

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County  
October 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Mike Chanaka  
Carrie Cisek  
Bob de la Vega  
Amy Filice  
Trixie Golberg  
Louis Jambois  
Karin McCabe  
James McClean  
Sheila Olson  
Kate Probert  
Joe Richburg  
Mary Russell  
Dee Torgerson  
Tracy Wilson  
Jim Wroblewski  
Mike Zipko (by phone)

**Members Absent**

Michael Belaen  
Amy Brendmoen  
Toni Carter-EA  
Judy Donohue-EA  
Michael Fondungallah-EA  
Larry Gilbertson-EA  
Clarence Hightower  
Butch Howard-EA  
Chris Kondo-EA  
Sean Mullan-EA  
Don Mullin  
Tim O'Brien  
Danielle Taylor

**Staff/Guests Present**

Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions  
Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions  
Jeremy Hanson-Willis, DEED  
Tim Herman, Hmong American  
Partnership  
Vera Johnson, Workforce Solutions  
Connie Ireland, Governor's Workforce  
Development Board  
Rebecca Milbrandt, WIB Staff  
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions  
Walter Rhodes, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order**

Chair James McClean called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.

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**Announcements**

McClean read the following announcements:

- Welcome to all in attendance.
- Thank you to all the WIB members who attended the workshop with the County Board.
- Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and DEED Job Service partnered with others to bring a Diversity Job Fair to the metro on August 6. It was a success. If you are interested in the survey results, handouts are available.
- Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, with support of the WIB, has applied to be a designated operator of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program. Workforce Solutions was awarded \$177,907 to start operations of the program. SNAP is a flexible tool to help low income adults and students reach economic self-sufficiency. Ramsey County has about 2,500 SNAP eligible individuals currently, with the potential to market and recruit 3,000 more. Workforce Solutions wants to thank the WIB for their ongoing support. Updates will be given as the program expands.
- The next WIB meeting is December 3, 2:30-4:30 at Goodwill/Easter. We appreciate your efforts to attend!

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**Approve Consent Agenda**

**Approve October Agenda**

**Approve August Minutes**

**Motion (Jambois/Richburg) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried**

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**Approve WIB Financial Report**

**Motion (Chanaka/Jambois) to approve the August financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote 15-0.** Zipko was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

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### **WIB-County Board Workshop Outcomes**

McClellan reviewed of the topics discussed at the Ramsey County Board workshop. He stated that the Commissioners showed support for the WIBs direction and expressed their willingness to coordinate legislative/policy messages and activities.

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### **Strategic Planning Introduction**

Russell provided an overview of the 2016 Strategic Plan refresh. She shared the plan outline and timeframe for the planning process. It is anticipated that the process will be completed in April 2016.

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### **Marketing Committee Report**

Zipko introduced the new WIB website. He noted that the committee focused on making the website a portal to information that is useful for job seekers, businesses and WIB members. The ultimate goal is to streamline the connection between workers and employers. Preliminary copies of two WIB brochure were handed out; one containing general information about the work of the WIB and the other to be used for recruiting potential WIB members. Zipko explained that with the website and messaging materials nearly complete, the committee plans to begin developing a community outreach plan.

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### **Workforce Center Certification and Regional Planning**

Connie Ireland, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) presented information on the make-up and functions of the Board and the impacts of WIOA. She noted that greater emphasis will be put on career pathways and apprenticeships. Ireland also shared details on the new state planning regions and the requirements of the state, regional and local plans. Ireland reported that Minnesota is looking at the collective impact model as a framework for the regions to identify:

- regional assets and opportunities
- key industry sectors and stakeholders
- unique issues such as disparities, transportation, housing and access to training/education
- priorities and strategies
- how the local areas can best support and address these priorities

Ireland encouraged WIB members to participate in a joint meeting with the MN Workforce Council Association in December to discuss alignment between state and local boards. An invitation will be sent to WIB members.

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### **Workforce System Race and Class Disparities in Minnesota Report**

Jeremy Hanson-Willis, Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development, shared details on a study done by DEED: Workforce System Race and Class Disparities in Minnesota. The report identified disparate completion, wage and employment outcomes in both the Dislocated Worker and WIA Adult programs. The findings shed light on the need for equity as a primary focus in state, regional and local planning. Hanson-Willis provided the following recommendations:

1. Serve people of color more intentionally (equally does not equal equity)
2. Engage employers more directly to hire more diversely
3. Examine program outcomes/performance

Hanson-Willis reviewed the benefits of the career pathways model, which includes employer engagement, supportive services (academic support, child care, transportation) and inter-agency involvement (MNSCU, DEED, Human Rights, etc.). Jambois also stressed the need for more cooperation between workforce development and economic development.

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### **Other**

None.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, McClellan adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

The next WIB meeting is December 3, 2015, 2:30-4:40, at the Goodwill/Easter Seals--553 Fairview Avenue N.