

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee

May 11, 2007
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Carrie Coleman
Tom Macy
Jackie Mlynarczyk
Paul Nelson

Members Absent

Patricia Brady
Amy Brenengen
Trixie Golberg EA
Tom Klas
Willie Nesbit

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Susan Speetzen, DEED
Carol Dabruzzo, International Institute
Wilhelmina Holder, African and American Friendship
Association for Cooperation and Development

Call to Order

Paul Nelson, acting Chair, called meeting to order at 11:36.

Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Jackie Mlynarczyk with second by Tom Macy to approve the January minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve Local Plan

The federal government requires a five year plan outlining each state's plans on spending workforce funds. From this, DEED requires a plan or update annually; last year was very detailed and this year required an update to last years plan. The WIB and its partners developed and put the plan together and have sent it out for committee members' review. From here it will go to the Executive Committee for approval, before going to the full WIB and County Board. Changes this year included staff changes, WIB member list update, consolidation of WorkForce Centers in Saint Paul, added youth vendors, an additional partner to the Memorandum of Understanding (Quality Career Services), discussion on the Joint Powers Agreement and a work readiness credential program that is being piloted at the WorkForce Center in Saint Paul. Additionally, Workforce Solutions received WIA reserve funds for attaining their targeted program goals. These funds are being used to train incumbent workers in manufacturing. Further discussion was on the process of developing these plans.

Motion made by Jackie Mlynarczyk with second by Carrie Coleman to recommend this plan be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

Motion carried.

Building Lives

Mary Jo gave background about the Building Lives program and the request made to the legislature. The request is currently in a conference committee at \$100,000, which, while less than the WIB requested, could be used to leverage other funds.

Saint Paul WorkForce Center

The committee discussed the name of the new WorkForce Center, which will need to be defined for the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) website (physical building signs will be the standard Minnesota WorkForce Center). There was a suggestion that it be called the Ramsey County WorkForce Center- Saint Paul respecting the county wide programs and the county support of the programs at the center. It appears that other centers on the DEED website are named for their geographic location. There was discussion on what the "official" name would be and how the general public would refer to it.

WorkForce Center partners are currently signing off on the cost allocation plan for the new center.

There was discussion on the need for a crosswalk from the parking lot, across Fairview, to the WorkForce Center. All agreed it would be helpful. Members discussed it being a city issue between the building owner and the City of Saint Paul.

Update on WIB Membership

There are six openings on the board, with one member in process. Additionally, 21 people are up for reappointment. The reappointments will be reviewed at the May Executive Committee meeting.

Update on Foreign trained

Carol Dabruzzi and Wilhelmina Holder gave updates on the Foreign Trained Healthcare Professional programs at the International Institute and African and American Friendship Association for Cooperation and Development respectively. This was the last of four quarterly updates presented. Unspent grant funding from Rochester is being dispersed to these two Saint Paul organizations, and they will finish spending it out in July. Both talked about the success and barriers within their programs. Many of the professionals need a high level of support services and, residency programs.

Update on Grants

The WIB/Friends of the WIB have three grants submitted to various agencies. Friends of the WIB applied to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for \$15,000 to further address ELL employees at area hospitals. A response should be coming very soon on this request.

A \$6,000 request was sent to the Bremer Foundation for funding the WIB CEO's participation in the Innovators Network; a response should come around the end of July/beginning of August.

On Monday, a grant will be submitted to the Governors Workforce Development Council to fund a regional project with manufacturers. The WIB will partner with MnSCU partners, Adult Basic Education, employers and WIBs from Washington and Anoka counties. The goal is to work with area manufacturers to get people into plants with a base level of knowledge and have them learn from there through on-the-job training. A decision should be made by the end of May.

After the June WIB meeting, work will begin on getting more funding for English Language Learners. If anyone would like to participate in an ad hoc to focus on this, please let Mary Jo know.

Open Forum

Kaposia, inc. received a Bremer Foundation grant to work with Latino/Hispanic people with disabilities. They will be working closely with CLUES, the Neighborhood House and ARC of Minnesota.

Adjourn

Motion made by Carrie Coleman with second by Jackie Mlynarczyk to adjourn at 1:01p.m.

Next Meeting- July 13th.