

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee

May 9, 2008
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Patricia Brady
Bob de la Vega
Lee Helgen
Barbara Mednick

Members Absent

Kathy Engesser EA
Trixie Golberg
Kristina Hamann
Jackie Mlynarczyk EA
Jim Schultz EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Wayne Young, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

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

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Patricia Brady with second by Bob de la Vega to approve the January minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve Local Plan

Mary Jo gave background information on the local plan required by the state. The plan details how Ramsey County will spend the workforce dollars received. This year, the plan is split into 3 sections- A, B, and C. Section A outlines the regional strategies the WSA is involved in, beyond that of the work dictated by the WIA funding. Section B outlines the program operations and Section C is a collection of information that the state is required to gather to ensure the WSA is meeting performance standards. The plan is due on June 11th and will include an updated, signed Joint Powers Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

The group discussed the frequency with which the plan is required. It was clarified that the state requires a plan annually and the federal government requires a plan every five years. It was felt that this is a burden on staff time and it may be helpful to have a discussion at the MN Workforce Council Association about formally responding to the state on this requirement.

Motion made by Patricia Brady with second by Bob de la Vega to approve the Local Plan as presented.

Motion carried.

Introduction to Library Workforce Services

Melanie Huggins from the Saint Paul Public Library system was not able to attend the meeting and discuss workforce services at the library. The committee discussed the idea based on the information they already had, along with further information from Councilmember Helgen. The goal was to have a policy discussion on these types of resources and services.

There are currently some services offered at the library, including staffed assistance from Goodwill Easter Seals and Lifetrack Resources. There is a desire from some parties outside the WIB to have additional technology, software, staff and other resources in the libraries to serve job seekers who may feel more comfortable going to the library than the WorkForce Center, or for those who may choose to use the library system because of accessibility reasons.

Members felt that providing greater service to the community is an important goal, but there is concern that resources aren't available within the current workforce service area budget. Members also wanted more information about needs in the community such as where the gaps in service are. It was expressed that grant funding would be necessary to support expanded services in the community because the current resources would not allow for this initiative. The majority of the government workforce development funds in Ramsey County are dedicated to program-eligible clients. The larger conversation surrounding this idea would need to be similar to

that done for locating the new WorkForce Center, including doing an analysis of the county, looking for high areas of need. Councilmember Helgen informed the group that this type of analysis was completed recently to locate the Invest Saint Paul areas within the city. Another idea discussed was utilize college interns, similar to the Outreach to Schools project that Workforce Solutions is doing with college interns working the career center at a few Saint Paul high schools. The interns are able to assist anyone who comes into the career center.

Members were interested in continuing this discussion and all agreed to invite Melanie to the next meeting to learn more about what can be done in the libraries.

Update on WIB Fundraising Plan

Mary Jo gave an update on the WIB's fundraising plans. Staff has written and sent out grant requests for funds to support the hiring of a consultant to create the fund development plan. Saint Paul Foundation is moving forward with bringing the request to their board in June and the Phillips Foundation is considering funding a different type of project with the WIB.

WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Performance Outcomes

Wayne Young and Terry Zurn from Workforce Solutions presented the performance outcomes of the WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker and state Dislocated Worker programs.

The final outcomes for program year 2006 (ending June 30, 2007) were presented. The program is accountable for accomplishing positive outcomes related to entry into employment, job retention, credentials earned by participants, and participants' average earning after placement in employment. Previously there was a measure for earnings change from before entry into the program and after being placed in employment, but this measure is being phased out of the program. All goals were achieved with the exception of credential obtainment. Participants need to engage in training and earn a credential for that training while in the program; if participants leave the program because they found employment and continue their training after exiting the program, it is counted as a negative because they did not earn a credential while in the program.

Current outcomes were presented for program year 2007. All programs are well within reaching goals currently, though final performance measures won't be settled until late August. Terry and Wayne use the "current" performance measures to evaluate how the program is doing and how the program can work improve the outcomes while the data is still live. A new data system is utilized by all administrators and vendors of the workforce programs, so the data shown has been entered by hundreds of individuals, instead of one person as it was done in the past. Terry and Wayne are able to do daily data maintenance to ensure that the numbers reflected in the performance outcomes match what is happening in the program.

There was discussion on how this information should be delivered to the WIB. The full WIB would not receive as detailed information as the CAO committee, but they may want to see how the programs are doing periodically.

Tri-WIB Meeting

The Chairs of the Ramsey County, Washington County and Dakota-Scott Counties WIBs are organizing a meeting for the members of the three WIBs. The meeting will be on June 13th from 8:30-12:00 at the West Saint Paul Service Center. Board members will be able to meet one another and discuss what initiatives could be addressed as a region. Confirmed attendees include Representative Betty McCollum and Bill Blazar from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Please RSVP to Kate if you are interested in attending.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Next Meeting- July 11, 2008