



CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Present: George Wright, Jacki Robinson-Ivy, Haven Allen, Xochitl Flores, Michael Jacobson, Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, Dan Lyonsmith, Rich Monocchio, Andrea Kluger proxy for Robert Reiter, Marc Shulman, Carrie Thomas, Juan Salgado, Liisa Stark, Mary Howard proxy for Tracey Scott

Quorum? Yes

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Called the meeting to order after confirming a quorum is present. He then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March Board meeting. Ms. Carrie Thomas moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Mary Howard seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion was approved with 2 abstentions.

MR GEORGE WRIGHT invited Patrick Combs to present the CEO Report.

MR. COMBS: Thank you, George. I'm proud to point out some of our great staff that are joining us this morning. These meetings are always a great opportunity to say thank you to the amazing people that keep The Partnership going. We have Illona Sheffey Rawlings, Amy Santacaterina, Cory Muldoon, Claudia Cattouse Regalado, Patricia Moore, Marisa Lewis, Jan Terry, Dave Swanson, Mike Balcsik Adrian Vargas, Jesus Ramirez, Renata Kozak, Irene Ortega, Chris Strom, Sarah Lewis-Weaver, Jose Mota, Anne Hogan, Efren Tirado, Kit White, and Kathleen Brannigan.

We invite all staff to attend the WIB and Committee meetings which helps them to really get a sense of the full process of how the funds are decided on and distributed.

Last week we participated in the workforce symposium, hosted at Malcolm X. It was put on by the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance along with The Partnership last Friday. Others helping with the event were World Business Chicago, Chicago Jobs Council and Cook County, especially Bureau of Economic Development. We had numerous staff present who participated on panels throughout the day. About 220 workforce professionals attended and the program was designed as an opportunity to learn from the best about how to do the work better and ways to move forward. Often, we see front line staff with a high level of burnout, so this event was kind of a thank you to them, and an uplifting one too. They gained knowledge along with resources and tools to work with. Mayor Lightfoot helped kick off this event, and President Preckwinkle helped close it out.

From our staff, we had some special participation that I'd like to call out. Cory Muldoon and his participation on the Navigator model which has been very successful. Michael Cannon, one of our reentry navigators helped talk about our reentry initiatives that help those coming out in



incarceration get great jobs. Michael is the best voice in Chicago to speak on these issues. And a big shout out to Kit White, who doesn't get her name shouted too often but she's incredible. She's a Senior Policy Analyst on Marisa Lewis' team and she stepped in at the last minute when some people scheduled had to cancel for illness. Kit joined in with Carrie Thomas and Julio Rodrigues on a panel and Kit did a fantastic job. We are very lucky to have her on our team!

MR. PATRICK COOMBS shared information about the Good Jobs Chicago Challenge. We learned early in August that we were one of the 32 national awardees out of 509 nationally for the Good Jobs Challenge by the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. This was the most competitive grant we ever applied for and won. This grant will allow us to change not only how we structure our services but how we do workforce development in the city and county.

Although we are considered the Systems Lead Entity, this was not a solo initiative. What is impactful was bringing partners, agencies, and area organizations together back in January 2022. Our discussion was based on doing something good for the city and the region. Together we put in the application with very broad concepts, focusing on creating and enhancing sector partnerships that are employer led. We expect to reach out to communities to provide good jobs and services. We are calling it family wealth building jobs. Our intent is not to focus on family sustaining jobs with the grant, but instead focus on wealth building wages to increase economic mobility and help families and individuals change their trajectory in life. We will focus on career pathways that do not end at entry level positions, but instead with second stage jobs, which are after entry level.

Each sector partner will have a "backbone". In healthcare, it's Chicagoland Health Workforce Collaborative backed by Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. And for mason technology, which will be P33, would also support Discovery Partners Institute. Manufacturing which will be CMISP, which is the Calumet Manufacturing Industry Sector Partnership, which was headlined by OAI and the backbone being also Cook County Bureau of Economic Development. And TDL is a collaboration between Olive-Harvey College and YWCA.

Other partners that we've reached out to include NEWS, The Network of Employer-Led Workforce Solutions, Lift Chicago, to provide financial literacy and financial empowerment counseling, Women Employed, and World Business Chicago so Michael Fassnacht and his team with Adam Levine as lead, are expecting to bring the business along. Moraine Valley has provided support on this too.

The PowerPoint provides additional details. Feel free to reach out to The Partnership with any questions.

Additionally, CMISP is one of the older more established partners we have in the manufacturing sector that focuses on south of Chicago. They will be expanding to focus on building up a CMISP West program, to reach out to the large number of manufacturers there. Shout out to mHub and Haven Allen.



Patrick clarified that this is an \$18.5M award, but most of that funding is for training in career pathways. Year 1 is focused on system development so only a little over \$1M will flow in this first year, with \$8.5 flowing in Year 2 and Year 3 when we do the actual training.

We have a real opportunity as we come out of the pandemic to do things better and do things differently. This grant will help us with that.

Patrick thanked the Board members for allowing him to speak on something that he is very passionate about. He's happy to answer any questions, and if anyone wants to go to lunch, he'd be there.

CO-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thanked Patrick and noted that this is indeed a “bid dang deal” for The Partnership and for the region!

MR. SCHULMAN: Patrick does this lead to other grants or is it so big it really won't be repeated?

MR. COMBS: This grant is high value and high prestige, but it's not the biggest monetary grant. But what it does give is the framework and leverage to go after other different grants and we can use the consortium and the framework when the state releases their Clean Energy Jobs Act in a few months. We will have the team in place to go after these kinds of opportunity with the ability to build from there.

MS. THOMAS: I think it's worthwhile to underscore that this is a huge leap forward from the sector based One-Stops to the Good Jobs Challenge. Having all the partners such as Lift at the table is important. Thank you all for this.

MR. COMBS: Added that there was a convening last week of workforce leaders from across the county. He attended and along with Patrick Clancy from Philadelphia, who also won a Good Jobs Challenge award, they were often asked what our projects were and how we got the funding.

MR. COMBS: Reported on the Youth Committee meeting held on Tuesday. There were no votes at this meeting, but discussion centered around the upcoming release of the Youth Request for Proposal (RFP) which will be released early next year. We are at the planning stage, examining our past Youth results and exploring how to write the RFP to keep it centered on youth voice and equity, so we design solutions that meets them where they are at and help with their plans where they want to go.

Norman Clark from Thrive shared that they often do youth focus groups and can help us with that also.



The Youth Committee had a guest, Mr. Maurice McCauley, who is a Program Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. One thing that Maurice shared is that he's visiting Chicago after hearing great things about The Partnership and our partner organizations and is focusing on learning how to strengthen career pathways for students by learning from the organizations that are doing it well.

Draft FY2023 WIOA Budget

Patrick Combs reported on the Finance Committee recent meeting, noting that the budget is roughly the same as the previous year in terms of WIOA Formula Funding. We were lucky that the state was cut about 10% in funding while we took a half a percent cut due to the great need in our region. The other issue is that we have received multiple Dislocated Worker funding grants over the past few years in response to the pandemic. A lot of these are beginning to sunset, so our Dislocated Workers funds are being reduced. We are now in the process of applying with the state for the National Dislocated Quest Grant which would replace most of the funding that we are losing. This is not listed in the budget at this time as it has not been approved or released by DOL yet.

The following items were voted on by the Workforce Innovation Board.

Action Items:

1. On-the-Job Training (OJT) Policy Letter Revisions
Motion moved by Rich Monocchio, seconded by Carrie Thomas. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.
2. Training Provider Recertifications
Motion moved by Rich Monocchio, seconded by Xochitl Flores. After adjustment to the motion by Sylvia Jenkins to remove OHC CDL A from the recertifications list as it had already been recertified, a roll call vote was taken. Motion passed with 2 recusals.
3. WIOA funding Recommendations for Delegate Agencies (Adult and Dislocated Worker)
Motion moved by George Wright, seconded by Carrie Thomas. After a roll call vote the motion passed with one recusal.
4. WIOA funding Recommendations for Career Pathways and Bridge Programs
Motion moved by Mary Howard, seconded Michael Jacobson. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
5. WIOA funding Recommendations for One Stop Operator
Motion moved by Rich Monocchio, seconded by Dan Lyonsmith. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
6. Draft FY2023 WIOA Budget
Motion moved by Rich Monocchio, seconded by Haven Allen. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.



MS. BECKY RAYMOND provided the OSO report. She thanked the WIB for their on-going support of their work.

Highlights from the past quarter include 2 new hires which includes a new Facilities Coordinator/Project Coordinator Camilla Benjamin. Her focus will be to ensure consistency amount the AJCs with branding and customer access.

Becky noted that we are proud of the team that we have created and most of them have been retained since our start with The Partnership. In our efforts to increase our communications from what we share with this Committee and the Board to reaching out to the partners at the One Stop, we have developed a scheduled quarterly communication that covers items like AJC Orientation, informational materials, customer satisfaction and cross training. The QR code on the PowerPoint will take you to the link for the report. We'll be implementing this next month.

We held a systemwide meeting of 135 attendees in June that focused on digital equity. Marisa Lewis, as a subject matter expert, presented on Digital Equity and inclusion. Topics ranged from helping individuals build skills to getting connected through broadband and their devices. It's our intention to go deeper into these timely issues as we move along with future meetings.

Becky reviewed the Dashboard that has been developed with the goal to use this tool to encourage participation and engagement among the partners. The Dashboard is used at every monthly partner meeting. Another tool that is being used is the Customer Satisfaction survey. Originally it was challenging to build a survey when we were in the midst of a pandemic with AJCs closed, but now that centers have reopened for the most part, we have been able to start gaining information from the customers. We also have a survey that is used for those who are attending a workshop. These tools will lead to a continuous improvement process across our workforce system.

Additionally, Becky shared that she has been asked to chair the Statewide Service Integration Work Group for IWIB. We'll be able to share lessons learned and how service integration can be improved upon. It will be exciting to share the work we've been doing here in LWIA07 across the state and learn from other LWIAs about best practices and see what we can implement here.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Called for Public Comment. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by George Wright and seconded by Haven Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY adjourned the meeting at 11:24 am.