

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Education Committee Meeting

September 12, 2011

Present:

Deanne DeGraff
Scott Helland
David MacKenzie
Jane Nicholson

Absent:

Craig Anderson EA

Staff/Guests:

Becky Brink, Goodwill Easter Seals
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m.

Approve May Minutes

Motion made by Jane Nicholson with second by Deanne DeGraff to approve the May Education Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Blue Ribbon Commission Update

The final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission will go to the WIB on October 6 and to the County Board and City Council the following week. Mary Jo reviewed the report with the committee, highlighting the recommendations for next steps. The commission requests an implementation group be formed to carry out the next steps.

Ramsey County FastTRAC Initiatives

The Education Committee had a meeting focusing on FastTRAC about a year ago; this discussion is an update to that meeting. The Healthcare Initiative (HI), through the WIB and Goodwill/Easter Seals, has received its third round of FastTRAC funding. With this funding, HI partners are refining the model and focusing on support services for students. Becky Brink Ray was in attendance to update the group on the Ramsey County initiatives.

The update included the following information:

- Participants must all exhibit an Adult Basic Education need but can come from various entry points in to the program.
- Generally, students complete the 16-week Prep (Bridge) class before beginning the integrated class at Saint Paul College. The bridge class prepares students with medical terminology, test preparation and other study skills.
- The program now operates on the credit-side of Saint Paul College.
- The program operates with a “three-legged stool” of support coming from the college instructor, the ABE instructor and the Central Point of Contact (CPOC) supporting the students.
- Partners will focus on making the funding for the CPOC sustainable.

Member discussion included the following:

- Jane Nicholson discussed the support services available to students through the MnSCU schools.
- Deanne DeGraff may have students that would fit well in the program- partners can meet with Deanne in mid-October to discuss this possibility.
- David MacKenzie may also have students to feed in to the program.

Other

- Judy Mortrude has offered to attend the next meeting and speak about the FastTRAC program from the state perspective.
- Additional agenda items offered include updating the committee work plan and discussing membership.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

The next Education Committee meeting will be Monday, November 7.