

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee

January 11, 2008
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Patricia Brady
Bob de la Vega
Kathy Engesser
Lee Helgen
Trixie Golberg
Tom Macy
Libby Starling

Members Absent

Kristina Hamann
Jackie Mlynarczyk EA

Staff/Guests Present

Larry Eisenstadt, DEED
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Janet Guthrie, Workforce Solutions
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff

Call to Order

Bob de la Vega, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Trixie Golberg to approve the September minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

Approve WIA Certification

Larry Eisenstadt was present from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to discuss the WIA Certification process. In order for a training program to be eligible for WIA funding (meaning WIA participants may use their training dollars for that program), it must be certified by a WIB. Larry clarified that this does not commit a counselor to put participants into these programs, but gives these programs as an option. In order to streamline the certification process, the state takes an initial look at the program results and gives a recommendation to the WIB on whether or not to certify. The final decision to certify comes from the WIB. The CAO committee reviews the information provided by the state, and gives a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The two institutions that are asking for certification are Century College and Goodwill Easter Seals. Annual certification is needed for all programs, so the certification of these programs will only last through June of this year. There was discussion on the process used by the committee to certify programs, and a suggestion that it may need to be updated. In the past, WorkForce Center counselors have reported on their experience with the programs seeking certification, though this is time consuming for the counselors to keep up with. It was suggested that a comparison chart of similar programs would be helpful, as would the number of those in the programs who were placed in jobs as a result of the training. There was a suggestion that, in the interest of time, these programs be recommended for certification and the committee can take time in the near future to reevaluate the certification process. Libby volunteered to work with someone on developing a process to certify programs in the future.

Motion made by Libby Starling with second by Kathy Engesser to recommend approval of the Century College and Goodwill/Easter Seals programs seeking certification through June 30, 2008.

Motion carried.

FIRST Grant Opportunity

DEED recently released the names of the organizations that were awarded FIRST grants. The Metro WIB's application was not approved. Five requests were funded, and five were asked for clarification and resubmission. The Metro WIB will be meeting on January 30th to move forward with the regional plan, without the assistance of grant funds. There was a suggestion that we express our frustration with this process to the state.

Fundraising Plan

Mary Jo and Bob asked members to consider participating in a fundraising ad hoc. They have been doing work researching the impetus behind creating the Friends of the WIB, and Mary Jo has been meeting with fundraising consultants. These consultants are submitting proposals on how they can help the board with fundraising, and an ad hoc will further review their qualifications and select one to use. When a consultant has been selected, the WIB will send out grants to fund this project. The consultant will assist the WIB in developing a fundraising plan under which the board can operate and successfully secure additional funds.

There was discussion on the larger goal of fundraising to the board, specifically focusing on requesting money beyond that for board administration. It is felt that the organization needs to secure operations funding before pursuing further funding for projects. There was also a discussion on contributions from businesses serving on the board. The history of the current WIB operating structure was discussed. There was a question about other WIBs across the nation raising funds for projects; Mary Jo will look into this question, but feels that most who have done this are no longer WIBs.

Update on WIB Annual Report

Assignments have been sent out for the WIB's 2007 Annual Report. Staff asked for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc to work on the report. Lorrie and Lee asked to review the report before it is finalized. Drafts will be circulated in February, come to this committee in March and go to the full board in April.

MFIP Presentation

Janet Guthrie was present from Workforce Solutions to discuss the MN Family Investment Program (MFIP). The WIB has an advisory role in the MFIP program. An idea was put forth that Janet would attend a series of CAO meetings, giving a short presentation at each one about different aspects of the MFIP program, as this is a very large and complicated program. Janet shared a list of topics that could be covered at different meetings, including presentations about funding, rules, regulations, and a typical day for an MFIP parent. Members expressed an interest in learning more about MFIP, and specifically mentioned finding out where MFIP participants are getting training, and where they are finding jobs. They also felt that pre-reading materials would help them come to the meeting with more of a background on the subject. Janet will come to the next meeting and the committee will further decide the procedure for these sessions, and if/when/how this information should be reported to the full WIB.

Discuss WIB 2008 Priorities

The current draft of the 2008 priorities was distributed. The WIB is still seeking input for this document. Mary Jo will distribute this in an email so members can respond electronically.

Open Forum

Members requested that a DEED representative come to this committee to discuss the FIRST grant process and explain how requests were selected. It was felt that this should go to the Metro WIB.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting- March, 14, 2008