

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 8:15 AM
Job Center of Lake County

Present: Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare (Zoom), Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer (Zoom), Jennifer Harris (Zoom), Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner (Zoom), Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Kimberly Wimer

Absent: Edward Gallagher, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Dr. Lori Suddick, Dr. Andrew Warrington

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

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 8:15 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.

II. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

III. Chair Report

Dr. Carlotta Roman provided opening remarks and emphasized the Executive Committee's role in ensuring alignment across Board priorities, committee work, and system operations. Dr. Roman highlighted the importance of maintaining strategic focus while continuing to respond to emerging workforce and employer needs.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. October 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- i. Motion to approve.*
- ii. Motion seconded.*
- iii. Motion carried unanimously.*

V. Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)

*a. Authorize to award **\$79,617 in Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) funds to Polar Wire Products** for operational, safety, and leadership training during Program Year 2025.*

- i. Motion to approve: Kevin Considine*
- ii. Motion seconded: Kimberly Wimer*

- iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Authorize to award \$52,000 in Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) funds to Amcor Flexibles for advanced manufacturing and leadership training during Program Year 2025.**
 - i. *Motion to approve: Kevin Considine*
 - ii. *Motion seconded: Kimberly Wimer*
 - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- c. **Approve modifications to Policy 7 – On-the-Job Training to align with DCEO guidance and to support expanded use of OJT for DOL registered apprenticeship programs.**
 - i. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - ii. *Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*
 - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- d. **Accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Career Planner Training Academy supporting Illinois Workforce Development System (IWDS) 2.0 in the amount of \$119,123.05.**
 - i. *Motion to approve: Kevin Considine*
 - ii. *Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey*
 - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. Strategic Focus

- a. *Strategic Discussion was tabled for this meeting.*

VII. Other Business / Updates

a. WIOA Compliance Update: Job Center MOU, WIOA Regional and Local Plans

- i. *Board staff provided updates related to WIOA compliance requirements, including progress on the Job Center Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the WIOA Regional and Local Plans.*
 - 1. *Staff noted that work continues to ensure all required agreements and plans remain compliant with state and federal guidance.*
 - 2. *Updates included coordination with required partners and alignment with state timelines.*
 - 3. *The Executive Committee will be kept informed as documents advance toward review and approval.*

b. Workforce Development Department & Grant Activity Updates

- i. Board staff shared updates on Workforce Development Department activities and grant-related efforts, including:*
 - 1. Ongoing implementation of existing grants and initiatives*
 - 2. Continued pursuit of funding opportunities aligned with Board priorities*
 - 3. Coordination across departments to support program delivery and sustainability*

c. State and National Workforce Updates

- i. Board staff provided brief state and national workforce updates, including:*
 - 1. Monitoring of state-level workforce policy and guidance*
 - 2. Updates from nation workforce organizations and partners*
 - 3. Continued tracking of federal activity that may impact workforce funding or operations*

d. LCWDB Recognition Breakfast

- i. Board staff shared updates on upcoming recognition breakfast*
- ii. Thursday, April 2, 2026*
- iii. Formal meeting invite and details to be shared soon*

VIII. Member Time

- a. Kevin Considine shared information regarding the upcoming **Lake County Partners Big Event** scheduled for April. Kevin noted that the event will bring together regional partners to collaborate, share resources, and strengthen cross-sector relationships across Lake County. Kevin emphasized the value of convening partners to support alignment, collective impact, and continued collaboration in addressing workforce and community needs.*

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 AM.

Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan

Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey

Motion carried unanimously.