

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

January 22, 2009

Members Present

Billy Collins
Kirk Hayes
Peter Jessen-Howard
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Matt Reinartz
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Abe Hassan
Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Becky Johnson
Rick Polanski

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:41pm.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Jody Yungers with second by Dave McKenzie to approve the October minutes.

Motion carried.

Update on Building Lives

The WIB has received a \$30,000 grant from the Bremer Foundation for Building Lives to serve younger youth. Efforts to find further support will be continued by the WIB.

Volunteers are needed to present to the legislature during the 2009 session.

The bill is ready to go to the legislature, and efforts to obtain support from Representative Betty McCollum are under way. The county is optimistic about the bill moving forward.

WIA Youth Plan

The WIA Youth Plan needs to be updated. Contracts with the current vendors will end this year and an ad hoc committee is being created to evaluate the performance of the vendors and bring back their findings to the Youth Council. The updated plan will go to the Youth Council at the end of February, the Executive Committee in March, to the WIB in April, and is due to the County by April 13.

Discussion was held about possible stimulus funding through WIA. It is expected that the vote on the stimulus package will be sometime in February. The discussion centered on where the money would be directed if the stimulus is awarded. There were many ideas such as focusing more on the youth in the suburbs, giving it to the vendors and having them subcontract it out, and developing RFPs to use the money. It was agreed that if there is a way to minimize the RFP process it would be better.

Update on TriWIB Initiative

The TriWIB Initiative is defining next steps for the project and Dean Shawbold, Jody Yungers and Dave Mackenzie will represent the Ramsey County WIB in this effort.

Youth Council Orientation

As there have been a number of new members to the Youth Council over the last few years, Mary Jo gave a brief orientation about WIA and the roles and relationships of the WIB and Youth Council.

Other

The future job outlook was discussed and it was suggested that the Youth Council and WIB should focus more on youth education. There will be a shortage of workers in areas such as healthcare and manufacturing,

and if training starts now, there will be youth to fill those positions upon completion of their education and/or training. This makes youth education an important issue that should be addressed by the WIB.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 4:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 26