

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 6, 2005, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present

Patricia Brady
Kathy Engesser
John Evans
Kirk Hayes
Nancy Hendrickson
Bernie Hesse
Allen Hester
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Tom Klas
Lorrie Louder
William Lowe
David MacKenzie
Tom Macy
Jim McDonough
Jackie Mlynarczyk
John Mohr
Paul Nelson
Willie Nesbit
Dean Shawbold
Bob de la Vega
Ellen Watters

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Mike Chanaka EA
Gary Christensen EA
Traci Gauer EA
Phil Hanson
Louis Henry
Hyon Kim
Vinod Kumar EA
Greg Lambert EA
Scott Lemire
Jerry McElroy EA
Mary McKee
Brian Miller EA
Debbie Montgomery
Barb Reindl Pjevach EA
Joe Richburg
Phil Saari
Ginny Sullivan EA
Tom Simonson
Jan Webster EA
William Yang

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
Janet Guthrie, Workforce Solutions
Annette Johnson, Workforce Solutions
Kelly Higgins, Workforce Solutions
Amy Brenengen, WomenVenture
Susan Speetzen, DEED
Mekiel Moore, Youth Participant
Dejuan Applequist, Youth Participant
Rashad Burch, Youth Participant
Samuel Hutchison, Youth Participant
Angela Johnson, MFIP Participant
James Dreher, Dislocated Worker Participant

Meeting called to order at 2:45 by Kathy Engesser, Chair

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Willie Nesbit to approve the August 4 minutes as written and today's agenda as presented.

Motion carried

Recognition and Announcements

Members were recognized for recent achievements and announcements were made (see Attachment 1). Kathy Engesser announced that the Friends of the WIB received 501(c)(3) status.

Approve Consent Agenda

Ratify LEP Grant

The GWDC submitted a statewide grant request to the DOL to assist limited English populations move through the healthcare career ladder. Workforce Solutions and the WIB were partners on this project. Because the Executive Committee was not able to approve this in a timely manner, WIB leadership decided to go ahead with supporting this grant. It is aligned with our goals as it covers both ELL populations and the healthcare sector. **Motion: Ratify LEP Grant**

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Bill Lowe to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve WIB and Youth Council Officers

There are three positions we are actively seeking members for- WIB Chair-Elect, WIB Treasurer, and Youth Council Vice-Chair.

Motion made by Kathy Engesser with second by Ellen Watters to nominate Bob de la Vega for the position of WIB Chair-Elect. Kathy called for nominations three times for this position.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Willie Nesbit to close the nominations for Chair-Elect

Motion carried

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Paul Nelson to nominate Vinod Kumar for the position of WIB Treasurer. Kathy called for nominations for this position three times.

Motion made by Al Hester with second by Bob de la Vega to close the nominations for WIB Treasurer

Motion carried

The Youth Council has elected Kirk Hayes as Vice-Chair for their committee. They are now asking for a ratification of this election.

Motion made by Al Hester with second by Willie Nesbit to ratify the election of Kirk Hayes as Youth Council Vice-Chair.

Motion carried

Approve WIB/County Partnership Agreement

The WIB/County Partnership Agreement was developed and agreed upon by the WIB, County Board and County staff. The Exec Committee has reviewed and approved the agreement for 2006-2008. The only changes are changing the dates of the agreement, the dollar amount given to the WIB and the names of the officers. Comm. McDonough feels the County Board will approve this agreement, and expressed that it reveals a lot about our relationship that the only changes made were names and dates.

Motion made by Willie Nesbit with second by Ellen Watters to approve the WIB/County Partnership Agreement, barring any corrections or additions.

Motion carried

Discuss WIB Office Location

Mary Jo Gardner proposed moving WIB staff to the N. St. Paul WorkForce Center for 2006. This would allow for staff to have a better understanding of the programs offered, and of WIA as a whole, and it would also be easier on the WIB budget. The Chamber of Commerce was thanked for the generosity and support that allowed staff to remain there for three years. The cost of housing staff at the WorkForce Center will be about one-third of what rent would be at the Chamber in 2006. Business members were asked whether or not they feel the move would have an impact on the way the community views the WIB- Ellen Watters indicated that the WIB has developed to the point where the community trusts that their interest lies with both customers no matter where they are housed. Ellen also indicated that this move is fine with the Chamber and the WIB plans to remain active partners.

Motion made by Patricia Brady with second by Bill Lowe to approve moving WIB staff to the N. St. Paul WorkForce Center for 2006.

Motion carried.

Workforce Solutions Presentation

Patricia Brady, Director of the County's workforce development department, Workforce Solutions, presented her organization. They are in charge of the County's MFIP, WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs. The WIB has an oversight role for the WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs and an advisory role with the MFIP program. Patricia gave background information on the organization and introduced the managers in charge of each program- Janet Guthrie is the manager of the MFIP program and Terry Zurn is the manager of the WIA and Dislocated Worker programs, and is also serving as the interim manager of the Youth Programs.

Each program had participants present to discuss the programs and how they improved their lives. Mekiell Moore, Rashad Burch, Dejuan Applequist and Samuel Hutchison presented their stories and how the Youth Programs have

helped them. They were all grateful to the counselors, including Annette Johnson, Kelly Higgins and Tonya Yarbrough, as well as the counselors at our vendor, HIRED, and the opportunities they were given to turn their lives around. James Dreher discussed how he entered the Dislocated Worker program and how the resources available to him, as well as the frank manner in which they were presented, allowed him to improve his skills and obtain work. Angela Johnson, an MFIP participant, discussed how just hitting a rough patch can land a person in MFIP. She showed so much promise in the program that Workforce Solutions hired her as a temporary worker.

Terry Zurn showed a video on the East Metro Health Careers Institute, which highlighted work very similar to that done by the business services pilot. Having participants present and share their stories gave members the opportunity to see what their work does.

Business Services Pilot Presentation

Susan Speetzen, Business Services Industry Specialist, presented her 12-month report on the Ramsey County Business Services Pilot in the healthcare industry. The pilot found that services to the aging and clinics serving low-income clients were most in need of the services offered. The pilot consisted of the pilot staff visiting healthcare companies and finding their needs and creating solutions for those needs, or making steps towards a solution. It became clear that a comprehensive plan is needed to overcome the biggest roadblock to healthcare employers- a shortage of workers. A collaborative plan between healthcare companies, the state and federal government and the education system would greatly improve the flow of workers going into the healthcare industry. The full report may be viewed upon request.

Update on Metro WIB Marketing Effort

Motion made by Willie Nesbit with second by Sheldon Jensen to table this discussion to the next meeting, in order to save time.

Motion carried

Share Events, Network and Other Discussion

Nancy Hendrickson said that employers in the northern suburbs are interested in having a brown bag discussion on internet recruitment to share ideas and best practices. She asked if any of the private sector members would be interested in something like this- responses were favorable.

Doug Hubbard indicated that since we obtained 501(c)(3) status we will be able to leverage non-government dollars to create programs to serve a wider youth population- an initiative that the Youth Council is very interested in.

Adjourn Meeting

Upon completion of the agenda, Kathy Engesser adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2:30-4:30, St. Paul College, room 137A/B

Attachment 1. Recognition and Announcements

Ramsey County WIB Meeting October 6, 2005

Recognition:

- Welcome to new WIB Labor representative Bernie Hesse!
- Congratulations to Workforce Solutions and the Youth Council, particularly Doug Hubbard, for the Department of Labor's excellent review of the Ramsey County Youth Program.
- Congratulations to Workforce Solutions and the metro-area hospitals for receiving a WIA incentive grant to serve ELL healthcare workers

- Harriet Horwath, manager of the youth programs with Workforce Solutions, retired at the end of September. Harriet was recognized at the September Youth Council meeting for all of her work for and dedication to the youth of Ramsey County. The Youth Council also voted for Harriet to be the first recipient of the Vern Vick Memorial Award.
- Thank you to the Mike Chanaka and Steve Mayeron for all of their help during the Friends of the WIB 501(c)(3) application process.

Announcements:

- Terry Zurn is serving as Interim Youth Programs Manager for Workforce Solutions.
- The Vern Vick Memorial Award process and guidelines are still being planned- if anyone has any information on Vern and his dedication to the youth of Ramsey County, please let Kate know.