

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight/Workforce Committee

April 9, 2010
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Elizabeth Campbell
Jacquelyn Carpenter
Joe Crowe
Amy Filice
Janet Ludden
Paul Nelson
Scott North
Jim Schultz
Joe Stratig
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Patricia Brady EA
Trixie Golberg
Lee Helgen
Rob McKenzie
Barb Mednick EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Luke Weisberg, GMWC Staff
Jim Zentner, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Dan Strittmater called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approve March CAO/Workforce Minutes

Motion made by Joe Crowe with second by Janet Ludden to approve the March minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Working Learners Collaborative Initiative

Luke Weisberg, Staff to the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council (GMWC), presented on the Working Learners Collaborative Initiative. The GMWC received a collaborative grant (similar to the WIB's healthcare collaborative grant) to focus on the resources available to working learners in the metro area. Individuals accessing the WorkForce Centers, Adult Basic Education, community colleges and community-based organizations can be considered working learners. The initiative will focus on the following:

- Streamlining assessments between the various entities that conduct assessments (e.g. workforce, higher education, Adult Basic Education) to have one tool used across partners- either the Career Readiness Certificate or the National Work Readiness Credential. This will need to include an education piece to employers on what these assessments mean.
- Organizing resources available to all partners' career counselors, sharing information about these resources and strengthening professional development for career counselors.
- Creating a metro-level skills panel of employers to utilize as advisors for various partner projects; this will cut down on contacting the same employers to take part in multiple projects.

Members discussed the skills panel concept- it was suggested that the panel be made up of companies rather than individuals so a company may, for example, have their IT expert serve on an IT project, as opposed to one person from the company acting as an expert in all aspects of business.

Luke will be discussing this plan with other metro-area WIBs and will have a final plan this summer.

Updates

Local Plan

Every year DEED requires all WIBs to put together a Local Plan, which details where resources will be spent in the local area. This committee will review the Local Plan at the May meeting.

Annual Report

The WIB's Annual Report is due on June 15; the plan is close complete and will be sent to the Marketing ad hoc this afternoon. The final report will be on the May agenda for approval.

Workforce Connections

The next issue of the WIB's newsletter, Workforce Connections, will be out by the end of May.

Issues Awareness Program

The Issues Awareness Program will be on the June WIB agenda. Mary Jo followed-up with the U of MN's CURA program to see if they would be interested in assisting with research related to the issues awareness program; Mary Jo will connect with them again after the WIB has discussed the concept.

Healthcare Initiative

The next Healthcare Initiative meeting will be Tuesday April 13, 8-9:30am at Saint Paul College Customized Training building. All are welcome to attend these meetings. The April meeting will focus on developing the internship programs for the students and planning for the certification test in August.

Pathways Out of Poverty Grant/WIB Role

Mary Jo has been working with Ramsey County on finishing the WIB's proposal for involvement in the POP grant. Mary Jo asked committee members what role they would like to have in the grant. Members will serve in an oversight capacity, overseeing the WIB's work on employer outreach. The POP grant partners will do outreach to businesses and the WIB will define what areas were not reached and DEED's Business Service Specialists will reach out to these companies. There is another piece of the outreach that is not well defined yet- connecting with the employer outreach done through the Blue Green Alliance, which will focus on green manufacturing. It was suggested that this committee review monthly reports on the POP grant, including what barriers exist and what progress had been made on outcomes. WIB staff will send out a report in advance of the meeting highlighting the key issues for discussion at the meeting. Members should let Mary Jo know of any other information they would like included in the reports to this committee. Any help that members can provide to staff on connecting with employer groups would be appreciated.

Committee Name

Members discussed the key role of the committee and possible names that reflect this role.

Motion made by Elizabeth Campbell with second by Janet Ludden to name the committee the Market Trends and Oversight Committee.

Motion carried.

Other

The June's full WIB meeting agenda will include the Issues Awareness Concept and the ARRA presentation this committee received in March.

There are monthly updates on how many visits are made to the Ramsey County WorkForce Centers- these numbers will be distributed to this committee and there will be a discussion at the meeting on what the numbers mean.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting ended at 11:21am.

Next Meeting- May 14