

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM****Job Center of Lake County**

Present: Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey, Edward Gallagher, Jennifer Harris (Zoom), Dr. Kristen Jones, Marcus Jordan (Zoom), Dr. Michael Karner (Zoom), Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Kimberly Wimer (Zoom)

Absent: Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Josh Fischer, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Dr. Andrew Warrington

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

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:22 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.

II. Public Comment

*Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman welcomed attendees and invited introductions. During introductions, members welcomed **Dr. Kristen Jones, Interim President of the College of Lake County**, who joined the meeting and shared brief remarks regarding her new role and her interest in continuing the College's partnership with the Lake County Workforce Development Board and workforce system initiatives.*

III. Chair Report

Dr. Roman shared that Lake County Workforce Development and the Job Center of Lake County were recently recognized by the Legacy Reentry Foundation and received the Relentless Hope Award. She highlighted the strong partnership between the organizations and the collective impact being made to support individuals seeking employment, career advancement, and successful reentry into the workforce. The award recognized collaborative efforts to strengthen workforce opportunities and community engagement throughout Lake County.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. April 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*
- b. May 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*
 - i. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - ii. Motion seconded: Dennis Kessler*
 - iii. Motion carried.*

V. Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)

- a. Approve the Program Year 26 WIOA Formula Grant Budget and Participant Plan for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth.***
 - i. Jennifer Serino reviewed the Program Year 2026 WIOA formula allocations and budget recommendations. Lake County received a total allocation of \$6,864,406, representing a decrease of approximately 19 percent from Program Year 2025.*
 - ii. Discussion focused on federal funding formula changes and unemployment rate impacts; maintaining staffing and service levels despite reduced allocations; leveraging supplemental funding sources including CEJA, apprenticeship, rapid response, SkillBridge, and other grants; and strategic investments in training, support services, and workforce programs.*
 - iii. Staff highlighted that additional grant funding has allowed the organization to maintain staffing levels, expand services, and continue investments in workforce development despite reductions in formula funding.*
 - 1. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - 2. Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*
 - 3. Motion carried.*
- b. Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate renewals with 160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps based on performance, continuing service need, and availability of WIOA out-of-school youth funds.***
 - i. Staff reviewed performance outcomes for WIOA Out-of-School Youth Providers. Discussion included enrollment, measurable skills gains, credential attainment, employment outcomes, and continued service need.*
 - ii. Both 160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps demonstrated sufficient performance and alignment with workforce priorities. Members also discussed the*

availability of WIOA Out-of-School Youth funding and the importance of maintaining service capacity for eligible youth.

- 1. Motion to approve: Dennis Kessler*
- 2. Motion seconded: Ed Gallagher*
- 3. Motion carried.*
- 4. Timothy Dempsey abstained.*

c. Approve Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects as a workforce strategy to expand service capacity, strengthen community and employer partnerships, and support Board-aligned priorities. Pilot agreements would be developed within established funding parameters, with individual agreements not to exceed \$50,000 and total pilot authority not to exceed \$200,000.

- i. Staff presented a proposal to establish Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects as a workforce strategy designed to expand service capacity, strengthen community and employer partnerships, and support Board-aligned workforce priorities.*
- ii. Discussion focused on leveraging trusted community organizations to extend workforce services, expanding access to underserved populations, building stronger employer and community partnerships, and supporting innovative workforce solutions through targeted pilot investments.*
 - 1. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - 2. Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*
 - 3. Motion carried.*

d. Approve the creation of a Youth and Young Adult Workforce Advisory Group to support the Board's youth and young adult workforce strategy.

- i. Staff presented a proposal to establish a Youth and Young Adult Workforce Advisory Group to support the Board's youth and young adult workforce strategy.*
- ii. Discussion focused on strengthening connections between workforce development, education, employers, and young adults; expanding career pathway awareness and work-based learning opportunities; providing input on emerging workforce trends impacting young people; and supporting long-term talent pipeline development efforts.*
 - 1. Motion to approve: Dr. Kristen Jones*
 - 2. Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey*

3. *Motion carried.*

e. *Authorize acceptance of WIOA Rapid Response Grant, in the amount of \$440,000 for the grant period of April 1, 2026, through December 30, 2027.*

i. *Staff presented the WIOA Rapid Response Grant award in the amount of \$440,000 for the grant period of April 1, 2026, through December 30, 2027.*

ii. *Discussion focused on the flexibility of rapid response funding, support for workers impact by layoffs and business closures, workforce transition services and reemployment activities, and opportunities to supplement existing workforce programs and initiatives.*

1. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*

2. *Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*

3. *Motion carried.*

f. *Approve the Nominating Committee's recommended Slate of Officers for PY'26.*

i. *The Nominating Committee presented the recommended Program Year 2026 Slate of Officers:*

1. *Chair: Dr. Carlotta Roman*

2. *Vice Chair: Josh Fischer*

a. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*

b. *Motion seconded: Ed Gallagher*

c. *Motion carried.*

VI. Other Business / Updates

a. *Federal and State Updates*

i. *Staff provided updates regarding:*

1. *Apprenticeship grant activities and expansion efforts.*

2. *CEJA programming and workforce training initiatives.*

3. *Workforce system modernization efforts, including IWDS 2.0 implementation.*

4. *Ongoing grant opportunities and funding applications.*

5. *Upcoming workforce development events and initiatives.*

VII. Member Time

- a. *Jeff Hubert provided an update on the upcoming **Hire Lake County Job Fair**, highlighting opportunities for employers and job seekers to connect through the event. He encouraged workforce partners to promote the job fair and support outreach efforts to both businesses and job seekers throughout the county.*

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey

Motion seconded: Kevin Considine

Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting

- *Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:00 AM, CLC – Grayslake Campus – Room C106*

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting

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