

**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 8:15 AM**

**Zoom**

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**Present:** *Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Jennfier Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer*

**Absent:** *Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Mary Ross-Cunningham*

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

*The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 8:19 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*No formal Chair Report was provided. Prior to the start of the meeting, Jennifer Serino shared information regarding the State of Illinois' upcoming implementation of a new workforce case management and performance management system, IWDS 2.0, scheduled to launch July 1, 2026. Discussion focused on the anticipated impact on participant enrollment service delivery, employer engagement, and staff training. Members discussed the transition to a more customer-driven process and the importance of supporting customers as they navigate the new system.*

**IV. Business**

**a. PY'26 Allocations**

- i. Staff presented the Program Year 2026 WIOA formula allocations. Total funding for PY26 is \$6,864,406, representing a decrease of approximately 19% from PY25.*

*Funding allocations include:*

1. Youth: \$1,996,598
  2. Adult: \$1,836,588
  3. Dislocated Worker: \$3,031,220
- ii. Discussion focused on planning strategies to manage reduced funding levels while maintaining service delivery, training investments, and work-based learning opportunities. Staff reviewed required expenditure thresholds and compliance requirements associated with each funding stream.

**b. Strategies and Budget**

- i. Staff reviewed budget planning efforts and funding projections for the upcoming program year. Discussion included anticipated grant funding, staffing considerations, and strategies to align available resources with Board priorities.
- ii. Updates were provided on:
  1. Apprenticeship funding opportunities
  2. CEJA program continuation
  3. Summer Youth Employment Program funding
  4. SkillBridge initiatives
  5. County-supported workforce investments
- iii. Staff discussed efforts to secure additional funding to expand youth employment opportunities, particularly for older youth transitioning from high school into employment.

**c. Apprenticeship Grant**

- i. Staff reported that the Apprenticeship Grant application had recently been submitted. The proposed grant includes funding for staffing, employer incentives, and expanded apprenticeship opportunities through a regional partnership with McHenry County Workforce Network.
- ii. Discussion focused on strengthening apprenticeship pathways and increasing employer participation in work-based learning opportunities.

**d. CEJA Renewal**

- i. Staff provided an update on the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) program renewal. The renewal request maintains current funding levels and program structure while continuing to support workforce development activities related to clean energy career pathways.

- ii. *Members discussed continued demand for training and employment opportunities within the clean energy sector and the importance of sustaining services for participants seeking careers in emerging industries.*

**e. WIOA Opportunity Youth Contract Performance & Status**

- i. *Staff presented performance and fiscal updates for Opportunity Youth providers and recommendations regarding contract renewals.*

**1. 160 Driving Academy**

- a. *Met enrollment, skills gain, and credential attainment benchmarks.*
- b. *Employment outcomes remain below target and will continue to be monitored.*
- c. *Renewal recommended for PY27.*

**2. Youth Conservation Corps**

- a. *Met enrollment expectations and exceeded benchmark requirements for skills gains and credentials.*
- b. *Renewal recommended for PY27.*

**3. SGA Youth & Family Services**

- a. *Documented enrollment and service activity but did not meet performance benchmarks related to skills gains, credentials, or employment outcomes.*
- b. *Staff recommended that the contract not be renewed beyond June 30, 2026.*
- c. *Discussion focused on participant transition planning, closeout activities, and performance accountability.*

**V. Strategic Focus**

**a. Committee Action Plans**

- i. *Committee members reviewed progress and priorities associated with each standing committee.*

**1. Operations Committee**

- a. *Discussion focused on digital literacy, participant access to technology, and operational strategies that support service delivery across the workforce system.*

## **2. Talent Pipeline Committee**

- a. Members discussed efforts to strengthen career pathways, youth engagement, employer partnerships, and educational alignment.*

## **3. Employer Connections Committee**

- a. Discussion centered on industry sector partnerships, employer engagement strategies, work-based learning opportunities, and efforts to align workforce programs with employer needs.*
- b. Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining alignment among committee priorities and ensuring that committee activities support the Board's overall strategic direction.*

### **b. Board Consultant Update**

- i. Staff provided an update regarding ongoing work with the Board consultant. Discussion focused on governance, strategic planning, committee effectiveness, performance measurement, and opportunities to strengthen Board engagement in advancing workforce system goals.*

## **VI. Other Business / Updates**

- a. Staff provided updates regarding:*
  - i. State workforce system changes and implementation of the new case management platform.*
  - ii. Pending grant opportunities and funding applications.*
  - iii. Workforce trends and labor market conditions.*
  - iv. Ongoing efforts related to digital literacy, AI readiness, and workforce innovation initiatives.*
  - v. Preparations for upcoming Board and Committee meetings.*
- b. Discussion also included continued collaboration with Deloitte regarding artificial intelligence and the integration of AI literacy into workforce programming and digital literacy initiatives.*

## **VII. Member Time**

- a. Nothing was shared during this meeting.*

## **VIII. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 AM.*

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

#### ***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM*

#### ***LCWD Board of Directors Meeting***

- *Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:15 AM*