

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2006, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present

Craig Anderson
Jeanne Blake
Amy Brenengen
Mike Chanaka
Kathy Engesser
John Evans
Kirk Hayes
Nancy Hendrickson
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Vinod Kumar
William Lowe
Lorrie Louder
Tom Macy
Jim McDonough
Mary McKee
Jackie Mlynarczyk
John Mohr
Paul Nelson
Barb Reindl Pjevach
Dean Shawbold
Ellen Watters

Members Absent

Patricia Brady
Gary Christensen EA
Traci Gauer
Phil Hanson
Louis Henry
Bernie Hesse
Allen Hester EA
Hyon Kim
Tom Klas
Greg Lambert EA
David MacKenzie EA
Jerry McElroy EA
Brian Miller EA
Debbie Montgomery
Willie Nesbit
Tom Simonson
Ginny Sullivan
Bob de la Vega EA
Anja White EA
William Yang

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
Terrell Towers, DEED Business Services
Jody Pepinski, DEED Business Services
Jesse Bethke Gomez, CLUES

Meeting called to order at 2:57 by Kathy Engesser, Chair

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Motion made by Ellen Watters with second by Sheldon Jensen to approve the February 2 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).

Nancy Hendrickson introduced two guests from DEED Business Services- Terrell Towers, Manager, and Jody Pepinski, Business Services Specialist.

Approve Consent Agenda

Approve Youth Annual Plan

The board reviewed a summary of the Local Youth Plan, as required yearly by the state and federal governments. A group of WIB and Youth Council members worked on drafting the plan with the assistance of Workforce Solutions staff. It is a response to questions on what our WSA is doing with our Youth funding. It has been approved by the Executive Committee and the Ramsey County Board. **Motion: Approve the Youth Annual Plan**

Approve WIB Annual Report

An adjustment was made to reflect the fact that the local plan created last year was a two-year plan, not a five year plan, as stated in the report. **Motion: Approve WIB 2005 Annual Report**

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Craig Anderson to approve the consent agenda with the modification to the Annual Report.

Motion carried.

Update from Youth Council Activities

Update on Project C3

Project C3 is a pilot done by the PACER Center in Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Central Minnesota. It is a searchable website, C3online.org, that allows youth and youth serving organizations to find services specific to various special needs of youth. PACER would like greater community involvement in this project, and would like more organizations to submit their information. The Youth Council will discuss ways they can help to grow this project.

Update on Building Lives

Building Lives was a government funded demonstration project that worked with youth in corrections. It provided support to those who were incarcerated, or at risk of being incarcerated, and helped them transition to self-sufficiency and work. The program had a 90% success rate of reducing recidivism in youth offenders, and was complimented by many stakeholders. It has not had funding since December 31, 2005, though the Youth Council feels it is a very important program. An ad hoc was created to raise funds to reinstate the program. At their meeting last week all agreed that foundations most likely would not support this, and that legislative funding was the best avenue for this search.

Update on CAO Committee Activities

Update on WIB Orientation

An ad hoc of the CAO committee is looking at and updating information used at WIB orientation sessions. At the end of April the new orientation session will be held for the three new WIB members and will be modified from there. Members working on this project are Nancy Hendrickson, Jackie Mlynarczyk and Ellen Watters.

Update on DEED Marketing Effort

Ramsey County was given about \$18K to market the WorkForce Centers to small business. Half of that money was given to the Metro WIB to market MnBiz- a website that provides workforce solutions to small businesses. The other half will be used to put advertisements in Chamber newsletters and the Business Journal marketing the business services at the WorkForce Center. The plan for spending these funds will be submitted to DEED by April 15th, and the money needs to be spent by December 31.

Update on WIA Local Plan

We are required to submit a local plan to the state again this year. The plan is being worked on by the Core Partners right now, and will focus on how we deliver services and use resources in Ramsey County. The CAO committee will review it in May and it will be brought to the full board in June. The partners working on this plan are Workforce Solutions, Rehab Services, Dislocated Worker program, Veterans Services, Job Seeker services and Business Services. Everyone's help is very appreciated.

Update on WorkForce Center Location

Three proposals were received and evaluated by the evaluation team for a location for a new WorkForce Center. At a recent meeting, the evaluation committee decided that none of the options were viable. Real Estate Management is now collecting property information on available spaces in Saint Paul. The evaluation team will meet again next week, and members will be kept up to date on occurrences.

Update on the WIA legislation

The MWCA requested that the WIB write to our senators encouraging them to put \$178 million back into our budget. It has passed the senate committee, and both of our senators voted to approve.

Workforce Committee

Update on Mobile Workforce Center

The Workforce Committee discussed the viability of this option, and came to the conclusion that it was not a good use of our resources. Some of the issues with having a mobile unit were the maintenance costs, the extreme weather in Minnesota and the committee felt that the population density of the east metro does not necessitate a mobile unit. The Ramsey County Board is still very interested in this topic, and Commissioner McDonough recalled that it wasn't going to be reviewed at all until the WorkForce Center location process was complete. It was clarified that the WIB has not taken an official stance on this issue, and that it had been discussed and voted on only at the committee level. In order to have a stance from the WIB, the whole board would need to discuss the pros and cons. Ellen Watters made a motion, and later withdrew it, that the WIB will revisit this topic when the WorkForce Center location has been decided. A report on the Workforce Committee's findings will be brought to the Executive Committee, the full WIB and eventually, the County Board in order for all bodies to make an informed decision.

Update on ELL Grants

Over the last year the committee has solicited companies to participate in ELL training for their incumbent employees. The WIB was given \$140K to grant to businesses with ELL employees, and at this time, all of these funds are committed.

Other

Terry Zurn handed out brochures for "Make Time for Youth" which is a program encouraging businesses to hire youth for summer jobs, and pay them unsubsidized wages. Members were asked to take brochures and utilize them at their organization, or to give some to colleagues at other organizations.

Mary McKee informed the board on a grant that 10 metro 2-year colleges are applying for from the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP). This grant would target small business to partner with the schools and provide e-training for their employees. Some of the elements the MJSP are looking for is involvement with ELL employees, partnership with a MnSCU Center of Excellence and program innovation. Mary asked if the WIB would support this project, and asked members to assist in identifying small businesses that would benefit from this service.

Motion made by Ellen Watters with second by Kirk Hayes that the WIB support the consortium's application for the MJSP grant.

Motion carried.

Kathy Engesser encouraged members to attend the Community Blueprint to End Poverty session on May 3rd. Members who attended the last session felt it was a very valuable.

Lorrie Louder discovered an interesting training opportunity from Hennepin County, Hennepin Technical College, NAM, Precision Metal and HIRED. She suggested we look at doing this in our area, and suggested that ESI could help.

Adjourn Meeting

Upon completion of the agenda, Kathy Engesser adjourned the meeting at 4:15p.m.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2:30-4:30, St. Paul College, room 137A/B

Attachment 1. Recognition and Announcements

Recognition:

- Welcome new WIB members- Jeanne Blake, Colder Products; Anja White, Heraeus-Vadnais; and Amy Brenengen, WomenVenture!

- Thank you to those members who are involved in the RFP process for the Dislocated Worker and WIA Adult programs: Craig Anderson, Tom Klas, and Barb Reindl.
- A continued thank you to those WIB members who have been involved in the RFP process to find a new WorkForce Center, including Paul Nelson, Phil Saari, Patricia Brady, Tom Macy, Lorrie Louder, Ellen Watters, Kirk Hayes, Commissioner McDonough and Councilmember Montgomery. Additional thanks to the Core Partners for their assistance in this effort.
- Congratulations to retiring WIB members Phil Saari and John Mohr. Phil has ended his service to the board at the end of March, and John has volunteered to continue with us through the summer.

Announcements:

- The term for the current WIB officers is up July 31st of this year, and we are looking for volunteers for the next term. Positions needed are Chair-Elect and Treasurer of the WIB, as well as Chair and Vice-Chair for all committees (CAO, Workforce and Youth Council). If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo.
- The Workforce Committee is in need of a Vice-Chair- please contact Kate if you are interested.
- Mary Jo is in need of a new monitor for her computer. Please let staff know if you or your organization has an extra monitor that can be donated.
- Kate will be on a leave of absence, and out of the office, from May 2nd to June 2nd.