

**Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board**  
Education Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2009

**Present:**

Mary Abbey  
Bill Lowe  
David MacKenzie  
Jane Nicholson

**Absent:**

Craig Anderson EA  
Deanne DeGraff EA  
Judy Mortrude  
Dean Shawbold

**Staff/Guests:**

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO  
Carli Stark, WIB Staff

---

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mary Jo Gardner in absence of chair at 9:09 am.

---

**Approve January Minutes**

**Motion** made by Jane Nicholson with second by Bill Lowe to approve the May Education Committee minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

---

**Membership**

**Approve New Member**

Mary Abbey, Executive Director of the East Metro Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), applied for membership on the Education Committee.

**Motion** made by Bill Lowe with second by Jane Nicholson to approve Mary Abbey as a member of the Education Committee.

**Motion carried.**

**Recruitment**

Current representation on the Education Committee includes area colleges, Adult Basic Education (ABE), Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps, White Bear Lake Schools, 916 NE Metro Career and Technical Center, and the OIC. Other areas for recruitment opportunities include suburban schools, private institutions, and K-12 representatives. The committee made the decision to wait until after the work plan has been created to actively recruit new members.

**ABE Requirement on the WIB**

New legislation requires that the WIB include representation from Adult Basic Education. Due to the structure of the WIB and the other requirements of membership, adding an ABE representative would mean an increase in the board's size or the loss of a higher education representative. There is a six-month extension to make this change, with Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul making the final decision.

---

**WIB County Board Update**

The WIB met with the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on August 4 to update the County on the accomplishments and activities of the WIB. Topics covered include WIB interaction with local businesses, sustainability of WIB funding, and the use of WIA dollars in relation to the WIB. There is interest in meeting with the Board more often to create an open line of communication between the WIB and the County.

---

**Current Initiatives**

**Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative**

The MMSI is currently on hold due to lay-offs and hiring freezes of the business partners involved. The students currently in the program will continue with training through Anoka County. There is interest from businesses to continue the program, but it is uncertain whether they will be able to offer on-the-job training in the future.

There will be a meeting in October to discuss the details surrounding the initiative and the grant from the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership under which it operates.

### **Healthcare Initiative**

The Healthcare Initiative is a collaborative training program to train entry-level and incumbent workers in the Billing and Coding field. The WIB has received a \$25,000 grant for the Governor's Workforce Development Council and is seeking foundation support for the remaining costs of the initiative. The next meeting is at Saint Paul College on September 21, 3:00p.m.

---

### **DOL Grant Applications**

The Department of Labor issued requests for proposals for workforce development. Applications from areas of interest are described below:

1. Energy Training Partnership Grant
  - a. Blue Green Alliance  
Blue Green Alliance, a partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations, proposes to use existing jobs to create green jobs through retraining.
  - b. Women Venture  
Women Venture, a non-profit organization, proposes to use current training opportunities through their various partners, which include Apprentice Opportunity Project and Plumbers Unions to respond to the green market.
2. Pathways Out of Poverty  
The Pathways Out of Poverty grants focus on predefined low-income areas. In Minnesota, there are neighborhoods in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and northern Minnesota that qualify for support. Minneapolis and Saint Paul will submit a joint application.

The proposal will have four green-centered focuses:

- Weatherization
- Manufacturing/Material Processing
- Construction/Deconstruction
- Building Systems/ Renewable Energy

This grant would support the lowest income populations in the metro area. There will be a special focus on bringing in homeless populations and supporting their unique needs. The total number of participants will be around 500.

The request is for \$5 million over three years for training, work experience, job placement and support.

3. Healthcare Sector- There is \$220 million available for programs in the healthcare sector with grant applications due on October 5.
  - a. There is a request out to expand the existing lab tech initiative that was previously through Saint Paul College and is now through Health Education Institute.
  - b. The City of Saint Paul, working with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, would like to expand their EMS program.
  - c. The Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council is developing an initiative to expand the capacity to train nurses that is tied in with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The Metro WIBs support this initiative.

---

### **WIB Orientation**

Mary Jo Gardner gave a brief presentation on the purpose and organizational structure of the WIB.

---

**Education Committee Work Plan**

The WIB's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan has been approved by the WIB. The next step for committees is to make a detailed work plan in alignment with the Strategic Plan. The goal in the Strategic Plan is to ensure alignment of education and resources to meet business needs.

It was decided that the Work Plan discussion should be held when all committee members are in attendance and be the sole focus of the meeting. A survey will be sent out for the next meeting to ensure attendance and materials will be sent out electronically in preparation for the discussion.

Initial discussion topics included populations served by the WIB, business interaction with the committee, and basic workforce needs in the business community.

---

**Adjourn**

**Motion** made by Mary Abbey with second by Jane Nicholson to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

**Next Meeting- TBD**