

## Employer Connections Agenda

January 21, 2025, 9 AM

The Community Works

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141 S Genesee St, Waukegan, IL 60085 **Changed To Zoom**

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*Present: Carla Schroeder, Tammy Rodriguez, Jim Connell, Dr. Myra G. Morales, Jennifer Serino, Ed Gallagher, Ron Lanz (Proxy for Kevin Considine), Tyler Williams, Leslie Bertholdt, Kim Wimer, and Amy Van Strien.*

### I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM. It was acknowledged that no votes would be taken at this meeting due to the transition to virtual due to weather.*

### II. Public Comment

*No public comments were made.*

### III. Chair Report

### IV. Consent Agenda

#### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **October 2024 Employer Connections Minutes**

**Attachment A**

*Approval was tabled until our next meeting in person.*

### V. Regular Agenda:

- Maximizing Workforce Potential Through CEJA: Expanding Talent Pipelines Beyond Green Jobs
- Inside the Climate Equitable Jobs Act: Workforce Hub, Training Pathways and Employer Engagement
  - *Sara Espeland and Antonio Garcia provided an update on the Climate Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) workforce network grant.*
  - *The grant provides \$3.5 million to College of Lake County and Lake County Workforce Development to support clean energy workforce training programs.*
  - *Target populations include justice-impacted individuals, foster care graduates, displaced energy workers, and individuals from Equity Investment Eligible Communities.*
  - *Key Discussion Points:*
    - *Training and Apprenticeship Opportunities:*
      - *The program will offer Clean Energy Bridge Classes to introduce participants to solar energy, wind energy, electric vehicle (EV) maintenance, and HVAC.*
      - *A structured Apprenticeship Pathway is in place, allowing participants to progress into paid apprenticeships with clean energy employers.*
      - *The goal is to place 50 individuals in clean energy jobs by the end of the first grant year.*
    - *Employer Engagement:*
      - *Employers in Lake County's clean energy sector are being invited to*

- participate in hiring program graduates.*
    - *A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with the Chamber of Commerce and local utility providers to increase engagement.*
  - *Program Impact Measurement:*
    - *Quarterly employer engagement metrics will be tracked, including recruitment numbers, job placements, and retention rates.*

## VI. Updates

- NAWB Community of Practice for Skills First Hiring and LER (Learning and Employment Records)

*Jennifer Serino shared that Lake County Workforce Development has been selected as one of seven workforce areas to participate in a community of practice focused on skills-first hiring and learning and employment records. This initiative is designed to help workforce organizations collaborate nationally while developing best practices and governance strategies around AI utilization in hiring, credentialing, and workforce development.*

*She emphasized that this selection is an exciting opportunity for Lake County to influence how AI is integrated into workforce systems and employer hiring processes. The team will engage in monthly cohort meetings and a visit to Washington, D.C., where they will collaborate with other selected workforce areas to shape future workforce governance strategies.*

- Chamber of Commerce RFP
  - Goals of the RFP:*
    - *Enhance business outreach efforts to better connect local employers with workforce training programs.*
    - *Increase public-private partnerships to improve job placement services and hiring incentives.*
  - *Next Steps:*
    - *The LCWDB Business Services Team will review the RFP and determine potential areas for collaboration.*
    - *Employer Engagement Workshops will be planned to discuss hiring challenges and solutions.*

## VII. Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

- **Ad-hoc Employer Connections/Talent Pipeline Joint Meeting**  
Date: February 12, 2025 | Time: 9:00 AM | Location: Job Center of Lake County  
Agenda: Review of Recommended Opportunity Youth Grant Recipients
- **Employer Connections Committee Meeting**  
Date: March 11, 2025 | Time: 9:00 AM
- **LCWD Board of Directors Meeting**  
Date: February 27, 2025 | Time: 8:00 AM

## VIII. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM*