

**LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 8:00 AM**  
**College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus**  
**Room A013**

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**Present:** John Castillo, Timothy Dempsey, Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Christian Fernandez, Josh Fischer, Christine Hammerlund, Laticia Holbert (Zoom), Lisa Johnson, Marcus Jordan (Zoom), Noelle Kischer-Lepper (Proxy), Kathy Nellis, Dr. Darryl Rader, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Julie Savitt (Zoom), Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Tasha Shell, Quinton Snodgrass, Dr. Lori Suddick, Ken Swanson, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer

**Absent:** Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare, Edward Gallagher, Jennifer Harris, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Sara Knizhnik, Rachel Loberg, Troy McIntosh, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Amy VanStrien

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**I. Call to Order..... Chairwoman, Dr. Carlotta Roman**

*The meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 8:10 AM by LCWD Board of Directors Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*Dr. Roman welcomed members and acknowledged the strong collaborative work across committees since the start of the program year. Dr. Roman highlighted recent workforce development successes, including employer partnerships, increased youth engagement, and expanded training programs.*

*Dr. Roman emphasized the importance of continued regional coordination and thanked the Executive Committee and staff for maintaining fiscal and programmatic stability through the first quarter of PY25.*

**IV. Workforce Development Month Recognition**

*September was recognized as Workforce Development Month. Dr. Roman highlighted the Job Center Staff and their activities celebrating workforce partners and programs throughout Lake County.*

## V. Consent Agenda

- a. *Approval of June 2025 LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- b. *Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Grant in the amount of \$275,000.*
- c. *Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Rapid Response Grant in the amount of \$350,000.*
- d. *Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Program Year 2025 Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$232,774.*
- e. *Approval to renew the subrecipient agreement with the College of Lake County (CLC) for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Hub Grant in the amount of \$2,750,000.*
- f. *Approval of revisions to the Job Center of Lake County Memorandum of Understanding.*
  - i. *Motion to approve the consent agenda was made and seconded.*
  - ii. *Motion carried unanimously.*

## VI. Other Business / Updates

- a. **Program Updates:** *Staff presented updates on WIOA performance metrics, grant activity, and community engagement. PY24 outcomes exceeded state targets in employment retention and credential attainment.*
- b. **Strategic Partnerships:** *Updates were provided on initiatives with the Manufacturing Alliance, College of Lake County, and United Way of Lake County.*
- c. **Youth Initiatives:** *The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) placed 175 youth at 45 worksites, with over 1,200 applications received.*
- d. **Employer Engagement:** *The Business Services Team reported over 300 employer contacts year-to-date, with strong participation in hiring events and job fairs.*
- e. **Innovation & Visibility:** *Discussion on continued outreach through the Job Center on the Move program and social media strategy to increase community awareness.*
- f. **Presentation:** *Preston Kendall, President of Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep*
  - i. *Representatives from Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep shared highlights from their Career Pathways and Work-Study Program, which prepares students for postsecondary success through early exposure to professional work environments.*
    - 1. *The presentation showcased how the Cristo Rey model aligns with WIOA youth engagement priorities*

2. *Students gain real-world experience with local employers, developing both career readiness and academic persistence.*
3. *Board members commended Cristo Rey for its impact and discussed opportunities for collaboration through employer networks and Job Center connections.*

**VII. Member Time**

- a. *Dr. Roman commended the committees for alignment around strategic goals and encouraged members to share workforce success stories with their networks.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.*