

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2006 2:30-4:30
Minutes

Members Present

Amy Brenengen
Kathy Engesser
John Evans
Trixie Golberg
Kirk Hayes
Nancy Hendrickson
Courtney Henry
Tom Klas
Lorrie Louder
William Lowe
Jim McDonough
Mary McKee
Brian Miller
Jackie Mlynarczyk
Robert Morse
Debbie Montgomery
Paul Nelson
Willie Nesbit
Barb Reindl
Dean Shawbold

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Jesse Bethke Gomez
Jeanne Blake
Patricia Brady EA
Mike Chanaka EA
Robert de la Vega EA
Gerry Flannery
Traci Gauer EA
Kristina Hamann EA
Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard
Vinod Kumar EA
Tom Macy EA
Jerry McElroy EA
David MacKenzie EA
Tom Simonson
Ellen Watters

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Rick Caliguiri, DEED
Jeff Nelson, DEED
Dave Niermann, DEED
Susan Speetzen, DEED
Terrell Towers, DEED
Luke Weisberg, Metro WIB
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Paul Nelson at 2:45p.m.

Approve Minutes and Agenda

Motion was made by Kirk Hayes and seconded by Dean Shawbold to approve the minutes and agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Jeff Nelson introduced himself to the board. He is an Industry Specialist with DEED working with the finance industry.

Share Recognition and Announcements

Members were recognized for their recent achievements. New members introduced themselves. See attachment 1.

Update on the Joint Powers Agreement

The City and County signed a Joint Powers Agreement in 2000 that consolidated all workforce programs. The WIB was created from this agreement, which gives the City and County equal control over the consolidated programs, as half of the board is appointed by the City and half by the County. As of September 1, 2006, the County issued a letter to the City to dissolve the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Consolidated Ramsey County-City of Saint Paul Workforce Investment Program or work through the issues in discussion. As a result of this action, the WIB's future status as an organization will be determined.

The Executive Committee met with both the City and County and offered the support of the full board to both sides, and volunteered to help in any way possible. Commissioner McDonough expressed that the County wants to reestablish a good relationship with the City and ideally move forward in partnership. Councilmember Montgomery expressed that the city wants to ensure all activities are working towards to larger mission, and that

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while the City was very surprised in receiving the letter, they want to try and work things out with the County. Members will receive a copy of the letter sent from the County to the City in an email.

CAO Committee Update

Nancy Hendrickson gave an update from the Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee. The new WorkForce Center is coming along on schedule, with a move-in day of February 1st. The partners recently found out that Saint Paul College will not be using the 2,500 sq. ft. of space adjacent to the Center that they were going to use originally. The partners are currently looking for a new partner to fill this space, though the WorkForce Center's lease is not dependent on this space being occupied.

The committee is still looking for a business member to act as a champion for the MFIP program. They are also looking for new members for this committee- the next meeting is November 3 from 11:30-1:00 at the Midway WorkForce Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Susan Speetzen, healthcare industry specialist with DEED, was present and informed the group on the foreign trained healthcare professional grant/program. The State received funding to help organizations that assist foreign medical professionals to obtain licensure in the US. The \$450,000 received by the state was granted out to three organizations, receiving \$150,000 each. Two of these organizations, the International Institute and the African American Friendship Association for Cooperation & Development, are located in Ramsey County. The organizations will report quarterly to the committee, based on a list of things they need to track, such as number of referrals and inquiries, connection made with clients, and the outcomes specific to the client. Each organization has set their own goals of how many clients to work with, but they range from 50-70 participants.

Workforce Committee Update

The Workforce Committee hosted a MnSCU/Business services collaboration meeting on September 26th at Century College. The purpose of this meeting was to establish communication and foster collaboration between the various people in Ramsey County that work with businesses. It was well-attended by these individuals and all seemed to find it a valuable first step in opening communication and collaboration. A smaller group of individuals will meet on October 23rd to determine the focus of future collaboration meetings. December 5 has been selected for the date of the next collaboration- a location and time will follow. There was a request that as these efforts move forward the school districts are involved.

On October 25th there will be a diversity seminar hosted by the WIB, Workforce Solutions and various DEED partners. It is called "Addressing Cultural Barriers in the Workforce" and will be 8:00-10:00 at Hiway Federal Credit Union. It will be a panel discussion and is geared towards small and medium sized businesses.

Youth Council Update

Kirk Hayes gave an update from the Youth Council. The Council is currently working on developing a resource directory of youth-serving organizations that can be used by counselors and youth to find service providers. They are also working on an initiative to get funding for the Building Lives program. This program started as a demonstration grant from the Dept. of Labor that worked with adjudicated youth, though the funding was for only 2 years. Due to the excellent outcomes, the committee is working to find funding to resurrect this program. Much like the CAO committee, the Youth Council is looking for new members who would be interested in helping set strategic direction for youth programs in our community.

Regional Assessment for a Competitive Economy (RACE) Report

Luke Weisberg, as staff member to the Greater Metro Workforce Council (GMWC) and the Employer Services Partnership, presented a report that recently came out of the GMWC. This report, called the Regional Assessment for a Competitive Economy (RACE) Report, serves as a regional scan of the labor force, looking at the current labor force, versus the current needs of employers, and helps to provide a solution matching the supply with the demand. There are four issues identified with the supply side of the problem- these are the lack of transportation, the declining population in the metro area, the segregation of immigrants from our culture and labor force, and the disparities in race, ethnicity and gender threaten our supply chain. There are a few assertions on how to overcome

these challenges- strengthen education and workforce pipeline, keep on top of promising industries in need of workers, and build the advocacy voice for economic growth. WIBs can stay abreast of these issues and enlist partners (identified in the report) to assist in the work.

WIB members asked if the report identified industries and career opportunities that will have a need in the future, i.e. five years from now. Luke made it clear that this report cannot do that, and one of the most important predictors is to pay attention to what is going on in each of the industries in which we work. There was concern that individuals with disabilities were not being tapped to fill vacancies, but Luke indicated this strategy was in the full report. There was also concern that this report is at too high of a level that it doesn't provide real active solutions on our community's problems. The challenge in this is to take what the GMWC has laid out and get community partners to have an effect on these issues. Additionally, local councils can work to affect the policy that hinders the solutions. Luke invited all members who wished to discuss these issues further to the next GMWC meeting on November 2 at 2:00.

Other

Terry Zurn made a request for support on behalf of Workforce Solutions. They would like to request \$750,000 out of the Workforce Development fund from the legislature to fund a summer youth employment program. This appropriation will help to make up for the CDBG funds not received from the City for summer youth employment. Workforce Solutions plans to serve 450-500 youth and subcontract the work to outside vendors. The program will employ youth for the summer, but also include an education component. If granted here, this request will go to the Ramsey County Board for approval.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Kathy Engesser to endorse Workforce Solutions' request of \$750,000 from the legislature.

Motion carried.

Kirk Hayes gave an update on the Blueprint to End Poverty. They are working on the next phase of the project, called STEP (Strategies to End Poverty) which is taking the strategies developed in the working sessions and educating the community. Kirk handed out a pamphlet that gives more information and can be distributed to groups or individuals to gain support. There is a card attached that can be filled out to show support for this, and a website is being developed.

Kathy Engesser informed the board that there was an ad in the Pioneer Press from Macy's that they have funding available for groups working with families, with a request deadline of November 10th.

Dean Shawbold attended a Business Leadership Mentoring Day for students with disabilities. Four hundred students attended and met with businesses that had representatives at the event. One of our past members, Greg Lambert, helped to plan this event. The WIB may want to get involved in this event next year.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Tom Klas to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2006

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation.

Attachment 1: Recognition and Announcements

Recognition:

- Welcome new WIB members Trixie Goldberg, Kristina Hamann, Courtney Henry and Robert Morse!
- Thank you to DEED for hosting the October WIB meeting.
- Congratulations to Doug Hubbard for being honored with the Youth Council Volunteer Award by the Tri-State Peer to Peer Youth Forum. Doug received the award at the WI, MN and IA forum on August 23rd.
- Thank you to Tom Macy for providing Kate with a new (to her) computer!

Announcements:

- Congratulations go to Kate Bates on her recent engagement.
- WIB staff visited the new WorkForce Center last week- the construction has begun and is set with a move-in date of February 1, 2007.
- For those members not yet serving on a committee, the CAO, Workforce and Youth Council committee are all seeking new members. Please call Mary Jo with questions 779-5653.
- The next WIB meeting, December 7, 2006, 2:30 – 4:30, will take place at Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood.