



LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 8:00 AM

College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus

Room C106

Present: John Castillo, Timothy Dempsey, Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Christian Fernandez, Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Christine Hammerlund, Jennifer Harris, Lisa Johnson, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer-Lepper, Rachel Loberg, Troy McIntosh, Kathy Nellis, Dr Darryl Rader, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Tasha Shell, Quinton Snodgrass, Dr. Lori Suddick, Ken Swanson, Amy VanStrien, Kimberly Wimer

Absent: Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Sara Knizhnik, Julie Savitt, Dr. Andrew Warrington

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

*The meeting was called to order on **Thursday, June 26, at 8:06 AM** by Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer.*

II. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

III. Chairman's Report.....

Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer delivered her final report, reflecting on her three years of service. She expressed sincere appreciation for the Board's support and recognized the Workforce Development staff for their commitment and responsiveness to change. Chairwoman Wimer emphasized the Board's accomplishments during her tenure and formally passed leadership to the incoming Chair, Dr. Carlotta Roman, and Vice Chair, Josh Fischer. The Board unanimously approved their appointments.

IV. Consent Agenda

The Board approved the following items:

- *April 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- *Memorandum of Understanding*
- *Quest Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant*

V. Action Items

- *Approval of the PY25 WIOA Grant Budget, which reflects a 24% funding increase. The budget includes strategic investments in youth engagement, apprenticeship, incumbent worker training, and professional development initiatives.*

VI. Regular Agenda

- **Leadership Recognition**

- i. *The Board formally recognized Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer for her outstanding leadership and contributions over the past three years. Her commitment to innovation, inclusive governance, financial sustainability, and strategic growth were acknowledged and applauded.*

- **Presentation: Parent Mentor and Paraprofessional Program**

- i. *A collaborative presentation was delivered by United Way Lake County and HACES (Hispanic American Community Education Services), highlighting the success of the Parent Mentor and Paraprofessional Program.*
 - ii. *Key Highlights:*
 1. *The partnership between United Way, HACES, and Waukegan Public Schol District aims to improve parent engagement, particularly among underrepresented communities.*
 2. *The program recruits, trains, and supports parents to serve as classroom mentors. Mentors receive professional development, stipends, and opportunities to advance their careers.*
 3. *Since inception, the program has impacted over 1,000 students across six schools, with plans to expand to eight schools in the upcoming year.*
 4. *United Way has invested over \$130,000 and contributed strategic resources in literacy and emotional development.*
 5. *Workforce Development's involvement has strengthened funding pathways and career pipelines for participants.*
 6. *A parent mentor, Adriana Ocampo, shared a personal testimony on how the program transformed her confidence, skills, and career aspirations.*
 7. *The program received the **Excellence in Collaboration Award** at the Illinois Workforce Summit.*

- **Youth Apprenticeship Recognition**

- i. *The Board celebrated the successful completion of the Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship Program. Of the 19 apprentices who enrolled, 15 graduated, including 2 staff members from Lake County Workforce Development.*

- **Budget Priorities Discussion**

- i. *Lake County Workforce Development Director Jennifer Serino presented the PY25 budget priorities, emphasizing alignment with community needs, expanded employer partnerships, innovation, and enhanced visibility. Key initiatives include:*

1. *Strategic reserve of \$656,000 to support future innovation*
2. *Expansion of in-school youth programs and employer-driven training*
3. *Increased engagement in apprenticeship and incumbent worker training*
4. *Greater investment in professional development, communications, and partnership-building*

VII. Announcements

- *The Summer Youth Employment Program successfully launched with 170 high school students placed at 40 work sites. Over 1,000 applications were received.*
- *The Manufacturing Alliance is currently hiring for a Director.*
- *The Board is exploring the use of Microsoft Teams as a centralized portal for document sharing and collaboration.*
- *No committee meetings are expected in July due to lack of voting business.*

VIII. Updates/Other Items

- *The Job Center continues to process approximately 15,000 applications annually.*
- *Workforce Development is actively seeking new funding streams beyond federal sources, focusing on sustainability and cross-sector partnerships.*
- *The Board praised the team's strategic agility and intentional alignment of resources to emerging workforce trends, including AI, youth programming, and employer engagement.*
- *Members expressed interest in exploring deeper ecosystem metrics and shared data frameworks, such as ALCIE data, to measure long-term impact.*

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **9:36 AM**.