



LCWDB Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Zoom

Present: Kathy Brown, Laura Crivlare, Brittany Davis, Susan Feltz, Christian Fernandez, Antonio Garcia, Rason Grant, DeMar Harris, Jeff Hubert, Lisa Johnson, Eva Locke, Reni Mitkova, Ashananti Ross, Edith Salinas, Hector Sanchez, Heidi Semenek, Tasha Shell, Quinton Snodgrass, Tameka Wilson, Jennifer Yonan

I. **Call to Order..... Laura Crivlare, Committee Chair**

*The meeting was called to order on **Friday, March 14, 2025**, at **9:04 AM** by Committee Chair Laura Crivlare.*

II. **Public Comment**

No public comments were received.

III. **Chairman's Report**

No chairman's report.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

- *November 2024 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – tabled.*
- *January 2025 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – tabled.*

V. **Action Items**

- **X**

VI. **Regular Agenda**

- **MOU Updates**

- *The MOU is undergoing required state adjustments. The first draft is nearly complete.*
- *A new finance manager is finalizing the budget; expected distribution by **the end of March.***
- *All partners are reminded to complete and return the **direct linkage form** if not already done.*
- *An in-person meeting is planned for late April to review the MOU and budget collaboratively.*

- **Advocacy & Workforce Challenges**

- **Barriers to Workforce Participation**

1. **Transportation** – major barrier for youth and underserved areas lacking transit access.
2. **Digital Literacy & AI Preparedness** – Importance of building workforce skills in tech, including Microsoft Office and AI tools.
3. **Language Barriers** – ESL learners often have experience and education but lack sufficient English for employment.
4. **Job Retention** – Many vulnerable populations face challenges not in hiring but in keeping jobs- issues like childcare, car troubles, and economic stability contribute.
5. **Layered Barriers** – Challenges are often compounded- transportation, language, time constraints, etc.
6. **Employer Caution** – Hiring has slowed; a “wait and see” environments. Market is steady but not expanding.
7. **Credential Recognition** – Educated immigrants face hurdles getting international degrees recognized; language testing adds difficulty.
8. **Housing Insecurity** – Funding cuts in safety-net services may push borderline-stable workers into greater precarity.

- **Policy & Systems Advocacy**

1. **WIOA Authorization** – Emphasis on staying informed and proactive about potential upcoming changes.
2. **Coordination Across Agencies** – Board aims to collect and amplify advocacy messages from partners.
3. **Federal/State Watch Points** – Laura Crivlare highlighted that IDHS, while state-run, is federally funded and monitoring funding shifts.

VII. **Announcements**

- **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 **9:42 AM**.