

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Market Trends and Oversight Committee

January 14, 2011

Minutes

WIB Members Present

Elizabeth Campbell
Joe Crowe
Trixie Golberg
Dennis Johnson
Janet Ludden
Paul Nelson
Joe Stratig
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Patricia Brady
Toni Carter
Amy Filice
Lee Helgen
Barb Mednick EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Jim Zentner, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Dan Strittmater called the meeting to order.

Approve December Market Trends and Oversight Committee Minutes

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

Motion carried.

Approve Dislocated Worker and Adult Service Provider Request for Proposals (RFP)

The draft of the Dislocated Worker and Adult Services Provider RFP was distributed for members to review, noting it still required review by the county attorney. Workforce Solutions is required by law to distribute an RFP every five years. The current RFP provides a three-year contract with the possibility of two one-year extensions.

The budget in the draft will be finalized in the spring when the legislature and Department of Labor finalize their budgets.

A goal for the RFP is to hire fewer vendors and focus on managing current caseloads as opposed to taking on new clients. The focus will also be on finding a way to provide more group services like the current services in conjunction with the libraries.

WIB members are asked to serve as reviewers and raters of proposals. The RFP will be issued around March 2 and proposals will be due April 6. After they are reviewed and rated, recommendations will be sent through the WIB committees and full board before final approval from the County Board. The goal is to have contracts in place by July 1.

Motion made by Dan Strittmater with second by Janet Ludden to approve the Dislocated Worker and Adult Service Provider Request for Proposals as presented.

Motion carried.

Updates

The Healthcare Initiative Collaborative Grant report is due to Governors Workforce Development Council on February 15. The grant runs through May 2011 with funding spent by March 31. Currently, the report is being written and the next phase of LearnerWeb is being developed.

The current healthcare class started on January 11. There are 24 students in the class that include 11 students from the grant and 13 students enrolled through the college process. The students enrolled through the college process have expressed interest in receiving the extra help provided to the grant students. The instructors are offering help to the students and exploring additional possibilities.

The Career Pathways Initiative will be meeting in March and April.

The outreach efforts for RENEW have continued with more than 139 companies contacted and about 35 jobs identified as of December 31, reflecting a 25% success rate.

Issues Awareness Program

A draft of the Issues Brief was distributed for review. Comments about the brief included:

- Separate the brief by sector in order to provide more detail.
- The future recommendations section needs to have an action item.
- Be clear about who the Issues Brief is targeting.
- What are the next steps after the brief is reviewed?

Information from Georgetown University, the Star Tribune, and the Governor's Workforce Development Council report "All Hands on Deck" was distributed. Discussion followed regarding finding a new topic for a sector analysis brief. The topic of the disparity gap was discussed with the decision to wait until the other brief is finalized to start a new one. In the meantime, information will be sent out to members about disparity gaps in the Twin Cities.

Other

It was noted that if members are interested in applying for the Dislocated Worker or Adult Request for Proposals, they should abstain from participating in the review of the document.

Volunteers are welcome to help draft the WIB's 2011 Legislative Agenda. Mary Jo will send out an e-mail regarding the next legislative agenda meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting- February 11, 2011