

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Executive Committee- Special Meeting

March 4, 2009
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Craig Anderson
Patricia Brady
Amy Brenengen
Robert de la Vega
Butch Howard
Bob Morse
Paul Nelson
Mary Russell

Members Absent

Kirk Hayes

Staff/Guests Present

Toni Carter, Ramsey Co. Commissioner
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Karen Kushner, Ramsey Co Assistant Attorney
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff

Call to Order

Mary Russell, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:16 am.

Purpose

This special meeting was called to review the 2010-2011 Ramsey County/WIB Partnership Agreement.

Discuss Partnership Agreement

Background was given on the partnership between Ramsey County and the WIB, with the first Partnership Agreement enacted in 2001. Every two years the WIB and County update the agreement. After the passage of the 2008-2009 agreement, the WIB and County wanted to start discussing terms of the 2010-2011 agreement. The core pieces up for discussion were the WIB's oversight role and the WIB's funding. Karen Kushner and Toni Carter were present from Ramsey County to discuss the agreement.

Oversight

The group discussed the WIB's oversight role of the County's workforce programs, as currently defined in the Partnership Agreement and as defined in WIA- Section 117. The group discussed the philosophical roles of the board as well as the regulatory roles as laid out in WIA.

The group discussed definitions of terms in the document, including "strategic plan." There is concern that the agreement limits the impact the WIB can have on workforce in Ramsey County. All agreed to include a statement in the agreement stating that the terms of the Partnership Agreement are not comprehensive of the WIB's work.

The group briefly discussed the WIB's orientation session for new members. This session should include a briefing on the board's guiding documents, including the Partnership Agreement, along with more history on how the board got to its current operating structure.

Funding

The WIB receives County levy funding and 34% of WIA's administrative dollars, equating to 3.4% of the County's WIA allocation. There was discussion on how/why the WIB was set up as it currently is, including the business community's role in creating an independent workforce board for Ramsey County. The Friends of the WIB was created to further secure funding in order to increase the capacity of the independent board to operate. It has become clear that the Friends of the WIB will not be able to secure enough operating funds from outside sources to sustain the operation of the board. The majority of funds the Friends of the WIB secures will go to support local workforce initiatives, as the WIB doesn't run programs, leaving a funding gap that will come to a "crisis" point in 2010. It is necessary to the continued operation of the WIB to identify and implement a sustainable funding plan.

Next Steps

Those working on the plan will work on language around oversight and will plan a process with which to address the funding issue. A timeline for the plan's completion will be given at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

Next meeting: Friday, March 20