

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025
3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present

Tami Cybulski
Breana Galuska
Jennifer Germain
Camila Mercado-Michelli
Abdi Mohamed
Ginny Nayman-Tonn
Nardos Tesfalidet

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Bryan Kuzel
Sheri Riemers
Aalayha Traub

Staff/Guests Present

Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Bradley Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Matt Saari, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Mahr called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. Germain read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Germain/Galuska) to approve the November 21, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Mahr shared the acknowledgement with the Committee and reminded everyone that any WIB and committee members who have a conflict of interest abstain from the discussion/voting. The acknowledgement is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. The policy will be included in the follow-up email.

2025 Committee Meeting Schedule

Mahr shared the proposed 2025 meeting dates, stating it follows the same cadence as 2024, with meetings the third Thursday of odd-numbered months from 3-4pm. Meeting invites were previously sent.

Motion (Galuska/Tesfalidet) to approve the proposed 2025 Committee meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Workplan

- Youth Workforce Champion Awards Launch: Mahr reminded everyone that the Vern Vick Award was renamed to the Youth Workforce Champion Awards for people who have made a significant impact in supporting young people by fostering their person and professional growth. Nominations for the 2025 Youth Workforce Champion Awards opens today, with a deadline for submissions February 19. The Youth Committee will convene in March to select recipients. The award presentations will take place at the April WIB meeting, and they will be honored at the Youth Works! Networking event in May. This is your chance to spotlight those who educate, guide, and support the next generation. A link will be provided in the follow-up email as to previous winners.
- 2025-26 Unified Local Plan: Mahr provided an update on the Local Youth Plan noting the Youth Plan has been simplified to read, ensuring it is easier to understand for peer reviewers and the public. Seeking approval on the new Program Year, the full WIB will approve the Youth Plan at its March meeting. Committee members can review the plan and provide feedback to Mahr.

Youth Team Updates

Youth Team shared the following:

- New WFS Director: Catrice O'Neal: There will be an opportunity to meet and greet the new Workforce Director and Executive Director of the WIB at the full WIB meeting on February 6, 2025. In addition, there will be the opportunity to meet and greet Commissioner Kelly Miller, the new Ramsey County Commissioner appointed to the WIB.
- Mary Sue Hansen Board Recognition: Hansen, a long-standing member of this Committee, recently retired from the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative (SRFC). She was recognized and honored at the

January 14 Board of Commissioners' meeting for her remarkable contributions to the SRFC and the Ramsey County community. Her commitment to cultivating community partnerships and innovative approaches to addressing social issues have made a lasting impact on the lives of many individuals and families in the community.

- MTP Graduation: On January 7, Saint Paul College kicked off the new year with the graduation of the Clinic Assistant Training Program (CAT). The Minnesota Training Partnerships, in partnership with OPEIU Local 12 and HealthPartners, provided the CAT program that teaches young adults skills for higher wage healthcare careers with benefits. This was an opportunity for the graduates to enter gateway occupations. Check the Youth Works! newsletter for another program in March for other lunch 'n learn sessions.

Committee Member Updates/Other Business

- Right Track Employer Engagement: Tesfalidet shared that Right Track is recruiting for two different programs: Saint Paul Youth Jobs One (YJ1) and Youth Jobs Two (YJ2). New employers are always sought to host interns for both programs. Applications will open February 12 with Suburban Ramsey County applications opening in March.
- Right Track Scholars Program: Tesfalidet shared the Scholars program is a 10-week paid internship designed to provide young adults with valuable work experience, professional skill-building and a chance to contribute to the future of public sector. There were one hundred applicants for the first cohort. The plan is to have twenty placements with Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul. Interviews for the next cohort take place next week.
- Saint Paul Public Schools Galuska shared that Right Track is excited to announce the launch of their summer 2025 employer engagement efforts for Ramsey County youth ages 14-21. Right Track provides St. Paul youth with summer internships and professional skills training. They are curious about the careers young people are interested in so they can find partners and internships to match.
- Milbrandt shared the following upcoming events and will provide the links for the follow-up email:
 - Inclusive Workforce Summit - January 29, 8a to 1p at the Science Museum of Minnesota
 - Trends to Watch in 2025 Webinar - February 19, Noon to 1p, hosted by RealTime Talent
 - Artist Job and Resource Fair - February 27, 2p to 5p at Springboard for the Arts
 - Ramsey Green Expo and Career Fair - March 19, 10a to 1p at Minnehaha Rec CenterAlways looking for volunteers from the WIB to help in a variety of ways for these events. Let Milbrandt know if you are interested in volunteering.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025, 3:00-4:00pm via Zoom