

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Market Driven Workforce System Committee

September 3, 2009

Minutes

WIB Members Present

Joe Crowe
Bev Fritz
Scott North
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Amy Filice
Rob McKenzie
Mary Russell EA

Staff/Guests Present

Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Carli Stark, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Dan Strittmater called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approve May Minutes

Motion made by Joe Crowe with second by Scott North to approve the May minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Update on MMSI

The partners in the Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative met with the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership

Board regarding proposed changes in the program. With the changes in the economy, the participating employers

are either experiencing hiring freezes or laying off employees. The decision was made to put additional training

on hold, but complete training for those currently in the program. The three-year grant allows for the continuation of the program if businesses are able to hire the students in upcoming months.

Update on Healthcare Initiative

The WIB has received a \$25,000 grant for the Healthcare Initiative from the Greater Workforce Development Council (GWDC). The initiative will need at least \$30,000 in addition to the GWDC grant which is being sought through private foundations. This money will support the matriculation of 15-17 students who will be recruited for the program.

The curriculum is being revised and the next steps are to work on defining outcomes and measures for the initiative. Feedback from employers has been positive and there is interest throughout the healthcare and workforce communities.

DOL Grants Update

One of the WIB's functions is to be supportive of community efforts in workforce development. Letters of support are often requested by local workforce partners. Approving requests mean the WIB will support the program's ideas and the organization's effort in applying for the grant.

The Department of Labor has sent out requests for proposals for four areas in workforce development and the WIB has received requests for support. A summary of the requests are below.

1. Energy Training Partnership Grant

a. Blue Green Alliance

This request is from the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations. It proposes to use existing jobs to create green jobs through retraining.

- b. Women Venture

Women Venture is a non-profit organization. Their request proposes to use current training opportunities through their partners, which include Apprentice Opportunity Project and Plumbers Unions to respond to the green market.
2. Pathways Out of Poverty
- The Pathways Out of Poverty grants focus on predefined low-income areas. In Minnesota, there are neighborhoods in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Northern Minnesota that qualify for support. Minneapolis and Saint Paul will submit a joint application. The proposal will have four green-centered focuses:
- Weatherization
 - Manufacturing/Material Processing
 - Construction/Deconstruction
 - Building Systems/ Renewable Energy
- This grant would support the lowest income populations in the metro area. There will be a special focus on bringing in homeless populations and supporting their unique needs. The total number of participants will be around 500. The request is for \$5 million over three years for training, work experience, job placement and support.
3. Healthcare Sector- There is \$220 million available for programs in the healthcare sector with grant applications due on October 5. The applicants and initiatives requesting support are listed below.
- a. Expand the existing Lab Tech Initiative (that was previously through Saint Paul College, and is now through Health Education Institute).
 - b. Saint Paul's EMS program

The City of Saint Paul, working with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, requests support to expand their EMS program. The focus of the grant request will be improving health education in the Saint Paul area. A request for support from the WIB is forthcoming.
 - c. Led by the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council, the metro-wide initiative to expand the capacity to train nurses is tied in with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.
 - d. Workforce Solutions, Health Partners and SEIU are requesting support for the Healthcare Minnesota Initiative to work with local WIB's and healthcare partners to develop a nursing career ladder and create training pathways for low-skilled and incumbent workers.

There is interest in combining the metro wide healthcare initiative with the Healthcare Minnesota Initiative. This would create more opportunity to obtain funding.

The Workforce Committee recommends that the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council's Initiative and the Healthcare Minnesota Initiative merge to submit one grant request and create one program that is employer driven.

The Workforce Committee recommends approval of Women Venture's grant proposal by the chair.

Patricia Brady will provide more information on the Pathways Out of Poverty grant, after which the Committee will vote electronically about supporting the grant. Discussion was held on WIB policies around grant support. It was decided that new policies should be made focusing on:

- Request Procedures
- Disbursing information to partners
- Deadlines
- Committee responsibilities

- Criteria for WIB support

Information regarding new policies will be created and distributed to the committee electronically.

Committee Work Plan

The Strategic Plan has been approved and the next step is for the WIB committees to make detailed work plans. The work plan will be discussed in depth at the next Workforce Committee meeting.

Other

A Business Services representative spoke briefly about the services they provide for businesses. For questions, please contact Bert Harris at Herbert.harris@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Adjourn

Motion made by Bev Fritz with second by Joe Crowe to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting- November 5, 2009