

Minneapolis Workforce Council

May 21, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Laura Beeth, Elizabeth Campbell, Darla Figoli, Todd Klingel, Ken Lundquist, John Mbali, Daniel McConnell, Tyler Olson, Jim Roth, Chad Telford, Terrell Towers, Craig Vana

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

Guests: Kelly Matters – RESOURCE Inc, Shym Morgan – DEED

Excused: Carolyn Roby, Sharon Bredeson, Linda Vang, Carlyle Peterson

Unexcused: Douglas Flateau, Anthony Goze

****Jim Roth called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.**

Welcome and Chair's Report: Jim Roth welcomed the Minneapolis Workforce Council members (MWC) and guests and informed everyone that he will be chairing the MWC meeting on behalf of Carolyn Roby. Jim also thanked Kelly Matter, President, RESOURCE Inc, and Carrie Scheffler, Director, Employment Action Center (EAC), who was not in attendance, for hosting the MWC meeting.

Introductions: Jim asked all MWC members and guests to introduce themselves.

Welcome: Kelly Matter, President, RESOURCE Inc., welcomed the MWC members and guests to the EAC North Minneapolis location. Kelly informed the MWC that EAC North Minneapolis site is one of 35 locations throughout Minnesota. Kelly mentioned that EAC is a partner of the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program delivering Adult, Youth, Dislocated Worker, and RENEW services. Kelly handed out a brochure entitled "RESOURCES, Discover Your Potential, Achieve Your Dreams, Strategic Plan 2013-2015." Kelly informed the MWC that one of RESOURCE's biggest initiatives is integrating mental health and chemical dependency division into their workforce development services. Kelly stated once individuals complete the mental health and chemical dependency program, they are referred to EAC for training and employment. Kelly also informed the MWC that RESOURCE Inc. recently opened a new office in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Kelly continued by stating that they pay close attention to their metrics as it relates to employment outcomes, retentions, career advancement, and opportunities for clients all with a focus on reducing disparities. Kelly stated that after the first quarter of 2013, 70% of clients served at EAC were minorities and who are faring better than the overall RESOURCE client population.

Approval of Minutes: The March 19, 2013 minutes of the Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting were moved and approved.

Announcements: Jim Roth informed the MWC that Sharon Bredeson and Craig Vana will be resigning from the MWC and will be recognized for their years of dedication and service to the MWC at the Summer Youth Tour on July 30, 2013.

Deb Bahr-Helgen reminded the MWC that at the March MWC meeting, Michele Kelm-Helgen, Chair of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority, mention that an Employment Assistance Form RFP would be released. Deb stated that that RFP was released and was due on May 3, 2013, noting that Summit Academy OIC submitted an application and proposed to serve between 400 - 600 individuals. Deb also informed the MWC that Minneapolis Urban League (MUL) responded to the RFP and the City of Minneapolis was written in as a partner. Deb stated MUL's proposal focused on demolition of the current Vikings Stadium and training individuals in deconstruction.

Deb continued by stating that the North Minneapolis Workforce Center RFP is due by the end of May. Deb also informed the MWC that Minneapolis Workforce Council Appointments are still open and the closing date will be

Friday, May 24, 2013. Deb concluded by giving a Legislative Session update.

Platform to Employment: Deb informed the MWC that she and Carolyn Roby were approached by Joseph Carbone, President and Chief Executive Officer of The WorkPlace located in Southern Connecticut, to launch a program aimed at the long-term unemployed here in Minneapolis called Platform to Employment. Deb stated that Mr. Carbone started the Platform to Employment program as a result of individuals exhausting unemployment benefits, but still not yet employed and in desperate situations. Deb informed the MWC that Platform to Employment address the need for the long-term unemployed to return to work and the employer need to recruit skilled workers. Deb noted that Platform to Employment was featured on *60 Minutes* in February 2012.

Deb stated that after the pilot program in Connecticut it has expanded to 10 sites across the United States including Minneapolis. Minneapolis' inclusion was due to the number of telephone calls from Minneapolis residents after the *60 Minutes* piece aired; they also looked at the numbers of long-term unemployed individuals in Minneapolis and the WIB structure.

Terrell Towers informed the MWC that DEED will be the provider of the Platform to Employment program and is planning to serve 24 people; four of the 24 must be veterans under forty years of age and the other 20 individuals will be long-term unemployed. Terrell stated the Platform to Employment program is a five-week preparatory program that focuses on skills assessment, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs, and coaching. Terrell stated the program will train four days a week with paid internships for up to eight weeks following the classroom training. Terrell also stated the Platform to Employment sessions will take place at the North Minneapolis WorkForce Center. In closing, Deb stated if interested in Platform to Employment, please attend the Minneapolis Workforce Council Executive Meeting that will take place Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 8:00am – 9:30am at Community Planning Economic Development, Crown Roller Mill, 105 5th Avenue South, Suite 200. For more information regarding Platform to Employment, please visit: <http://platformtoemployment.com/>

Approval of WIA Plan: During the WIA plan discussion, Jim Roth, suggested a number of edits and updates to the plan, specifically the economic development partners section. The changes suggested were submitted in writing and were subsequently made to the plan prior to the public comment period

A motion was made to make the changes to the WIA Plan. **The motion was passed.

Budget Review and Committee Updates: Mark Brinda presented a Minneapolis Employment and Training Program budget review that highlighted past, current, and future funding levels, program impacts due to funding changes, and overall funding trends from federal, state, and local sources. As part of the budget presentation, committee reports were incorporated into the program specific slides. A full copy, including committee report slides, can be found at: <http://wcms.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wcm1/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109852.pdf>

Ken Lundquist recommended a \$300,000 transfer from WIA Adult Program Year 2013 Allocation to the WIA Dislocated Worker Program.

A motion was made to transfer \$300,000 from the WIA Adult Program Year 2013 Allocation to the WIA Dislocated Worker Program Year 2013. **The motion was passed with one abstention.

Manufacturing Action Alliance: Marie Larson, METP Industry Relations Manager, provided an overview of the Manufacturing Action Alliance stating, the Manufacturing Action Alliance is comprised of decision makers from Twin Cities organizations with a vital stake in developing the quantity and quality of manufacturing talent in the Twin Cities. The Action Alliance is staffed by the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council, and the City of Minneapolis is managing the implementation. Greater Twin Cities United Way is providing grant support for contracted positions, and METP was approved for a VISTA position through the Phillips Sectorial Employment Initiative. The VISTA intern will begin work in August, 2013. Manufacturing businesses interested in further consultation regarding this opportunity may contact Marie Larson, METP Industry Relations Manager, at 612.673.5292.

Minneapolis Workforce Council Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am

Next Meeting: Summer Youth Tour:

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm.

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