

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Market Driven Workforce System Committee

September 18, 2008
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Craig Anderson
Joe Crowe
Bev Fritz
Kirk Hayes
Butch Howard
Rob McKenzie
Jane Sanem

Members Absent

Lori Stone

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Chris Stoehr, DEED
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Mary Jo Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:05pm in absence of the Chair.

Introductions

All members introduced themselves and Carli Stark introduced herself.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Joe Crowe with second by Butch Howard to approve the May minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Accept Chair Nominations

The Committee is in need of a new Chair as Craig Anderson is now chairing the Education Committee. Interested members may contact Mary Jo or Craig to further discuss the opportunity.

Update on FIRST Grants

The Metro WIB has applied for two FIRST grants in this second granting round from the state. These are \$50,000 planning grants. The Metro WIB's proposals focused on the manufacturing section and healthcare sector respectively, and the WIB will be involved in these efforts. There was discussion on the strategy of applying for the grants from the Metro WIB, as opposed to the Ramsey County WIB applying on their own. The regional collaboration will allow the local WIBs to leverage the information and resources of one another.

Update on Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative

Saint Paul College received an MN Job Skills Partnership grant of nearly \$400,000 to continue the Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative with Anoka Technical College; there is a total of 21 partners currently involved in this process. This model of serving businesses is a departure from the traditional way of serving one company with one college; the larger collaboration allows small and medium sized businesses to benefit from training without incurring the expense of a program customized for their needs. Anoka has started their second round of Phase I training; Saint Paul is awaiting on-the-job training spots for students before the next class starts.

Healthcare Initiative

Mary Russell informed the WIB that HealthPartners was having a meeting with their HR representatives, and invited the WIB to the table to identify the company's workforce needs. Jim Zentner, Workforce Solutions, attended this meeting and heard many issues that have been previously reported. Similar meetings are being planned with Allina and HealthEast, at which time a collaborative solution will be sought.

There was discussion on the possibility of getting an unsolicited Dept of Labor grant to address the identified issues. It would also be good to include long term nursing facilities in any action steps.

Strategic Plan Next Steps

The August 1 WIB meeting focused on identifying the plan with which to create the strategic plan. The meeting went well and defined that the WBI should modify the existing plan, should include community partners in this development, and work with the U of M PhD candidates who have offered their services at no charge. WIB leadership will meet with these individuals to further discuss their abilities and deliverables. One of these individuals is Brenda Norman, Director of the Governor's Workforce Development Council. Committee members felt comfortable with Brenda's participation in the process. There was an additional meeting targeted towards business members that served as a beginning step to ensuring the new strategic plan is demand driven. Bev suggested using the book(?)Good to Great for the Social Sector by Jim Collins for planning.

Other

The committee discussed the Ford Plant and the MSP airport hub.

Joe Crowe distributed brochures on hiring older workers.

Bev Fritz announced that the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and Employer Solutions, Inc. are holding a seminar in December with the Corrections Department that will focus on employment issues for ex-offenders. Bev is looking for employers who have hired ex-offenders for a panel presentation. Bev will make sure the WIB is aware of when and where this session takes place.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Next Meeting- November 6, 2008