

## **Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**

### **Youth Committee Meeting**

Thursday, September 19, 2024

3:00-4:00 PM

#### **Members Present**

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

#### **Members Absent**

Jennifer Germain  
Sheri Riemers

#### **Staff/Guests Present**

Esther Brown, Andersen Windows Corp.  
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions  
Tami Cybulski, Blaze Credit Union  
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions  
Bryan Kuzel, Mississippi Market  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Bradley Mahr, Workforce Solutions  
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  
Matt Saari, Workforce Solutions

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#### **Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Prior to Call to Order, introductions were made. Aalayha Traub called the meeting to order at 3:01pm and read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

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#### **Approval March and June Minutes**

**Motion (Galuska/Nayman-Tonn) to approve the March 21, 2024, and June 20, 2024, minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried by chat vote.**

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#### **Youth Team Updates**

Youth Team provided updates on the following:

- Summer Programs Recap
  - Summer Journalism Institute (SJI). SJI offered a transformative experience for young journalists. The four-week training sessions (July 24<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>) were hosted by Center for Broadcast Journalism and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions. SJI provided hands-on training in journalism, from reporting to multimedia storytelling. Two of the participants were featured in a Pioneer Press article discussing the state of journalism and the importance of youth perspectives. A link will be provided in the follow up email.
  - Right Track; Ramsey County welcomed 26 Right Track interns on June 17 for a summer-long internship. These interns worked within 23 different county departments, gaining insight into the functions and operations of local government. Best of all one participant was hired full-time.
  - Semiconductor Accelerator: the semiconductor industry in Minnesota has seen a large amount of growth since the CHIPS and Science Act was passed in 2022. To capitalize on this investment, Ramsey County partners with semiconductor employers and Saint Paul College in August to host the Semiconductor Accelerator. During this week-long experience, participants had the opportunity for immersive activities and conversations with experts across the industry. Participants connected with technicians and engineers to learn about the day-to-day job experience, as well as how the employees began their careers. To end the week, participants toured Polar Semiconductor's fabrication labs to get a glimpse of the work that happens on a daily basis.
  - Co-Lab ECMC: The ECMC Group is an umbrella of non-profits whose mission is to help students succeed. In partnership with ConnexMSP, they have engaged in co-learning with black and brown young adults to develop recommendations for how systems can better support the young adults in the ecosystem. This is in alignment with the strategy work being done by YouthWorks!. This summer the ECMC Group piloted one of their recommended strategies called The Co-Lab. Networking event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Rondo Community Library will bring together Workforce Solutions, school partners, and employers to network with youth serving organizations across Ramsey County. There might be an opportunity to expand to additional sites.

- Fall Programs and Events Preview
  - 3DE: This October and November, Ramsey County will partner with Junior Achievement (JA) and Como Park High School to engage 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in the 3DE Experience. JA North’s 3DE program offers students hands-on, real-world learning opportunities to develop essential educational and workplace skills. In collaboration with Ramsey County, students will tackle projects centered around the question: “What organizations should Ramsey County collaborate with to help build its talent pipeline?”
  - Power Within Us Update: Sessions are held every second Tuesday, from 4-5:30pm at Rondo Community Outreach Library. They aim to connect young adults currently on probation in Ramsey County with various internships, job and educational training programs, caring adults and other positive youth development supports. During the sessions, community partners who provide employment and job training programs to young adults with legal system involvement present “right now” opportunities in which young people can start earning while learning new skills.
  - Fall Networking Event: The Fall networking event will be held October 3 from 2-4pm at Rondo Community Library. This will be an opportunity to network with other youth serving organizations across Ramsey County, to hear about the exciting work that is happening at the ECMC Foundation, and to celebrate and learn about the work happening across the county.
  - Future of Work: Manufacturing: This event will be held October 7 from 10-11:30am at Rondo Community Library. It is an opportunity to dive into the exciting world of manufacturing and to explore emerging career opportunities with the YouthWorks! Team.
  - Youth Career Connect Day: The third annual Career Connect Day will be held October 15 at the St. Paul RiverCentre. This opportunity provided over 2,000 local high school students the chance to learn and explore future career paths. The WIB provided the transportation that made it possible for the students to attend.
  - Indigenous People’s Day: This event will be held October 14 at the American Indian Magnet School. It is an opportunity to connect community members with valuable county resources. It will bring together students, families and the broader community to celebrate Native culture through traditional games, art and performances.
  - Youth Works! Orientation for New Members: These orientations have been ongoing on every second Wednesday of the month from 11a to Noon to equip young adults/stakeholders with essential knowledge about available resources and programs in Ramsey County. New Youth Committee members should consider taking this valuable opportunity to gain insights into the support systems available for youth.

#### Committee Workplan

Molenaar shared:

- Outreach to Schools Update (OTS): Part of the workplan for this Committee is to reach out to schools. This enhances the work of existing school counselors and provide youth and families with career exploration and career counseling, college information and current labor market information. Workforce Solutions hired a planner to support the partnerships between Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and the school partners. This work is a variety of activities which includes connections to job shadows, mentoring, and business tours; speaking to students or classroom around career and college readiness, providing teacher externships for hands-on learning opportunities for teaching staff and family and community engagement events.
- Opportunity Youth Initiatives: No discussion

#### Department of Labor Youth Systems Building

Molenaar shared that this is an opportunity to receive technical assistance and support from U.S. Department of Labor with other communities around the country. The County has been leading a team with representation from five other partner organizations. A workplan is being built out for the next two years moving towards collective impact. The three goals for the workplan are: co-create a talent pipeline strategy with employers for long-term success; ensure Youth Works partners work together cohesively, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness and identify and implementing shared metrics to measure collective impact of the coalition in two years. This

Committee will be asked in the future to become more active to lead system transformation. More youth voice will be brought into this process. Workplan will be sent out to Committee members.

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#### Committee Member Updates/Other Business

Mahr thanked everyone on this Committee and the WIB as a whole as we celebrate Workforce Development Month locally and across the state.

Traub thanked the new members for joining this Committee.

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#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.

**Next Meeting:** November 21, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom