

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee

May 13, 2005
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Patricia Brady
Gary Christensen
Greg Lambert
Tom Macy
Jackie Mlynarczyk
Deborah Montgomery
Paul Nelson

Members Absent

Bill Fritts
Willie Nesbit EA
Phil Saari

Staff/Guests Present

Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Lynn Gallandat, Hubbs Center,
Representing Willie Nesbit
Tom Triplett, City of St. Paul
Jim Schultz, Midway WFC
Jim Zentner, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Greg Lambert, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Jackie Mlynarczyk to approve the minutes of March 11 as written.

Motion passed

Review Dislocated Worker and WIA Adult Program Outcome Reports

Terry Zurn presented the Dislocated Worker and WIA Adult performance outcomes with reporting periods of 1/1/04-12/31/04 and 10/1/03-9/30/04 for the state and federal programs respectively. Items highlighted were:

- Planned versus actual placement rate of participants exiting the program
- Health benefits at placement
- Education level pre-program enrollment
- Support services utilized by participants
- Wage change from pre-enrollment to placement
- Racial breakout of participants
- Zip code breakout of participants

A total of 841 individuals were served in the State DW program, 228 in the Federal DW program and 185 in the WIA Adult program during the stated time periods. Currently all goals are being surpassed in all three programs. Also being tracked are program trends. These trends include where people are getting jobs, what training is needed and what supportive services are needed. Terry expressed that the department would like to work further with the ELL population, as well as get women and minorities engaged in skilled trades. The group discussed the need for the City, County, unions, and training establishments to collaborate and encourage participation of contractors/developers to hire women and minorities. Workforce Solutions can provide participants and help with retention and the supportive services the participants may need.

Approve WIA Unified Plan

This year a new WIA unified plan was required by DEED. This time around it was much more focused on the WIB and what they are doing to assist with the workforce programs. Because the WIB has been without a CEO for a few months, Workforce Solutions offered to complete the plan with guidance from the WIB. Terry Zurn and Jim Zentner wrote most of the plan, and they were thanked for their hard work.

The plan is broken down into sections including the economic environment, both regionally and locally; vision and priorities; funding; local governance; operations; accessibility; services to businesses; services to job seekers; performance standards; and participant plans and funding. The plan also focuses on making the system more demand-driven.

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Paul Nelson to approve the WIA unified plan

Motion carried

Review Customer Satisfaction Information for WSA 15

DEED Customer Satisfaction

Customer satisfaction surveys are continually administered by the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for employers and job seekers. The employer data is not broken down beyond the metro area, and has shown improvement since previous surveys. The job seeker data is broken down into WSAs, and our WSA is second from the bottom in performance. This may be more of an issue of the sample for this survey. Many MFIP recipients were surveyed for this data, and our WSA has a disproportionately large number of MFIP recipients in comparison with the rest of the state. These participants do not have a choice on participating in the program, and this could explain their lower satisfaction. In the future the survey will be done using only 60 MFIP recipients statewide, which should result in a better handle on our performance.

Secret Shopper Information

The secret shopper information was not surprising to the group. It seems that the data supports the move from three to two WorkForce Centers in Ramsey County. It also reiterates the importance of location in choosing our new center.

Choose WSA Representative for Dislocated Worker Competitive Grants

DEED is requesting a representative from our WSA to go out with the rapid response team on layoffs to represent the dislocated worker program. Terry Zurn volunteered for this position, and all members agreed.

Open Forum

The group was informed that the Senate is going to be introducing WIA reauthorization. NAWB sent an exec summary of the 403 page document, and it appears to be the same as what was introduced last year. A side by side comparison is expected by May 18th. It may be helpful to talk to our legislators about the reauthorization later down the road.

Tom Triplett was present from the Mayor's office to discuss the issue of homelessness. This issue is very important to the mayor, and he is seeking guidance on what can be done with the jobs piece of this. The mayor is focusing on the chronically homeless and homeless teens. Patricia Brady pointed out a grant application was submitted to DOL to create a program for homeless youth. Harriet Horwath would have more information on this subject and Patricia suggested that Tom and Harriet connect.

Adjourn

Motion made by Patricia Brady with second by Jackie Mlynarczyk to adjourn the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Motion carried

Next Meeting- July 8, Midway WorkForce Center