

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 8:00 AM
College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus
Room A013

Present: *John Castillo, Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare (Proxy), Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer, Edward Gallagher, Jennifer Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer-Lepper (Proxy), Rachel Loberg, Troy McIntosh, Dr. Darryl Rader, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Tasha Shell, Quinton Snodgrass, Ken Swanson, Amy Van Strien, Kimberly Wimer*

Absent: *Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Christian Fernandez, Laticia Holbert, Lisa Johnson, Sara Knizhnik, Kathy Nellis, Julie Savitt, Dr. Lori Suddick, Dr. Andrew Warrington*

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

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 8:02 AM by Board of Directors Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.

II. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

III. Chair Report

No chair report.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- b. Approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule*
 - i. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made and seconded.*
 - ii. Motion carried unanimously.*

V. Regular Business

- a. Manufacturing Sector Training RFP*

- i. Authorize staff to enter negotiations with **Symbol Training Institute** to develop a contract for manufacturing sector training and workforce development services, for an amount up to \$340,000, consistent with the proposal submitted.
 1. Motion to approve was made and seconded.
 2. Motion carried unanimously.

b. WIOA Education Sector Strategy RFP

- i. Authorize staff to enter negotiations with **United Way of Lake County** for implementation of the WIOA Education Sector Strategy: Expanding Parent Mentor Models Through District Partnerships initiative, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
- ii. Jennifer Serino reminded the Board that this program was presented at the June Board Meeting. It recently received statewide recognition from **the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board**, earning a **Collaborative Program Award** for its community impact and strong cross-partnership design.
 1. Motion to approve was made and seconded.
 2. One abstention was noted.

c. AI Implementation RFP

- i. Authorize staff to enter negotiations with **Deloitte Consulting LLP** to develop a contract for implementation of the WIOA Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workforce Innovation Initiative, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, consistent with the proposal submitted.
- ii. Lake County Workforce Development Project Analyst, Eric Nordstrom, provided an overview of the initiative, which positions Lake County Workforce Development as a leader in AI literacy, training, and local employer readiness.
- iii. Deloitte will provide:
 1. A six-month research and impact report,
 2. Support in curriculum design,
 3. Access to their AI Academy platform,
 4. Staff and employer training modules,
 5. 100+ hours of direct consultation for Lake County small businesses.
- iv. Total project term: 18 months.

- v. *Board members emphasized the importance of staying ahead of rapid technological shifts affecting workforce and employer needs.*
 - 1. *Motion to approve was made and seconded.*
 - 2. *One abstention was noted.*

VI. Member Time

a. College of Lake County – Innovation Bridge Transition Grant

- i. *Dr. Tasha Shell (College of Lake County) announced that the college secured a \$253,000+ Innovation Bridge Transition Grant to expand support for:*
 - 1. *Non-native English speakers*
 - 2. *Students needing readiness support for college-level reading and writing*
- ii. *This grant will enhance academic and transition supports and aligns with workforce pathways for adult learners.*

b. Pace Suburban Bus – Transit Funding Update

- i. *Edward Gallagher (Pace Suburban Bus) reported that Senate Bill 2111 passed, providing full transit funding for northeastern Illinois. Key implications:*
 - 1. *No fare increases anticipated*
 - 2. *Service enhancements planned, including expanded weekend and late-evening service*
 - 3. *A county-wide system revision begins early 2026, targeting approximately a 10% increase in service levels*

c. Federal and State Legislative Update – Workforce Funding

- i. *Jennifer Serino (Lake County Workforce Development) provided updates on federal workforce legislation:*
 - 1. *Federal government shutdown did not impact WIOA funding; all grants remain appropriated.*
 - 2. *Congress is showing renewed interest in WIOA reauthorization.*
 - 3. *Discussion continues regarding a requirement that 50% of funds be used solely for training, though definitions differ from existing Illinois policy.*
 - 4. *Current proposals do not support converting WIOA into a block grant.*
 - 5. *Another major proposal under review:*
 - a. *Giving Governors the authority to reconfigure local workforce areas; potential consolidation (some states have only one workforce board).*

b. Illinois has 22 local areas; no decisions or discussions have begun within the State.

d. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)

i. Jennifer Harris (Kemper) shared updates from NAWB:

- 1. Next Board Meeting in January*
- 2. CEO search is underway, interim CEO in place*
- 3. 2026 NAWB Forum will be held in Las Vegas, a change from its long-standing location in Washington D.C.*
- 4. NAWB continues to track federal legislative developments and policy shifts*

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWDB Finance & Compliance Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 8:00 AM via Zoom*