invited along with business partners, providers and the YouthWorks! Ecosystem. This is an opportunity to learn about the Youth system building work being done and then developing relationships with those in attendance.

---

## Other

The Workforce Solutions Planning and Program Specialists shared the following:

- Tech Squads: Saari shared that this is an opportunity for people in Ramsey County ages 18-24 to earn a stipend while studying and receiving Comp TIAA+ certification - a tech training program. This program started earlier in March with twenty participants who are training at St. Paul College. After training, these individuals enter into a paid internship to provide IT help desk services to Ramsey County residents. The County continues to work with the legislature to add more flexible eligibility language for another cohort to reduce added geographical barriers.
- YACA: Williams shared that the young adult program provides employment and training opportunities to low-income and/or at risk-young adults. Services provided by vendors include career planning, job search assistance, paid work experience and help with tuition costs. The fifth cohort started with nine participants beginning their 10-week department rotations. After completion of the rotation, there is an opportunity for 250-hour extended internship. All the departments that are part of this initiative volunteered to be part of this program. The next cohort begins in Fall 2024.
- Right Track Expansion: Molenaar shared that the county is leveraging ARPA funds to expand the City of Saint Paul's Right Track program to suburban Ramsey County. In addition, the county will be leveraging its resources and partnership to expand employer sites for Right Track both in the city and throughout the county. Currently, approximately 150 suburban youth have applied, with 50-60 internships available. Still seeking suburban organization to support the internships this summer. The County is using the ARPA money to do wage subsidies and wage reimbursement for employers who need it that want to host interns this summer. Hansen to do one more pitch of organizations who want to participate. Ramsey County has pledged for 32 Right Track interns this summer and every city department in St. Paul is hosting an intern to support more opportunities for young people.
- Outreach to Schools Update: Vang provided an update on the new opportunity for the County to support more coordination with schools. The expansion includes working with schools at career and opportunity fairs, supporting school-employer ecosystem and forthcoming teacher externships. In addition, the job ready supports include barrier removal programs funded by ARPA, 4400 or less to support students towards employment, e.g., work clothing, gas cards, training test fees.

---

## Committee Member Updates/Other Business

No further items discussed.

---

**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.

**Next Meeting:** May 16, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom