

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board  
**Market Trends and Oversight Committee**

September 9, 2011  
**Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Toni Carter  
Joe Crowe  
Amy Filice  
Trixie Golberg  
Paul Nelson

**Members Absent**

Patricia Brady  
Lee Helgen  
Barb Jeanetta EA  
Dennis Johnson  
Janet Ludden EA  
Joe Stratig EA  
Dan Strittmater EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO  
Doug Hubbard, WIB Member  
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff  
Jim Zentner, Workforce Solutions  
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order**

Paul Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

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**Approve August Market Trends and Oversight Committee Minutes**

**Motion** made by Joe Crowe with second by Trixie Golberg to approve the August minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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**Update: Healthcare Initiative**

Mary Jo updated the committee on the healthcare initiative. The first FastTRAC 2 cohort completed their summer course and began their fall course. An additional FastTRAC 2 cohort started the first class of the program this fall. FastTRAC 3 has started and partners are recruiting students to start the Bridge 2 class at Hubbs Center by October 15 in support of starting the first class at Saint Paul College in January. Committee members can contact Mary Jo know if they have individuals for this program.

The partners have been developing a strategic plan for the project with plans to complete it through email over the next month. This process has allowed partners to discuss the initiative in depth and get on the same page with regards to moving forward. The next piece of this planning is around marketing the program to the public, including employers, workforce agencies, potential students, etc.

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**Blue Ribbon Commission Report**

Prior to this meeting, Mary Jo distributed the third draft of the Blue Ribbon Commission's report. This report is a call to action about how the region will address the racial employment disparities in Ramsey County and beyond. Mary Jo reviewed the report with members, focusing on the Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations section, which contains the commission's response to the disparities. This report calls for an implementation group to carry out the identified recommendations.

Member discussion included:

- Concern that the recommendations move to implementation.
- Conversations about how small business can affect change- can there be a website/document with resources for small businesses to develop equitable hiring practices?
- The importance of connecting with work that is already being done in this area and available resources.
- Particular interest in the youth employment recommendations.
  - o The Step Up Program
- The need for a stronger call to action for the business community- position strategies two and three to emphasize this call to action.
- Creating "workforce equity partners" of employers who commit to examining and improving their hiring practices.
- Adding a strategy area dedicated to employer and industry engagement.

Mary Jo will bring this discussion back to the Blue Ribbon Commission staff meeting this afternoon. It was noted that the report reflects the recommendations of the commission. The WIB is being asked to accept the report as developed. It will go to the Executive Committee on September 16, the WIB on October 6 and the City and County the following week. The comments from this discussion can be passed on to the implementation committee. Members are welcome to send their thoughts on the report to WIB staff. The WIB can forward their thoughts/recommendations as an attachment to the report.

**Motion** made by Toni Carter with second by Trixie Golberg to forward the Blue Ribbon Commission report to the WIB for discussion.

**Motion carried.**

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#### **Next Steps for the Committee**

The DEED Office of Innovation is starting an asset scan of the WIBs and WSAs, where each area will do a self-assessment. Mary Jo will get more information to the committee on this when available.

WIB leadership is in the process of working through the Partnership Agreement with the County. The agreement will come to this committee in October. The agreements, which focus on the WIB's role in relation to Workforce Solutions and the County, are renewed every two years; the current agreement ends on December 31, 2011. The main issue being discussed is the WIB's financial sustainability. The organization's current funding will support the work through 2012. In the past, grants and cash reserves have helped the sustainability, though these reserves are spent. At the beginning of the independent WIB it was thought that businesses would support the operations of the board, this has not occurred. This WIB has had good outcomes as a result of how it is set up; leadership questions if these outcomes could be achieved under a different operating structure.

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#### **Other**

Members were reminded of the Ramsey County Regional Round Table hosted by the Minneapolis Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership being held on September 15 at Ecolab.

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#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

**Next Meeting-** October 14, 2011