



LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 8:15 AM

College of Lake County, Room A133

19351 W Washington St, Grayslake, IL 60030

Present: Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey, Jennifer Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Lori Suddick, Kimberly Wimer

Absent: Laura Crivlare, Kathy Dunaj, Ed Gallagher, Dr. Andrew Warrington

I. **Call to Order**..... Kimberly Wimer, Chairwoman

*The meeting was called to order on **Wednesday January 15, 2025, at 8:15 AM** by Executive Committee Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer.*

II. **Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

III. **Chairman’s Report**.....

- *Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer welcomed the committee to the first in-person meeting of 2025 and extended wishes for a productive and successful new year. Chairwoman Wimer emphasized the importance of the discussions ahead (particularly those related to the Strategic Plan funding diversification, and ongoing programs).*

IV. **Reports**

- *Dr. Michael Karner, Regional Superintendent of Schools, provided an update on the federal grant received by the Regional Office of Education:*
 - i. *Dr. Karner shared that the ROE has been awarded a \$9.9 million federal grant to support elementary schools in Lake County over the next five years.*
 - ii. *The grant will focus on enhancing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to improve academic outcomes, student mental health, and overall well-being.*
 - iii. *A key component of the grant includes developing a professional development system to*

ensure educators have access to ongoing training and can meet professional licensure requirements.

- iv. *Dr. Karner also mentioned that efforts are underway to explore bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Lake County, which, if implemented, would provide children aged 0-5 with a free book each month to promote early literacy.*

V. **Consent Agenda**

- *November 2024 Executive Committee Minutes (Attachment A) were reviewed.*
 - **Motion:** *Timothy Dempsey*
 - **Second:** *Dennis Kessler*
 - **Outcome:** *The minutes were unanimously approved without amendments.*

VI. **Regular Agenda**

- **Strategic Plan Discussion** – *The Executive Committee undertook an in-depth review of strategies to foster excellence and accountability while ensuring sustainable growth:*
 - i. **Key Topic:** *Diversifying funding sources to support and expand workforce initiatives*
 1. *Members highlighted the importance of philanthropic funding, private sector partnerships, and enhanced employer engagement*
 2. *Suggestions included investing in innovative programs such as mobile job center, which would enhance accessibility for underserved communities*
 3. *Members emphasized the need for scalable programs, with a focus on justice-involved individuals and youth*
- **WIOA Reauthorization** – *The Executive Committee discussed the challenges associated with WIOA reauthorization:*
 - i. *Concerns were raised regarding the potential state-level consolidation of workforce boards, which could limit local control*
 - ii. *The need for strong advocacy to preserve local decision-making authority was stressed*
- **CEJA (Climate and Equitable Jobs Act) Updates:**
 - i. *Progress on pre-apprenticeship training and Clean Energy ridge Programs were noted*
 - ii. *Partnerships with local organizations, including the College of Lake County, continue to support program implementation*
- **Opportunity Youth Community Programs** – *The ongoing RFP process was reviewed:*
 - i. *A joint meeting of the Talent Pipeline and Employer Connections Committees will be*

held on February 12, 2025, to evaluate proposals

ii. Final recommendations will be presented at the February Executive Committee Meeting

- **Industry Sector Initiatives** – The Executive Committee discussed efforts to strengthen engagement with local chambers of commerce and employers:

i. Challenges in connecting with large employers, such as Grainger, were noted

ii. Plans were outlined to enhance outreach and education about workforce development services

VII. **State and National Updates**

- **IWIB** – Jennifer Harris reported on developments from the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB):

i. IWIB adopted a new strategic plan emphasizing committee realignment to streamline efforts

ii. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives were integrated into the Continuous Improvement Committee

iii. Ongoing efforts focus on employer engagement and improving delivery systems

- **NAWB** – Jennifer Serino provided insights from the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB):

i. WIOA reauthorization remains a contentious issue. The prior version of the bill will not be revisited, and legislative efforts are expected to restart due to changes in Congressional leadership

ii. NAWB has announced changes to its annual forum, moving the 2026 and 2027 events to Las Vegas and Chicago, respectively. Additionally, Policy Days in Washington, DC, will continue annually to engage with federal legislators

VIII. **Updates/Other Items**

- **LCWDB Employer Connections Committee Meeting**

i. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 9:00

- **LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting**

i. Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 8:15 AM

- **LCWD Board of Directors Meeting**

i. Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 8:00 AM

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 AM following a motion and approval by the committee.