Call to Order – Mark Lofthus called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda
MOTION to approve the consent agenda made by Jennifer Harmening; SECOND Vance Boelter; (M/S/P).
- Approve the March 15, 2019 Board Minutes.
- Approve funding for up to $1,600 of Youth Committee funds to the Career Success Program for twelve youth to participate in a Culinary Career Exploration session.

Updates
- The WDB welcomed Sally Haack.
- Congratulations to Mark Jacobs on receiving the Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College Partner of the Year Award.

“Eye on the Future” – Minnesota’s Immigrant Workforce
Patricia Fenrick, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Resettlement Programs Office

Jack Phillips introduced Patricia Fenrick. Fenrick provided an overview of her background and experience. Her presentation provided information relating to Minnesota’s Resettlement Program, the immigrant workforce and refugee populations. Information included:

Minnesota Resettlement Program
- Serving people with humanitarian protection (i.e. refugees).
- The program settles refugees who are fleeing persecution.

Minnesota’s Workforce
- The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) report a tight labor market.
- Unemployment has decreased while the number of job vacancies has increased.
- Workforce populations are aging.
Resettlement in Minnesota

- In Minnesota, more people are moving out than moving in.
- 60% of immigrants in Minnesota are at the prime working age.
- Minnesota needs immigrants to meet future workforce needs. Resettlement can respond to those needs because:
  
  - The infrastructure currently exists
  - The U.S government grants humanitarian protection
  - Minnesota offers a safe home for families
  - After 5 years people can become citizens
  - In 2007-2016, Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area was in the top 10 metro areas for refugee placement
  - Refugees have authorization to work in the United States as soon as they arrive.
  
- There is an extensive prescreening process in place
- Refugees undergo the highest level of security vetting of any traveler to the U.S.
- The minimum amount of time it takes to go through the security process overseas is 1.5-2 years although it can take 5+ years.

- Refugees and asylees are a reliable and innovative workforce
- Refugees come with assets and contributions that aren’t always recognized. They are taxpayers, consumers, entrepreneurs and earners which help to power the MN economy.
- Refugees tend to have higher job retention rates and can serve as a strong source of recruitment of other employees.

Immigrants and Refugees

- Foreign born immigrants are those who reside here but are not born here.
- 9% of Minnesota’s population is foreign born. Of those, 52% are citizens and 48% non-citizens.
- Non-citizen status types include:
  - No status
  - Non-immigrant temporary status
  - Immigrant status
    - Employment based visas
    - Family sponsored visas
    - Groups of humanitarian concern (refugees)
- Refugee status is granted to people who are unable to return home due to persecution.

Stats and Trends

- It can take a refugee 16-25 years to reach median household income.
- Refugees are 13% more likely to start a business.
- Since 1979, Minnesota has resettled over 100,000 people from 100 different countries.
- Immigration is declining causing a decrease in city populations.

Questions and Discussion

- Immigrants and refugees typically start in entry level positions. Some held high level positions where they came from, however those credentials are not recognized in the U.S. Often times there are language barriers.
- National resettlement agencies determine where refugees are relocated. 95% of those coming to Minnesota are reuniting with family.
- The amount of English training and education refugees receive before they arrive varies. Their workforce skills are not pre-screened or considered.
- Some businesses offer programing to support English language learning.
- When refugees arrive they go through an intensive case management process. They receive funding and help with food, housing, employment, enrolling in school, etc. These services are typically delivered through non-profit organizations.
Executive Committee – Mark Lofthus

- Membership
  - MOTION to recommend Michael Berndt’s appointment to the Dakota-Scott WDB. Motion made by Steve Ditschler; SECOND Jennifer Harmening; (M/S/P). Background: Berndt is the Interim President at Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College. Mark Lofthus and Mark Jacobs met with Berndt to discuss the board, his professional background and answer questions. He would represent the education category of public sector appointments.

Evaluation Committee – Pam Oeffler

- Request for Proposal (RFP)
  - Oeffler provided an overview of the WIOA Adult, WIOA Dislocated Worker and State Dislocated Worker programs.
  - MOTION to accept the Dislocated Worker (WIOA and state) and Adult (WIOA) RFP submitted by DEED Job Service and HIRED with the understanding that there will be separate contracts for each and that the contract language will include the expectation of partnering amongst the agencies. Motion made by Pam Oeffler; SECOND Steve Buck; (M/S/P). Background: A RFP was issued to get proposals from potential providers for the Dislocated Worker (state and WIOA) and Adult (WIOA) programs within Dakota County. The RFP parameters did not include providing services within Scott County as they’re done by Scott County staff. The WDB’s policy is to issue RFPs no longer than every five years to ensure providers throughout the area have an opportunity to provide information about their services for job seekers. This year, there was an RFP review committee which after its review of proposal(s) and gathering additional information provided its recommendation to the Evaluation committee. Both the Evaluation committee and then the Executive committee approved that recommendation.

- 3M
  - MOTION to accept the grant based on the plan submitted to the State of MN Department of Employment and Economic Development to serve the 3M Dislocated Worker Project:
    - Accept the funding of $10,000 Early Readjustment Assistance Grant (ERAG)
    - Accept the funding of $272,000 project funding
    - Approve contracting with HIRED and DEED for case management
  Motion made by Pam Oeffler; SECOND Gloria Fatze; (M/S/P). Background: 3M has laid-off 97 staff from their Eagan location. The State plan submitted is for 68 participants at a cost of $4,000 per participant for a total of $272,000. In addition, a $10,000 Early Readjustment Assistance Grant (ERAG) was received to provide services prior to receipt of full grant and contracts. Total amount of funding is $282,000. HIRED and DEED Job Service will each provide case management services to individuals based on the location preference of the participant. Each provider will be paid $900 per enrollment.

Community Relations Committee – Jack Phillips

- The May WDB will be held at Farmington High School and the Eye on the Future information will be provided by students and school staff.
- Mark Loftus, WDB chair, will be retiring. A new private sector chairperson must be elected. Pam Oeffler has expressed interest in taking on the role.

Business Services – Mark Loftus

- Hiring events continue to be successful.
- Lee Ökerstrom is the new Veterans Employment Rep for the area.
- In May, the committee will discuss and debrief on the Eagan Job Fair with Jobs HQ.
- Employers of Excellence will happen again this year. The committee is aiming for 40 applications. Turnout will determine whether or not to continue in the future.
- The awards will be presented at a 1 ½ - 2 hr. breakfast meeting.
- The committee is seeking a new chair.

CareerForce Committee – Eric Lind

- Jenni Faulkner will be moving to the Community Relations Committee.
- The launch of CareerForce has been postponed.
- VRS will be hiring 24 rehabilitation representatives across the state to provide youth transition services.

**Youth Committee – Barb Dahl**

- **MOTION** to contract with Tree Trust for SFY2020 Minnesota Youth Program Services. Motion made by Barb Dahl; **SECOND** Vance Boelter; **(M/S/P)**. **Background:** This action is for MYP services in Dakota County only. RFPs are typically issued every 5 years, although they may be done at any time. The last RFP for WIOA Youth and MYP was issued December 2015. The SFY2019 MYP contract ends 06/30/2019. In Dakota County, Tree Trust is the current service provider. Budget amounts will not be available until May. Approval of this motion enables the contracting process to begin.

- **Traitify**
  - The cost to renew the annual Traitify subscription is $10,000.
  - The committee is examining the strategic plan and evaluating whether or not to renew.

**Employment for People with Disabilities – Steve Ditschler**

- The committee did not meet.
- The committee is working to identify a speaker for an event in October.

**Scott County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Weckman Brekke**

- Largely focused on the new County building project and determining the best way to deliver services while under construction.

**Dakota County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Gerlach**

- The Community Development Agency (CDA) is reviewing the strategic plan and examining the potential of single residency occupancy (SRO) housing for lower income, single individuals. This housing would be in addition to the senior and workforce housing already in place.

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.*