

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

February 12, 2010
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Elizabeth Campbell
Jacquelyn Carpenter
Paul Nelson
Jim Schultz
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Patricia Brady EA
Joe Crowe EA
Kathy Engesser EA
Amy Filice EA
Trixie Golberg EA
Lee Helgen
Janet Ludden EA
Rob McKenzie
Barb Mednick EA
Scott North EA
Joe Stratig

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
James Zentner, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Dan Strittmater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approve January CAO/Workforce Minutes

Motion made by Jim Schultz with second by Jacquelyn Carpenter to approve the January minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Nominate Merged Committee Vice Chair

Dan Strittmater discussed the Vice Chair position with Barb Mednick at the last WIB meeting and Barb agreed to be nominated for this position. No other nominations were offered; nominations were closed.

Motion made by Dan Strittmater with second by Jim Schultz to elect Barb Mednick as the Vice Chair of the Merged Committee.

Motion carried.

Healthcare Initiative Update

Mary Jo updated the committee on the WIB's healthcare initiative. The students are currently in the second third of their training and they are doing well in the program. The legislative report is due on February 17th and it has already been sent in. This report shares successes and challenges with the legislature, and lets them know how the grant resources are being utilized. Mary Jo thanked Jim Zentner for his work in transferring the funds from the County to pay Saint Paul College and Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education.

The healthcare initiative group is currently working on developing the internship piece of the program for the students. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 24th at 8:30am at Saint Paul College Customized Training Center. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. As a healthcare employer, Dan Strittmater expressed the importance of having the skills and knowledge to apply the proper coding for health care and procedures as it allows the organizations to be paid back properly.

Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council (Metro WIB) Working Learner's Event

The Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council (GMWC a.k.a. Metro WIB) received a collaboration grant from the Governor's Workforce Development Council (the WIB received theirs for the healthcare initiative). These grants were intended for collaboration planning, though the WIB is using theirs for implementation of the healthcare initiative. As part of their planning process, the GMWC gathered metro-area workforce and education professionals on January 28 to discuss local and state-wide workforce issues and to explore how collaborations have worked within workforce service areas. Luke Weisberg, staff to the GMWC, sent out a draft collaboration plan to the staff of metro area WIBs for their feedback. Luke would like to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the plan with our WIB; members agreed this could be a good use of the committee's March meeting time. Members requested Luke send out pre-reading with some targeted questions before the meeting.

Merged Committee Work Plan

Mary Jo went through the CAO/Workforce Committee Work Plan draft, created by merging the CAO work plan with the Workforce work plan as requested by committee members. The plan draft includes responsibility for workforce development planning (environmental scan), convening and facilitating workforce collaborations, statutory obligations from WIA, marketing and advocacy activities and membership.

There was discussion on the WIB's role in oversight, both what the law states the WIB is responsible for and what is in practice in Ramsey County. Mary Jo stated that the Federal law's language is broad regarding this role and that she will send this language out to members (found in Section 117 of WIA). The committee would like to focus on this issue over the next year.

Motion made by Jim Schultz with second by Paul Nelson to approve the Merged Committee Work Plan as presented.

Motion carried.

Other

Members discussed the environmental scan. In the past, DEED Labor Market Analyst Rachel Vilsack has gathered information for the committee to review in their scan. Members suggested the following as additional sources for information to review through the environmental scan:

- Jacquelyn Carpenter has offered to gather employer data from Manpower
- Connect with the Chamber regarding their business retention visits
- Ask education/training institutions what careers they are preparing students for
- Identify the industries/occupations that are receiving state/federal grants- e.g. green jobs
- Ensure the committee is looking at early trends, not just responding to old data

Mary Jo will work on this for the March committee meeting. This information will be important to include in the Local Plan and it will direct board recruitment.

Mary Jo informed the committee that the WIB's legislative agenda should be ready for review at the March committee meeting.

There was discussion on WIA reauthorization and what changes could occur this year. The law has been discussed for reauthorization since 2004 but it is unknown if Congress will spend time on reauthorization this year. Members will be kept up to date on any activity around reauthorization. The WIB's legislative agenda also addresses WIA reauthorization.

Adjourn

Motion made by Paul Nelson with second by Jim Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 11:07am.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting- March 12th