



**LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2025, at 8:00 AM**  
**Elenor Murkey Community Center**  
**34 N Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60085**  
**College of Lake County – Lakeshore Campus**

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**Present:** John Castillo, Timothy Dempsey, Christian Fernandez (Proxy for Demitri), Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Christine Hammerlund, Lisa Johnson, Dennis Kessler, Sara Knizhnik, Ron Lanz (Proxy for Kevin Considine), Noelle Lepper, Rachel Loberg, Troy McIntosh, Dr. Darryl Rader, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Tasha Shell, Dr. Lori Suddick, Ken Swanson, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer

**Absent:** Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare, Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Jennifer Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Kristi Long, Kathy Nellis, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Julie Savitt

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

*The meeting was called to order on **Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 8:15 AM** by Board Chair Kimberly Wimer.*

II. **Public Comment**

*No public comments were received.*

III. **Chairman's Report**

Chair Wimer welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration between education, industry, and the board in supporting career pathway development for youth and adults in Lake County. No formal report was presented.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

- *November 20254 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)*
  - *Motion passed unanimously.*
- *Policy 22 Modification: Employer Incentives – Apprenticeships (PY23 & PY24)*
  - *Motion passed unanimously.*

V. **Action Items**

- **Opportunity Youth Program Grant Agreements**
  - *The Board approved funding agreements totaling **\$504,306.30** to support services for*

Opportunity Youth (ages 16–24). These grants will fund education, training, and employment opportunities for disconnected youth across Lake County (Attachment C).

- **Chamber of Commerce Initiative Grant Agreements**

- The Board approved awards totaling **\$150,000**, with at least **\$75,000** to be allocated to each of two local Chambers of Commerce. The funding will support workforce and economic development initiatives that align with local board priorities (Attachment D).

- **All action items were approved unanimously.**

## VI. Regular Agenda

- **Presentation: Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Lake County**

- Gina Schuyler, CTE Department Chair, Grayslake North High School
- Carolyn Corcoran, College & Career Counselor, Round Lake High School
- Overview. The presenters provided a comprehensive overview of local Career and Technical Education (CTE) efforts in Lake County schools. Their remarks emphasized the connection between education and workforce development, and how the board can support alignment with industry needs.

1. **Curriculum Alignment with Industry**

- a. CTE programs have intentionally invested in equipment and training environments that mirror those used in industry (for example, manufacturing and healthcare equipment). This allows students to become familiar with real tools and expectations prior to entering the workforce.

2. **Student Internships and Applied Learning**

- a. Grayslake North and Round Lake have implemented engineering and teaching pathway internships. Interns are exposed to real-world problem solving, auditing, safety inspections, and research and development processes. While students may not operate heavy equipment, they shadow and assist in programming and observation roles.

3. **Teaching Pathway Development**

- a. Students interested in teaching careers participate in structured practicum experiences in partnership with District 46. Students earn **dual credit and early college credit**, building foundational skills required for associate degree programs and beyond.

#### **4. Early Exposure to High-Demand Fields**

- a. Students are guided into exploration of in-demand fields such as **healthcare, education, and manufacturing** through a combination of work-based learning, job shadowing, and mentorship.

- **Board Engagement Opportunities**

1. Gina Schuyler and Carolyn Corcoran encouraged Lake County Workforce Development Board Members to:
  - a. **Visit school-based programs** to observe the equipment and environments first-hand.
  - b. **Host students for job shadowing or workplace tours** to deepen exposure to professional settings.
  - c. **Serve as mentors or guest speakers** to share career stories and industry expectations.
  - d. **Support expansion of work-based learning opportunities** by creating entry points in their organizations.

- **Advocacy Planning and Prioritization**

- Board members discussed the importance of remaining engaged in state and federal workforce advocacy. Topics included funding sustainability and alignment of public policy with local labor market needs.

- **Committee Overviews**

- Brief updates were shared on the upcoming activities of the Talent Pipeline, Operations, and Employer Connections Committees. Board members were encouraged to attend and participate.

#### **VII. Announcements**

- **Talent Pipeline Committee Meeting**

- March 11, 2025, at 9:00 AM

- **Operations Committee Meeting**

- March 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM

- **Employer Connections Committee Meeting**

- March 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM

- **LCWD Board of Directors Meeting**

- April 17, 2025, at 8:00 AM

#### **VIII. Updates/Other Items**

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:37 AM**.