



**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2025, at 8:15 AM**

**1 N. Genesee St. Waukegan, IL 60085**

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**Present:** Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey, Ed Gallagher, Jennifer Harris, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer

**Absent:** Laura Crivlare, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Dr. Lori Suddick

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

*The meeting was called to order on **February 19, 2025**, at **8:22 AM** by Executive Committee Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer.*

II. **Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

III. **Chairman's Report.....**

IV. **Consent Agenda**

- *January 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*
  - *Motion to approve was made by Timothy Dempsey, seconded by Mary Ross-Cunningham.*
  - *No corrections or amendments were noted.*
  - *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. **Action Items**

- **Approval of Board Service Policy Revision (Policy 122 – Employer Incentives for Apprenticeships)**
  - *A revision to Board Service Policy 122 was reviewed, adjusting employer incentive structures for apprenticeships. The changes aim to make incentives more accessible for small and medium-sized businesses, streamline employer onboarding, and align with Illinois' Apprenticeship Expansion Program.*
  - *Concerns were raised about whether funding limitations might hinder employer participation. It was noted that the revised policy includes tiered incentives to ensure flexibility for different-sized businesses.*

- *It was discussed that outreach efforts should be increased to encourage participation from industries such as healthcare and technology.*
- *Motion approved unanimously.*
- **Approval of Chamber of Commerce Grant Agreements**
  - The board reviewed a proposal to approve grant agreements with local Chambers of Commerce to support business engagement and workforce training initiatives.
  - A presentation was given on the Chamber of Commerce RFP process, emphasizing the goal of fostering stronger regional collaboration and reducing silos in workforce development.
  - It was discussed that equitable distribution of funds should be a priority to ensure inclusion of small businesses and underserved communities.
  - ☒ Motion approved unanimously.
  - The following Chambers of Commerce were awarded grants:
    1. GLMV Chamber of Commerce (Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills)
    2. Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Approval of Opportunity Youth Program Grant Agreements**
  - *A request was made to approve funding for the Opportunity Youth Program RFP #24383, which supports job training and employment programs for young adults facing barriers to employment.*
  - *The proposals from three organizations were discussed, including their focus areas and outreach strategies.*
  - *It was discussed that transportation remains a significant barrier for youth accessing training sites.*
  - *Motion to approve: Andrew Warrington*
  - *Seconded by: Tim Dempsey*
  - *Vote: Motion approved unanimously.*
  - *The following organizations were awarded funding:*
    - *160 Driving Academy – CDL training for Opportunity Youth*
    - *Youth Conservation Corps – Hands-on workforce training and skill development*
    - *SGA Youth & Family Services – Specialized support for justice-impacted youth*

## I. Regular Agenda

- **Advocacy Plan and WIOA Reauthorization**

*The committee had an in-depth discussion on the delays in WIOA reauthorization and the temporary federal funding pause under OMB Memorandum M-25-13, which could have a significant impact on workforce programs. Concerns were raised about potential reductions in job center hours, staff layoffs, and limited availability of training funds, which would disproportionately affect dislocated workers, veterans, and underserved communities.*

*Several members emphasized the need for immediate advocacy to ensure that funding remains available to support essential workforce services. It was noted that other regions are already experiencing disruptions, and Lake County must act proactively to avoid similar setbacks. The discussion highlighted that local emergency funds are being explored as a short-term solution, but long-term sustainability depends on federal action.*

*The committee agreed on a multi-tiered advocacy approach:*

- 1. Drafting a formal letter to state and federal legislators, urging them to expedite WIOA reauthorization and release funding. The letter will include data on potential impacts, workforce trends, and specific challenges faced by local job seekers and employers.*
- 2. Coordinating with the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) to align messaging and present a unified statewide request for federal support.*
- 3. Engaging local business and community leaders to amplify advocacy efforts, particularly those who rely on workforce programs to fill job openings.*
- 4. Exploring media outreach, including op-eds and local press coverage, to raise public awareness about the risks of funding delays.*

*It was emphasized that Lake County's ability to maintain critical workforce programs depends on securing continued funding, and the committee committed to swift action in the coming weeks. The formal advocacy letter will be circulated for review and finalized before the next board meeting.*

## **II. Announcements**

- The committee discussed delays in WIOA reauthorization and federal funding pauses, which could impact job center operations and training funds. A joint advocacy letter will be drafted to push for expedited approval.*

## **III. Updates/Other Items**

## **IV. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.*