Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2025, 11:30am– 1pm
Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave E., Saint Paul, MN 55106

WIB Members Present	Members Absent	Staff/Guests Present
Tom Aasheim	Ismail Ali-EA	Joey Adamji, Science Museum of MN
Jonathan Banks	Matt Bandstra	Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Sharon Blomgren	Ethel Garcia-EA	Megan Brogger, Lumin Group
Tami Cybulski	Jennifer Germain-EA	Annie Byrne, City of Saint Paul
Becky Degendorfer	Fidelity Goodlaxson-EA	Hannah Chan, Saint Paul Public Schools
Sara Garbe	Hwa Jeong Kim-EA	Nicki Forgetmenot, Backstory Coffee Roasters
Karen Gerdin	Chad Kulas-EA	Breanna Galuska, Saint Paul Public Schools
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser	Traci Leffner	Noelana Gates, Ramsey County
Lisa Guetzkow	Don Mullin-EA	Mike Greenbaum, Merrick Inc.
Katie Kapaun	Koami Pedado-EA	Jennie Hawkins, Wilder Foundation
James McClean	John Perlich-EA	Pai Her, HAP
Yolanda McIntosh	Sheri Riemers-EA	Melva Holmes, Ramsey County
Kelly Miller		Donny Hobbs, Lumin Group
Donna Rapacz		Trina James, Merrick Inc.
Elisa Rasmussen		Amy Yang, MNGI
Mary Rick		Kinsey Meadows, Backstory Coffee Roasters
Jenni Severson		Micah Svejda, Backstory Coffee Roasters
Trish Stevens		Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Aalayha Traub		Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Tanya Velishek		Kathleen, Murphy, Ramsey County
		Catrice O'Neal, Workforce Solutions
		Tim O'Neill, DEED
		Kristina Oak, Backstory Coffee Roasters
		John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
		Holly Pratt, Workforce Solutions
		Alyscia Raines, ADR Consulting Group
		Mary Russell
		Courtney Skluzacek, Merrick Inc.
		Taylor Thomas, ADR Consulting Group
		Tina Thompson-Thane, Merrick Inc.
		Mikayla Wickersham, Merrick, Inc.
		Rob Williams, Every Meal

Call to Order and Announcements

Chair McIntosh called the meeting to order at 11:32am and read the following announcements:

- Welcome! Thank you for joining today's Workforce Innovation Board meeting. We're excited to celebrate together the completion of the 2025 Inclusive Workplaces Cohort and recognize the individuals and organizations working to build more inclusive workplaces across our community.
- I would like to welcome Sharon Blomgren and Jenni Severson who were recently appointed to the WIB. In just a few minutes, I will invite them to come up and introduce themselves.
- A reminder that all WIB and committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes for all meetings are posted on the WIB's webpage. Committee meetings are conducted virtually and instructions on how to join are also posted on the webpage.
- Article 8 of the WIB's Bylaws state that "…members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member". If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today's agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.

- Thank you to those who brought food contributions for the county's community food drive. If you would still like to donate, collections are still being accepted at the Maplewood, Roseville and Shoreview Library locations.
- Pending approval of the 2026 meeting schedule on today's agenda, the next WIB meeting will be on Thursday, February 5, 2:30-4pm at the Plato Conference Center in Saint Paul. I hope to see you there.

Land Acknowledgement
Velishek read the land acknowledgement aloud.

New Member Introductions: Blomgren and Severson

Approve Consent Agenda
December Meeting Agenda
October Meeting Minutes
WIB Financial Report
WIB Financial Report
2026 Proposed WIB Budget
2026 WIB Meeting Schedule
Subsequent Designation Request
Milbrandt explained the significance of the subsequent designation request, which is required every two years in order for Ramsey County to continue being recognized as a Local Workforce Development Area and to be eligible to receive WIOA funding. The letter is due by January 31, 2026.
Motion (Miller/Degendorfer) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Lunch and Conversation
O'Neal highlighted the success of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort program which launched in 2021 and has now completed its fourth cohort, engaging 56 organizations since its inception. Following her remarks, WIB members and cohort participants took part in table discussions, sharing insights on the program's impact within their organizations and showcasing key takeaways from their capstone projects.

Cohort Reflections
Commissioner Miller spoke on behalf of the Ramsey County Board, emphasizing the county's commitment to equity and the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Russell reflected on the cohort's growth mindset and collaborative learning environment. Raines and Thomas described the program's structure and the importance of practical application of inclusive principles. Cohort participants from Merrick Inc., Every Meal, and Backstory Coffee Roasters shared insights about their experiences and summaries of their capstone projects, which focused on leadership engagement, data-driven inclusive dashboards, and feedback systems to foster belonging.

Recognition Presentations
Each organization completing the 2025 Cohort was recognized and presented with a plaque to commemorate the achievement.

Other
No further items discussed.

Adjourn
Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2026, 2:30-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul