

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Market Driven Workforce System Committee

May 7, 2009
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Joe Crowe
Amy Filice
Mary Russell
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Bev Fritz EA
Rob McKenzie EA
Jane Sanem EA
Lori Stone

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA

Call to Order

Mary Jo Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm in absence of the Chair.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Dan Strittmater with second by Joe Crowe to approve the January minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

Elect Committee Chair

Kirk Hayes has resigned from the WIB and this committee is in need of a new Chair. Members feel it is important to have a business member chair the committee.

Joe Crowe nominated Dan Strittmater to serve as the Chair of the Market-Driven Workforce System Committee. Dan Strittmater accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed.

Dan Strittmater is **elected** as Chair of the Market Driven Workforce System Committee.

Update on Initiatives

Mary Jo gave updates on the WIB's current initiatives.

Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative (MMSI)

The MMSI partners met recently with the MN Job Skills Partnership Board, through which the MMSI is currently funded. All partners agreed to complete the classes currently in process and then hold on determining the future of the program until October. Anoka Technical College currently has students completing phases 2 and 3. All business partners are either holding with their current employees or are having to reduce their workforce.

Healthcare Initiative

The group working on this initiative has identified Medical Coders and Billers as the likely focus of the initiative. There is a meeting on May 18th that will confirm this focus. Saint Paul College and Saint Paul Adult Basic Education have been exploring a healthcare project and the WIB will meet with these individuals, also at the May 18th meeting, to determine opportunities for collaboration. Mary Jo is determining if other metro-area partners are engaging in similar projects.

There was discussion on the population selected for this training- a target population has not been identified for the initiative. It was suggested that dislocated workers and senior workers may benefit from this training. These populations are always looking for short term training that may end in employment. Seniors generally look for part-time employment and it may be necessary in the future for employers to be more flexible in employing this population.

Finalize Strategic Plan Business Goal

There was a meeting on April 30th focused on developing tactics associated with the business goal identified at the Strategic Planning meeting on March 5th. Work at this Workforce Committee meeting will finalize the tactics associated with this goal, defined as:

- To convene Ramsey County business, education, training and community representatives to assure alignment of resources to meet future business needs and opportunities.

Tactics suggested:

1. Complete an annual environmental scan with input from business, education, training, and community representatives.
2. Identify and communicate current training and workforce development opportunities.
3. Convene stakeholders to connect workforce needs with training opportunities.
4. Sustain and support existing WIB initiatives

There was discussion on how to streamline the process for the various partners who contact businesses. These partners include state and county business service and customized training from local training institutions. Of the variety of services available from these partners, some may be more appropriate for smaller businesses and some may be more appropriate for larger businesses. The WIB may want to create a common understanding of services available to businesses in Ramsey County. It was felt that these tactics may address this goal.

WIB staff will distribute these goals to attendees for word-smithing before they are incorporated into the WIB's new Strategic Plan.

Determine July Meeting Date

The next Workforce Committee meeting is scheduled for July 2nd, which may interfere with members' holiday plans. Attendees agreed to move the meeting to July 9th from 2:30-4:00pm at the Ramsey County WorkForce Center in Saint Paul.

Other

There was a question on the status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The funding through the County is in process of facilitation through the current vendors. Youth dollars for summer employment are going through the St. Paul YWCA and Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP). There are 500 spots for summer youth employment; the YWCA is further subcontracting for some of these positions and GAP is reserving 105 spots for the YouthBuild program, teaching youth construction skills while rehabbing two houses on Saint Paul's west side.

The Dislocated Worker services are increasing as well- contact Terry Zurn for further information.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting –July 9