

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Market-Driven Workforce System Committee

May 10, 2007
Minutes

Members Present

Craig Anderson
Kirk Hayes
Lori Stone
Rob McKenzie
Butch Howard

Members Absent

Jesse Bethke Gomez
John Evans
Gerry Flannery
Lorrie Louder
Mary McKee
Bob Morse
Jane Sanem
Cynthia Yongvang

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Cheryl Beaumier, DEED Business Services
Rachel Hillman, DEED Labor Market Information
Jane Nicholson, Century for Mary McKee

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

New and existing committee members introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Rob McKenzie and seconded by Lori Stone to accept minutes from March as presented.

Motion carried

Ramsey County Labor Market Assessment Update

The WIB reviews current Labor Market Information (LMI) to select industries sectors on which to focus our efforts. In the past Healthcare, Manufacturing and Construction have been selected as focus industries. Rachel Hillman, from DEED's LMI Department, presented an update on LMI data, specifically focusing on the three industries we previously selected. There was a discussion amongst the group as whether or not to change our focus. Discussion of the industries was around:

- Whether we should have healthcare on our list if there is not much we can do to impact it, as it is seen that the halt to supply is within the education and licensing systems.
- Successes in healthcare were cited to show there is work that can be done- e.g. the ELL training program in operation at the Saint Paul hospitals, the EMHCI program, and the similar program in Mpls.
- The group also discussed the number of industries selected; three was selected because of staff capacity.
- Mary Jo updated the group on MPowered grant being applied for to the Governor's Workforce Development Council. This program, if funded, will provide low income adults with training and apprenticeships to enter the manufacturing field, and fill some of the many openings manufacturing has.
- There was discussion on dropping construction as a focus, but it was pointed out that some fields within construction are in great need, such as welding.
- Education to the opportunities available in each field is extremely important.

The group agreed to keep all three industries, but reorder them to reflect expected needs in the near future.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Rob McKenzie to keep the three previously selected industries, reordered as healthcare, construction, and manufacturing.

DEED Business Services

Cheryl Beaumier was present from DEED's Business Services division. Cheryl currently works half-time in Washington County and half-time in Ramsey County, but in June she will begin working full-time in Ramsey County. She passed out a state-wide report on the DEED Business Services for 2006. Cheryl asked the group

what type of questions they would like her to ask CEOs when she goes to meet with them. One question was how new employees were being recruited; many employers are now using temp agencies to try out new employees before they take on the responsibility for hiring them. Cheryl was asked what happens when a business requests a service the state doesn't provide (like screening job applicants)- Cheryl indicated that she does research on the problem and gives the businesses other places to turn for that help. Business Services representatives will be at our meetings in the future to further update on their projects.

Update on Sector Grant

As mentioned above, MPowered is a grant program being applied to through the GWDC. Ramsey County is the convener for this grant and has requested the maximum amount- \$75k. If these funds are received, others will be sought to supplement this income. The WIB will be working with Washington and Anoka Counties, as well as Anoka Technical and Saint Paul Colleges, and various manufacturers. A decision will have been made by the end of May.

Diversity Seminar

The second diversity seminar has been rescheduled for May 2nd to June 26th. Deb Montgomery will serve as the opening speaker, at which point the attendees will split into smaller groups for discussion. The organizers expect 80 registrants after the invite goes out at the end of May. Again, this seminar will target small and medium sized business.

Update on Dollar General Grant

The Friends of the WIB applied to Dollar General Literacy Foundation for \$15k to support the healthcare project with ELL employees. A decision should be made by tomorrow. The WIB will move forward with finding other ELL funding this summer; if anyone would like to help, please contact Mary Jo.

Other

Craig's requested that the committee meet on a different Thursday. The group decided to switch the meetings to the first Thursday of the month and cancel the meeting for July.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Rob McKenzie to adjourn at 2:15p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 6, 2007