

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board

April 1, 2010
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Patricia Brady
Elizabeth Campbell
Jacquelyn Carpenter
Mike Chanaka
Joe Crowe
Mary Dahlquist
Robert de la Vega
Kathy Engesser
Amy Filice
Lee Helgen
Scott Helland
Doug Hubbard
Dennis Johnson
Janet Ludden
David MacKenzie
Barbara Mednick
Bob Morse
Paul Nelson
Scott North
Mary Russell
Jim Schultz
Joe Stratig
Dan Strittmater

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Steve Carlson EA
Toni Carter EA
Trixie Golberg
Clarence Hightower
Butch Howard
Barb Jeanetta EA
Rob McKenzie

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

The WIB meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

Recognition and Announcements

- See Attachment I for Recognition and Announcements.

Mary Russell, Chair, added an item to the Consent Agenda- Ratify SEED Letter of Support. Members were given time to review the letter.

Approve Consent Agenda

- **Approve Agenda**
- **Approve Minutes from February Meeting**
- **Approve Youth Plan**
- **Approve 2010 Strategic Priorities**
- **Ratify SEED Letter- *Removed from Consent Agenda***

Members discussed the letter supporting Sen. Franken's SEED initiative; the letter was pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Bob Morse to remove the SEED Letter from the consent agenda for further discussion and to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

See Other for SEED letter discussion and action.

WIB Role in the RENEW Grant

Patricia Brady introduced the Pathways Out of Poverty (POP) grant- Minneapolis, in partnership with Workforce Solutions, received \$4M from the Department of Labor to provide short-term green training (five months to a year) to individuals from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The grant will be carried out through a partnership of employment service providers and training providers. The training will include construction and deconstruction, renewable energy, and green manufacturing. It is important that the training conclude with a job placement, so understanding the labor market and business demand will be a key element of the project. Additionally, the effort of outreach to business will need to be coordinated so employers aren't contacted by multiple partners about the same project. In addition to the Department of Labor's funding, the project has attracted private funding sources, which will support the business outreach/marketing of the project.

There is an interest by Ramsey County and Minneapolis to have someone coordinate the efforts of outreach to employers and to conduct the environmental scan to define business needs. Mary Jo discussed the possibility of the Ramsey County WIB carrying out these tasks. The coordination would focus on the different outreach efforts done by the project partners, not direct outreach from the WIB to businesses. Members felt this project fit well within the WIB's 2010 strategic priorities and discussed the organization's capacity to complete the project. There is \$25M in the state of MN to support green initiatives, so this will continue to be a trend in the foreseeable future. The WIB could earn up to \$48k in ARRA funding for working on this project through June of 2011. The WIB could contract out these services with other organizations, but completing the work would help to fill a gap in the WIB's operating budget over the next two years. WIB staff feels it is in their capacity to complete this project. Members felt the coordinated outreach was very important, the information discovered through the process needs to be delivered back to stakeholders, employer buy-in will be critical and training must be in response to employer needs.

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Dave MacKenzie to approve the WIB's involvement in the RENEW grant as discussed.

Motion approved.

Grow Minnesota- MN Chamber of Commerce

Bill Blazar, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Business Development at the MN Chamber of Commerce presented on the Chamber's Grow Minnesota! Program. In its seventh year of operating, the program focuses on business retention and operates with about 55 local chambers throughout the state, seeing about 1,000 businesses each year. The three parts of the program are:

- Business retention
- Business assistance (1 of 6 visits get assistance- there are a lot resources in MN to help businesses and Grow MN can help connect with these)
- Market Minnesota (gets companies to move to MN)

Mr. Blazar shared outcomes from Grow MN and members asked how the WIB could be more involved in this project. The Chamber can give aggregate information on their business visits, with a focus on workforce issues in Ramsey County, to the WIB for planning. Grow MN finishes its year on August 1 and Mr. Blazar volunteered to come back to the WIB with Ramsey County-specific information at that point.

Issues Awareness Program

Tabled until the June meeting.

Other**SEED Letter**

There was discussion on supporting Sen. Franken's SEED initiative, which uses TARP funds to subsidize wages for job creation. Some members felt this was not an appropriate use of TARP funds, and others thought it might be too early to send a letter of support.

Motion made by Lee Helgen with second by Bob de la Vega to approve the WIB's submission of a support letter for Sen. Franken's SEED initiative.

Ten members voted in favor; five members voted against; one member abstained.

Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kathy Engesser with second by Bob Morse to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Motion Carried.

Attachment I

Ramsey County WIB Meeting April 1, 2010

Recognition:

- The Ramsey County WIB's Youth Council welcomes new member Gwen Peterson, Youth Job Corps, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation.
- Barb Mednick was elected Vice Chair of the newly merged CAO/Workforce Committee. Thank you, Barb!
- Congratulations to Bill Lowe, Metropolitan State University, for being named the next Chancellor of Indiana University Northwest. Bill has served on the WIB since December of 2003 and has been a Friends of the WIB Director since the organization was created in 2004. We wish Bill all the best with this transition and thank him for his work in the past six years.
- Thank you to Paul Nelson for leading a new member orientation in February.
- Thank you to Bob Morse for leading a new member orientation in March.
- Thank you to Barb Mednick and Trixie Golberg for their development of the WIB's Issues Awareness concept.
- Thank you to Patricia Brady, Commissioner Toni Carter and Mary Russell for participating in a Central Corridor project meeting that focused on connections with workforce development in Ramsey County.
- Thank you to Mary Russell for testifying at a March 8th US Congressional Field Hearing, held by Congresswoman Betty McCollum. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Congresswoman McCollum was interested to hear how funding and programs under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee are implemented in our community.
- Thank you to WIB member Joe Crowe, and Healthcare Initiative partners Dave Manthey and Janell Westveer, Saint Paul College, Tom Cytron-Hysom and Karen Gerdin, Saint Paul Adult Learning and Mohamud Hashi, Goodwill/Easter Seals for their participation in a meeting with MnSCU Vice Chancellor Michael Murphy. The meeting focused on strengthening the collaboration between the MnSCU system and the workforce system.
- Thank you to Workforce Solutions for funding the ceiling-mounted projector system in Meeting Room A1 at the Ramsey County WorkForce Center- Saint Paul.
- Congratulations to Workforce Solutions and its partners EAC and HIRED who received a dislocated worker grant to serve 153 laid off workers from the Coloplast Manufacturing Company in Vadnais Heights.

Announcements:

- Partners from the Healthcare Initiative will be attending the May Education Committee to discuss how the initiative is addressing bridging ABE and Higher Ed, the FastTRAC initiative, and the I Best model. All are welcome to attend. The Education Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 3, 3:30 pm at the Ramsey County Workforce Center in North Saint Paul.
- The WIB currently has two business openings- if you know of a business leader who may be interested in serving on the board, please contact Mary Jo Gardner at 651-779-5653.
- All members are asked to join a WIB committee. Membership on the new CAO/Workforce Committee and the Education Committee is voluntary. Membership on the Executive Committee and Youth Council are by approval. Refer to the 2010 calendar for upcoming committee meeting dates and contact Kate for further information and to select your committee.
- The next WIB meeting is June 3, 2:30-4:30.