

**LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 8:00 AM**  
**College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus**  
**Room A013**

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**Present:** John Castillo, Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey (Zoom), Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Laticia Holbert (Zoom), Lisa Johnson, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Quinton Snodgrass, Dr. Lori Suddick, Ken Swanson, Amy Van Strien, Dr. Andrew Warrington

**Absent:** Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Christian Fernandez, Jennifer Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer-Lepper, Troy McIntosh, Kathy Nellis, Dr. Darryl Rader, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Julie Savitt, Dr. Tasha Shell, Kimberly Wimer

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

*The meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 8:04 AM by Board of Directors Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*Chairwoman Dr. Roman provided several key updates and announcements. She highlighted the upcoming **CEJA Workforce Hub Tour and Completion Celebration**, noting its importance in advancing clean energy workforce initiatives and expanding equitable career pathways.*

*She also shared information on the **2026 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**, emphasizing its role in providing meaningful work experiences for youth across Lake County and encouraging continued outreach and support.*

Additionally, Dr. Roman noted that a small delegation will be attending the upcoming **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum**, taking place in March, and invited interested members to reach out regarding potential registration availability.

Finally, Dr. Roman introduced and welcomed **new Board member Laticia Holbert of ComEd**, acknowledging her addition to the Board and the value of her perspective and partnership.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- a. *December 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- b. *Approve modifications to Policy 7 – On-The-Job Training (OJT) to align with DCEO guidance and to support expanded use of OJT for DOL registered apprenticeship programs.*
- c. *Accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Career Planning Training Academy supporting the Illinois Workforce Development System (IWDS) 2.0 in the amount of \$119,123.05.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: John Castillo*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)**

- a. *No regular business items were brought to the table.*

**VI. Strategic Focus**

*The Board engaged in a strategic discussion centered on employer engagement and the Board’s role in strengthening relationships with the business community. This conversation was built upon themes identified in prior discussions, including the Board retreat and recent feedback sessions.*

*Board members discussed the importance of developing a more coordinated and intentional approach to employer engagement across the workforce system. Emphasis was placed on aligning services with employer needs, improving communication with business partners, and ensuring that programs are responsive to current and emerging labor market demands.*

*Board members explored opportunities to enhance engagement through stronger partnerships, increased visibility within the business community, and expanded work-based learning opportunities. The conversation also highlighted the value of leveraging Board members' networks and expertise to support outreach and relationship-building efforts.*

*Additionally, there was discussion around creating a more seamless system for employers to access workforce services, as well as the importance of gathering and utilizing employer feedback to inform program design and continuous improvement.*

*Overall, the discussion reinforced the Board's commitment to strengthening employer engagement as a key driver of workforce system effectiveness and regional economic growth.*

## **VII. Other Business / Updates**

### **a. The Workforce Impact Awards**

- i. The LCWDB team members shared an update on the upcoming Workforce Impact Awards event, highlighting its purpose in recognizing outstanding contributions and successes across the workforce system. Board members were encouraged to attend and support the event.*

### **b. Deloitte Presentation at April Board of Directors Meeting**

- i. LCWD team members shared that Deloitte Consulting, LLP will present their "AI Research and Impact Report" for Lake County, providing insights relevant to workforce strategy and system development.*

## **VIII. Member Time**

### **a. Several members shared updates and announcements:**

- i. Kevin Considine shared information regarding the **Lake County Partners "Big Event" in April**, highlighting its role in bringing together regional leaders and partners to support economic development and collaboration.*
- ii. Ed Gallagher provided an update on **Pace Bus's Reimagine Network initiative**, noting its impact on regional transportation planning and accessibility for workforce participants.*

- iii. *Dr. Lori Suddick shared information recognizing **Black History Month programming at the College of Lake County**, highlighting ongoing efforts to celebrate and engage the community.*
- iv. *Jeff Hubert, Business Services Manager, announced the upcoming **5th Annual Educator Job Fair**, noting its importance in connecting education professionals with employment opportunities.*

## **IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 AM.*

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting

- Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 8:00 AM
- College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus – Room A013