

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board

October 1, 2009

Minutes

WIB Members Present

Steve Carlson
Toni Carter
Mike Chanaka
Joe Crowe
Mary Dahlquist
Kathy Engesser
Amy Filice
Bev Fritz
Trixie Golberg
Lee Helgen
Butch Howard
Doug Hubbard
Dennis Johnson
Janet Ludden
David MacKenzie
Barbara Mednick
Bob Morse
Paul Nelson
Scott North
Mary Russell
Jim Schultz
Joe Stratig

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Patricia Brady
Elizabeth Campbell
Jacquelyn Carpenter
Robert de la Vega EA
Clarence Hightower
Barb Jeanetta
Rob McKenzie
Dan Strittmater EA

Staff/Guests Present

Oriane Casale, MN Department of
Employment and Economic
Development
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Abe Hassan, Youth Council Member
Carli Stark, WIB Staff

Call to Order

The WIB meeting was called to order at 2:35p.m.

Recognition and Announcements

- See Attachment I for Recognition and Announcements.

Approve Consent Agenda

- **Approve Agenda**
- **Approve Minutes from August Meeting**
- **Ratify Women Venture Support Letter for DOL Energy Partnership Training Grant**
- **Ratify International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Letter for Finishing Trades Institute Green Jobs Grant**
- **Ratify Support for Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council DOL Sector Grant**
- **Ratify Support for Minneapolis/Workforce Solutions DOL Pathways Out of Poverty Grant**
- **Ratify Support for Saint Paul/Workforce Solutions DOL Healthcare Sector Grant**

Motion made by Joe Crowe with second by Kathy Engesser to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

Ramsey County Labor Market Information

Oriane Casale, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development- Labor Market Information, gave a presentation on current labor market information. The state unemployment rate is now lower than the national rate, but the Ramsey County and Saint Paul rates are slightly higher.

The Job Vacancy Survey is a survey of 10,000 employers which asks questions about their job vacancies. Employers are also asked to project their hiring within the next six months, but those numbers have not proven to be accurate because of the constantly changing economy.

The majority of the presentation focused on the “green” economy. The United States Department of Labor provides the following definition of the green economy:

The green economy encompasses the economic activity related to reducing the use of fossil fuels, decreasing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing efficiency of energy usage, recycling materials and developing and adopting renewable sources of energy.

Green jobs are found in different sectors and can include many jobs such as extra bus drivers in a campaign to encourage the use of public transportation, or technicians that are trained to fix solar panels and wind turbines. Demand for all jobs related to the “green” economy is expected to increase over the next five to ten years.

For more information on current labor market information and trends, visit www.positivelyminnesota.com/lmi.

Update: WIB Strategic Priorities for 2009

Mary Jo Gardner gave an update on the work done this year around the 2009 strategic priorities.

Discussion: WIB Strategic Priorities for 2010

Discussion was held on the Strategic Priorities for 2010. Members broke into groups and shared their main concerns and ideas they would like the WIB to focus on for the next year. The results of the discussion will go to the Committees to be used in the formation of the 2010 Strategic Priorities.

See Attachment II.

Adjourn

Motion made by Robert Morse with second by Lee Helgen to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Attachment I

Ramsey County WIB Meeting October 1, 2009

Recognition:

- Welcome to the following new members to the WIB: Elizabeth Campbell, Ryan Companies US, Inc., Jacquelyn Carpenter, Manpower Inc., Barb Jeanetta, Twin Cities LISC, Janet Ludden, Saint Paul Port Authority/ Employer Solutions, Inc., Joe Stratig, Goodwill-Easter Seals.
- Welcome to the following member to the Education Committee: Maggie Abbey of the East Metro Opportunities Industrialization Center.
- Thank you to Mary Russell, for attending and representing the WIB at the MN Workforce Council Association's annual summer meeting in Duluth.
- Thank you to Barb Mednick for her work on preparing the Friends of the WIB 2009 fundraising letter.
- Thank you to Kathy Engesser and Barb Mednick for their work on the WIB's quarterly newsletter, Workforce Connections. The newsletter was sent to WIB and committee members, in addition to other community partners. Please let Carli know of additions to the distribution list.
- Thank you to Mary Russell for her work with the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council's application for a Department of Labor grant focused on training nurses in the metropolitan area.
- Thank you to WIB members Dan Strittmater, Joe Crowe and Mary Russell and Education Committee member Judy Mortrude for their work on the WIB's Healthcare Initiative.
- Congratulations to Workforce Solutions who was awarded two competitive dislocated worker projects. Workforce Solutions and its partners will be serving 75 workers from Good Samaritan Long Term Care facility in Roseville and 65 workers from Wilson Tool.
- Congratulations to Workforce Solutions for being recognized by the Minnesota Workforce Council Association for its MN Family Investment Program (MFIP) Services for Young Parents in Ramsey County. This program works to meet the developmental and educational needs of teen parents.
- Congratulations to the City of Saint Paul and Workforce Solutions for receiving a Best Practices Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors for their EMS Academy . The collaboration between the City of St. Paul, Workforce Solutions and Inver Hills College prepares youth for careers in firefighting.

Announcements:

- All members are asked to join a WIB committee. Membership on the Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee and the Workforce Committee is voluntary. Membership on the Executive Committee, Education Committee and Youth Council are by approval. Below are upcoming meeting dates. Contact Carli for further information and to select your committee.
 - Executive Committee- Friday, October 16th, 9:00-10:30
 - Youth Council- Thursday, October 22, 3:30-5:00
 - Education Committee- TBA
 - Workforce Committee- Thursday, November 5th, 1:00-2:30
 - Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee- Friday, November 13th, 11:30-1:00
- The next WIB meeting is December 3, 2009, 2:30-4:30.

Attachment II

Business Notes-

Information to get out-

- Future work trends analysis from state and private agencies-Where are the growth/gaps?
 - Green jobs classification- what's the growth? Where's the growth?
 - Foundation of green industry already here
 - Health Industries have a big need
 - Retail, landscaping, hair stylists, home health aids, cosmetology
 - Risk management
- Advance Degrees
 - Employer trends and education change on a dime
 - Education for transferable skills- If one career dries up, can the employee transfer their skills to another?
- Draft Tactic-
 - Don't lock into bioenergy, etc.
 - Go to Workforce meeting 11/11
 - Basic skill labor (plumbers, HVAC, etc.) and higher education jobs to plan.

City/County/Economic Development-

- How can the WIB connect with the Invest Saint Paul efforts?
- The growing disparity gap
- Concentration on poverty
- Youth Services
- Outcomes-
 - Increased number of people employed
 - Increased average wages
 - Increased productivity
 - Enhance regional competitiveness
 - Reduce number of low-income people
- Role of the board is to see data trends and indicators
- Better demand information
- Economic development pipeline
- Support for industry cluster work

Labor/CBO-

- Money is running low-How do we ensure stimulus jobs are sustained once the funds run out?
- More immigrants
- More specific labor market info
- Labor concern over trainees going to non-union jobs
- Changing demographics of Dislocated Worker group
 - More internships to help people change careers
 - More training in demand
 - DW money running out in March or April
- Effective Workforce Center operations
- Partnership and collaboration more important
- Increase partnership to leverage resources

- Base planning on labor market needs
- Understand political realities
- Do state budget issues affect grants?

Education-

- Funding has been cut in many areas
- Many education providers are able to provide customized training
- Green training can be quickly developed, but input from businesses is needed for development
- The WIB can play an advocacy role
- Many different providers are already providing beneficial programs and services that can be leveraged
- Marketing is critical- many who could use services don't know what's out there
- Difficult to train for jobs that exist only in "theory"