

## Minneapolis Workforce Council

March 19, 2013

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Carolyn Roby, Laura Beeth, Elizabeth Campbell, Anthony Goze, Darla Figoli, Douglas Fleteau, Todd Klingel, Ken Lundquist, John Mbali, Daniel McConnell, Tyler Olson, Carlyle Peterson, Jim Roth, Chad Telford, Terrell Towers, Craig Vana

**Staff:** Deb Bahr-Helgen, Felisha Burns, Catherine Christian, Teresa Harrold, Linda DeHaven, Marie Larson, Doug Suker

**Guests:** Roger Lowe – DEED, Andrew Lindquist – MCTC, Carrie Scheffler – EAC

**Excused:** Sharon Bredeson

**Unexcused:** Linda Vang, John Mbali

**\*\*Carolyn Roby called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.**

#### **Welcome and Chair's Report**

Carolyn Roby welcomed the Minneapolis Workforce Council members (MWC).

**Announcements:** Carolyn informed the MWC that STEP-UP Mock Interviews will take place on April 22 – 25, 2013. Carolyn asked all MWC members to volunteer, if possible. Carolyn also informed the MWC that an e-mail was sent out regarding this and encouraged MWC members to sign up. Deb informed the MWC that the RFP Proposal for the North Minneapolis Workforce Center building development is currently out and will be due May 31, 2013. Deb also informed the MWC that DEED is currently in the process of coordinating a Community Advisory Council and that applications are being accepted from community residents who are interested. Deb stated the Community Advisory Council will be made up of nine to eleven members. Deb also gave the MWC members and guests a Skills @ Work update, stating that Skills @ Work convened three industry panels in manufacturing, healthcare and information technology. The manufacturing industry panel will be staffed by the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council. The City of Minneapolis has been asked to be the administrative entity to launch the Manufacturing Action Alliance that will begin in April 2013 with a grant from the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Deb also informed the MWC that METP will be hiring a Manufacturing Business Consultant to lead the work.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The January 15, 2013 minutes of the Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting were moved and approved.

**Vikings Stadium Presentation and Discussion:** Michele Kelm-Helgen, Chair of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority, presented an overview of The People's Stadium. Michele informed MWC members and guests that the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority will oversee the design, construction, and financing of the new People's Stadium, which will be home to the Minnesota Vikings and serve as a multi-use facility for college and amateur sports teams. Michele also stated she looks forward to working with representatives from the WFC for their assistance on meeting the Equity Plan goals. The Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority wants to ensure that the People's Stadium is an asset that all Minnesotans will be proud of for years to come.

A copy of the presentation can be found at the following link:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-106928.pdf>

**Governors Workforce Development Council (GWDC) Update:** Laura Beeth, Minneapolis Workforce Council & GWDC Member informed the MWC that she has been a member of the GWDC for the past nine years and she is currently in her third term. Laura stated she will be hosting the GWDC meetings this fall 2013. Laura presented reports titled "Strengthening Minnesota's Workforce" and "All Hands on Deck". Laura stated that GWDC has broad based overall goals but also sectors goals and other initiatives are under way.

Laura stated the GWDC will focus on the following priorities: All Hands on Deck that involves focus areas on P16 –

Careers and Post Secondary Education (PSE) plans in high school, expanding PSE opportunities with second chance students. Laura informed the MWC that second chance students are individuals from diverse backgrounds that are behind one or two years grade levels. Laura also stated, P16 aligns state academic standards and teacher's preparations with real world learning in 21<sup>st</sup> century schools and expanding career pathways credentials and outcome measurements and opportunity grants.

Laura informed the MWC that she currently sits on the P16 committee and the Youth Council. Laura stated she is involved with preparation and workforce development in Health Care for Skills @ Work.

In closing, Laura stated for more information regarding the GWDC you can go to their website at:

[www.gwdc.org](http://www.gwdc.org)

## **Committee Reports**

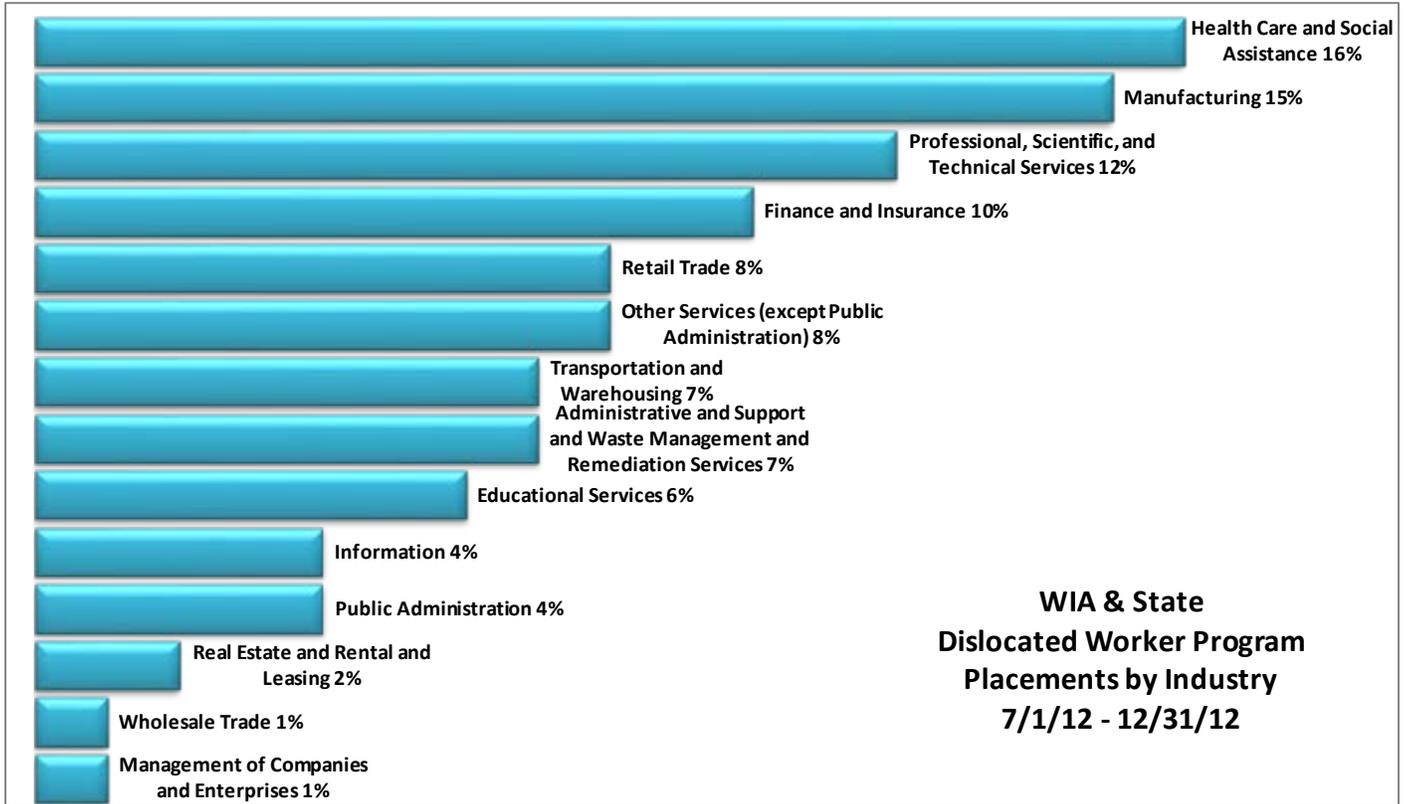
**Adult Committee:** Ken Lundquist submitted the Adult Committee report stating that the ten Minneapolis Adult Program partners providing employment and training services to disadvantaged Minneapolis residents placed 106 individuals in unsubsidized employment in second quarter of the program year October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 for a total of 255 placements since July 1, 2012. No agencies are operating under corrective action.

On November 13, 2012 the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program successfully facilitated a Best Practices Workshop for the Adult Program employment service providers. The workshop was held at Goodwill/Easter Seals and covered several of the topics that were brought to the Adult Committee's attention during the spring 2012 site visits as well as topics such as working with ex-offenders and community collaboration.

A motion was made and passed in the last Minneapolis Workforce Council meeting to consider a redesign of the Adult Program with possible changes being implemented July 1, 2014. The Adult committee members and METP staff will be involved in future planning sessions and the Council will be provided with updates.

RENEW Minneapolis outreach, enrollment, and job placement continued throughout the quarter, with 73 participants beginning training and 35 securing employment. As of December 31, 2012, a total of 265 participants were enrolled in RENEW Minneapolis. RENEW employment service providers met throughout December with METP staff, working on program development for 2013. One new program element planned for 2013 will be a RENEW Minneapolis sectorial initiative. RENEW Minneapolis employment service providers are encouraged to submit industry-specific training and job placement plans to METP. Elements of these plans will include analysis of jobs in demand, training and certification required to become employed, businesses advising on this process and seeking trained candidates, and possible internship development.

**Dislocated Worker Committee:** Jim Roth submitted the Dislocated Worker Report



**Sequestration cuts will affect Minneapolis WIA Dislocated Worker funding:**

The series of \$1.2 trillion in federal spending cuts were triggered on last month. Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said that DEED is preparing for a **5.2 percent across-the-board spending cut to affected federal programs** based on the latest estimate state officials have received. In the area of workforce development, DEED officials are planning for a \$5.3 million hit, which would affect an estimated 17,000 Minnesotans (statewide). These cuts will affect METP’s WIA Dislocated Worker Program funding beginning sometime after July 1, 2013. The state’s Unemployment Insurance Division, which administers the **federal extended unemployment compensation program, is expected to receive about a 9 percent or 10 percent cut in benefit amount or duration of benefits.** That would affect about 12,000 unemployed Minnesotans (statewide). The standard state unemployment program of up to 26 weeks of benefits will not be affected by the sequester.

**Small layoff grants approved for non-Workforce Service Area, Certified Dislocated Worker Service Providers:**

The MN Jobs Skills Partnership (JSP) Board asked DEED staff to propose alternative methods for small layoff grants beyond Workforce Service Areas (WSAs) to see more rigorous and meaningful competition for mass layoff project grants. **DEED staff proposed a plan that would to provide grants in some amount, to each non-WSA certified provider, to support small layoff work.** Currently only 3 non-WSA certified providers receive funds for small layoffs; seven others do not. **DEED staff circulated drafts and consulted with WSA partners before bringing their proposal before the Board.** The proposal was not without controversy; WSA leadership staff discussed the details of the proposal at length with DEED staff. Right now, everyone agreed that there was sufficient funding to try a model like this. Since the funds would come out of the State Workforce Development Fund money that provides dollars for mass layoff events – not small layoffs - the implementation of this proposal would not affect the initial formula funding for any WSA, next year or any other year. There are understandable concerns that in the long run, such funding may not be there. In the preliminary proposal, Goodwill Easter Seals, Employment Action Center and HIRED were not going to be funded because they already receive funding from various contracts with WSAs. METP supported including our service provider partners - if the proposal was going forward - to

help stabilize their funding base and to help ensure their future viability. One possible benefit of this change might be that there could be additional successful providers for METP to contract with, to provide our Dislocated Worker Program services, in the future.

At JSP Board meeting on February 25, 2013, the JSP Board voted to support the recommendation. METP will continue to monitor the effects of this change and provide updates to the members of this Council and the Dislocated Worker committee.

**Youth Committee:** Craig Vana submitted the Youth Committee Report

STEP-UP 2013:

Employer Event:

STEP-UP Co-chairs Mayor R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis, Chairman, President and CEO of US Bank, kicked off the 2013 STEP-UP employer recruitment drive at the Marquette Hotel on February 8, 2013. Over 250 STEP-UP supervisors including representatives from top Twin Cities companies, nonprofits and public agencies gathered to celebrate the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the youth employment program and hear from STEP-UP alumni who are now working professionals in a variety of fields. STEP-UP has provided meaningful internships for over 16,000 Minneapolis young people since 2004. Mayor Rybak was also honored for his work as founder and chief champion for STEP-UP.

STEP-UP Numbers:

- Over 4,500 applications were submitted. Of those, just over 4,000 are eligible applicants.
- Most ineligible youth were either non-Minneapolis residents or already attending college.
- Less than 30 youth were ineligible because of income.
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders were the largest group of applicants; more than 1,000 applied.
- 45% of applicants were ages 14 and 15.
- 3,600 youth have been invited to work readiness training which begins on March 25, 2013 and will be provided by our partners PPL and AchieveMpls

STEP-UP Mock Interviews:

Mock interviews will be held April 22-25 from 4:45pm- 6:15pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Other Efforts:

- Approximately 140 youth practitioners from 60 non-profit organizations attended the third Annual METP Minneapolis PARTNERS for Youth Conference on March 1, 2013. The Welcome was given by Minneapolis City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden. The Keynote Address was given by Nekima Levy-Pounds, Professor, University of St. Thomas Law School Director of the Community Justice Project and Co-Chair of Everybody In.
- METP staff has helped plan the Teen Job Fair that will be held at the downtown library on Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 12:00pm - 3:00 pm.
- The Workforce Investment Act and Minnesota Youth Program State Plans are due to DEED by April 12, 2013.

**Fair Hiring Ordinance:** Council Member Cam Gordon spoke to the MWC proposing a Resolution Supporting Additional Fair Hiring Provisions for the City of Minneapolis. Council Member Gordon stated in 2006, the City of Minneapolis and Saint Paul passed resolutions to reform their hiring process to ensure all job applicants have a fair opportunity for employment and removed questions regarding criminal history for job applications. Council Member Gordon stated City Council Members in Minneapolis are working on an ordinance amendment that would extend the City's adopted fair hiring practices to businesses and organizations that have city contracts in the amount of \$50,000 or more. Council Member Gordon informed the MWC that currently a proposal similar to his that is moving through the MN legislature.

Council Member Gordon proposed a motion that the MWC would support fair hiring practices, ordinances and policies that would require companies receiving government contracts to remove questions about criminal history for their employment applications.

Carolyn Roby and MWC members discussed Council Member Cam Gordon's resolution and decided to review the resolution and have as an agenda item at the May MWC meeting.

The motion for Resolution Supporting Additional Fair Hiring Provisions for the City of Minneapolis was denied at this time.

**Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am.**

**Next Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting:**

**Employment Action Center (EAC)**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TTY (612) 673-2157

Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (612) 673-5298