

**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM**  
**Job Center of Lake County**

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**Present:** Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer, Jennifer Harris (Zoom), Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner (Zoom), Dennis Kessler (Zoom), Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Lori Suddick (Proxy – Ali O’Brien), Dr. Andrew Warrington

**Absent:** Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Ed Gallagher, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Kimberly Wimer

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

*The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 8:20 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*Chairwoman Dr. Roman reflected on the recent Workforce Impact Awards, highlighting strong attendance, engagement from partners, employers, and the community, and the meaningful impact of participant success stories. The event showcased achievements across workforce programs, including youth initiatives and employer partnerships, and received positive feedback with interest in continuing the event annually.*

*It was also noted that Dr. Lori Suddick will be resigning from the College of Lake County, and appreciation was expressed for her leadership and partnership. Continued collaboration with the College was emphasized despite the leadership transition.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- a. February 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- b. *Approve revisions to Policy 22: Employer Incentives – Apprenticeships to maintain an ongoing local policy framework for employer incentive payments under the Apprenticeship Illinois Expansion Grant.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

- a. *Approve the 2026 modification to the Local and Regional Plans for 2024–2028 for Local Workforce Innovation Area 1, including Chapters 1–3 Regional Components and Chapters 4–6 Local Components, and authorize staff to submit the approved modification package to the State of Illinois in accordance with WIOA and Illinois planning guidance.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- b. *Approve the Program Year 2026 Memorandum of Understanding and cost sharing agreement for the Job Center of Lake County.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Marcus Jordan*
  - iii. *Motion was approved with one abstention - Dr. Suddick (Proxy Ali O'Brien) with the College of Lake County.*
- c. *Approve the selection of a One-Stop Operator for the Job Center of Lake County through the completed competitive procurement process and authorize Workforce Development to finalize and execute an agreement for One-Stop Operator services for a three-year term in an amount not to exceed \$46,455 annually.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. *Motions seconded: Timothy Dempsey*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- d. *Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) In-School Youth Career Readiness and Work-Based Learning agreements with the following entities selected through an RFP process: Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, Lake County Regional Office of Education, North Chicago Community Unit School District 187,*

*and Grayslake Community High School District 127, in amounts not to exceed \$138,000 each.*

- i. Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. Motion carried with one abstention - Dr. Michael Karner with the Lake County Regional Office of Education.*
- e. Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate renewals with the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce and the Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills Chamber of Commerce, in amounts not to exceed \$75,000 each, based on performance and available funds.*
- i. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
  - ii. Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **VI. Strategic Focus**

- a. The Committee engaged in an in-depth strategic discussion focused on strengthening the workforce system through:*
  - i. **Employer Engagement** - Members discussed the importance of deepening relationships with employers to better understand hiring needs, skills gaps, and evolving workforce demands. Emphasis was placed on:*
    - 1. Building long-term employer partnerships rather than transactional engagement*
    - 2. Increasing employer participation in workforce programming*
    - 3. Leveraging employer input to shape training and talent development strategies*
  - ii. **Industry Sector Partnerships** - Discussion also centered on enhancing sector-based approaches to workforce development by:*
    - 1. Aligning training programs with high-demand industries*
    - 2. Coordinating efforts across education, workforce, and economic development partners*
    - 3. Creating clearer pathways for job seekers into priority sectors*

- b. *Members emphasized the need for stronger alignment across committees to support these priorities and ensure measurable outcomes tied to employment, retention, and career advancement.*

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

- a. **NAWB Forum Recap** – *DJ Newport shared key takeaways from the National Association of Workforce Boards Forum, including emerging national trends, innovative workforce strategies, and opportunities to apply best practices locally. Topics included employer-driven models, sector partnerships, and the evolving role of workforce boards.*
- b. **Illinois Workforce Partnership / Association** – *Jennifer Serino shared an update on the transition from a partnership model to a more formal statewide workforce association. This includes the development of a structured membership model and increased focus on statewide advocacy and legislative engagement.*
- c. **Lake County Workforce Ecosystem / Lake County Workforce Collaborative** – *Ongoing work to strengthen the local workforce ecosystem was discussed, including efforts to align workforce, education, and economic development partners through the Lake County Workforce Collaborative. This includes shared goals, coordinated strategies, and improved measurement of collective impact.*
- d. **DCEO Monitoring & Lake County Single Audit** – *Updates were provided regarding recent monitoring activities conducted by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), as well as the status of the Lake County single audit. No major findings or concerns were reported at this time.*
- e. **State and Federal Updates** - *General updates were shared regarding workforce-related developments at the state and federal levels, including funding outlooks, policy considerations, and emerging priorities that may impact local workforce programming.*

## **VIII. Member Time**

- a. *A reminder regarding the upcoming **Lake County Partners “Big Event,”** highlighting its importance for regional collaboration and economic development engagement.*

## **IX. Adjournment**

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

**Upcoming Meetings:**

***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 8:15 AM*
- *Job Center of Lake County*

***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM*
- *Job Center of Lake County*

***LCWD Board of Directors Meeting***

- *Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:00 AM*
- *College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus (Room C106)*