

CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD
Report of proceedings had at the Chicago
Cook Workforce Innovation Board Quarterly Meeting, held
at 69 West Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Room D,
Chicago, Illinois, on the 18th day of June, A.D., 2024,
commencing at the hour of 10:31 a.m.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: All right. It is 10:30.

Does everybody have a seat?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I brought mine.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: That was a good one. That was a good one.

Let's go directly to Amelia.

MS. FULGHAM: Good morning, everyone. It's wonderful to see a room full. I don't know if it's because of the room or all of us attending here today.

If you haven't met me, my name is Amelia Fulgham. I am the Partnership board liaison.

Welcome. Good morning. And when we're all done there's coffee and doughnuts so please help yourself.

We're ready to start.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Let's call the meeting to order at 10:31. I don't know how many people we have on the call.

Do we get to see who's on the line?

MS. SHAW: Yeah. They're on the bottom.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay.

MS. SHAW: Yeah. I'll pull it up.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Let's go directly

into the roll call, Amelia.

MS. FULGHAM: Thank you.

As I say your name please say present.

Adam Hecktman?

MR. HECKTMAN: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Carrie Thomas?

MS. GOLDEN: Antoinette Golden for Carrie Thomas.

MS. FULGHAM: Thank you.

Don Finn?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Donovan Pepper?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: What happened?

Are we all signed on?

MR. PEPPER: (Via videoconference.) Present.

Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Haven Allen?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Jacki Robinson-Ivy?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Jason Spigner -- Spigner?

MR. SPIGNER: (Via videoconference.) Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Thank you.

Jennifer Foster?

MS. FULGHAM: Juan Salgado?

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Sarah

Lichtenstein-Walter for Juan Salgado.

MS. FULGHAM: Liisa Stark?

MR. EVENSON: Tom Evenson for Liisa Stark.

MS. FULGHAM: Marc Schulman?

MR. SCHULMAN: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Michael Jacobson?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Pam McDonough?

MS. McDONOUGH: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Robert Reiter?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Smita Shah?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Tracey Scott?

(Brief pause.)

MS. FULGHAM: Xochitl Flores?

MS. FLORES: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Rahnee Patrick?

MS. PATRICK: Present.

MS. FULGHAM: Thank you.

Jacki?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Let's go to approval

of the March minutes.

I'd like to make a motion that we pass the minutes from March?

MS. FLORES: So moved to approve.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Xochitl.

Seconded by?

MR. HECKTMAN: Second. Adam.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Is that Adam?

MR. HECKTMAN: Yes.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Is there any question?

(Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Motion passes.

Do we have to do a roll call?

Let's move directly into the CEO update.

Can everybody hear in the room okay?

Okay. George has a pretty vocal -- good vocal so you should be able to hear him.

MR. WRIGHT: I can come to the front.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I just want everybody to be able to hear.

MR. WRIGHT: Hello. Okay.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Do we have audio?

Where's Pedro?

Do we have sound?

MR. GONZALEZ: Yeah. Yeah. We have sound.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Wonderful.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Got it, on and off button.

Good morning and thanks for everyone making the effort to come down. I'd also like to thank the public for coming to our meeting. It's important because of your connectivity to the Partnership and what we do each day.

So typically what I will do is my comments will always be reserved in this particular meeting for your responsibilities under WIOA as aboard members.

Obviously you do not manage the governing entity, which is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and your responsibilities are strictly and solely to manage under the act WIOA funding; however, the Partnership as a nonprofit entity is contracted with the City of Chicago and the County of Cook to manage WIOA dollars.

Again, it's a separate entity and, quite frankly, the City of Chicago and the County of Cook can actually hire any nonprofit. So under an intergovernmental agreement, an IGA agreement, the

Partnership is selected and we actually manage the flow-down funding which starts with the Department of Labor and goes to the State, which is DCEO, and then comes to the Partnership.

What I thought I would do over the next -- I think I've got five or ten minutes -- is to really at this point because we are ending our fiscal year to give this entity a State of the Union relative to the entity the Partnership.

And while, again, your oversighting governance is limited to the WIOA funding, I think it's important to understand what the Partnership as an entity is doing on behalf of all the citizens of the county of Cook and the city of Chicago.

So this will be brief, but it's important for you to understand where we're at and where we're going in the next cycle.

So it's not lost on me that the staff has accomplished many, many things over this year.

And, once again, this is the State of the Partnership as a 501(c)(3) entity. No less than 57 -- let's count them -- 57 new accomplishments have been across the finish line -- have gotten across the finish line in this fiscal year. That's averaging more than

one accomplishment a week. And these are new accomplishments, not something that we've done always, not something that we're just doubling down on. These are new things that the Partnership has accomplished. It's important to note that within those accomplishments we've kept what I call the table stakes alive, which means that in this particular cycle we have 15 WIOA -- this is specific to your oversighting governance -- 15 WIOA what I call North Stars. We have to get these done.

The Partnership to date has exceeded 12 of those, and the other three we've met; that's an 80 percent number in terms of exceeding and the other 20 percent met. We also believe that in talking to our programs' people that at the time we get to the end of the fiscal year, which ends in about two weeks, the numbers come in that we will have met probably or exceeded those other three so we could be at 100 percent exceeded metrics.

So in spite of 57 new accomplishments, we've kept our table stakes alive.

The other thing that we've done over the year --

MR. WRIGHT: The other thing that we've done over the year is that we've saved \$791,000 in one year.

Let me say that again, Marion.

MS. BATEY: Okay. Thank you.

MR. WRIGHT: \$791,000 that we were able to reinvest in our people and our programs and we actually think that we will save another \$950,000 by the time we get to this point next year, most of which is going to be saved by the time we get to the calendar year. The State of the Union is strong.

So the other thing that we've done and we've lifted up is that -- this is unprecedented -- we've actually gone through four, count them, four audits. The first audit was from the federal government. The Inspector General came out and audited the 501(c)(3) and guess what, there were no issues at all. The City of Chicago came out and audited the 501(c)(3). No issues at all. No findings. The State of Illinois sent 11 people out and audited the 501(c)(3). No issues at all. We also had our single audit. You see our finance team has been doing nothing but responding to audits, and all these audits took place in nine months.

In addition to that, we've actually revamped

the entire finance team turning over 80 percent of its staff, putting the right people in the right positions.

Some would say how did you get through four audits in nine months. It was hard work and effort by the staff who had to constantly respond to audit questions at every single turn. As I actually reported the last time I addressed this body we actually created a brand-new, front-to-back policies and procedures manual for all financials. The Inspector General's Office told us this was great, DCEO said this is fantastic, and the City of Chicago said it was amazing.

So no one can say that we're not governing these dollars in a safe and sound manner when you go through four audits in nine months.

Now, where are we going from here, we have a couple of things. Number 1, where I go is I thank the staff because I didn't do any of this. This was the staff that did all of it.

(Applause.)

MR. WRIGHT: And when you accomplish the things that they've accomplished this gives us rise to accomplish more.

So what are we going to concentrate on in the next fiscal cycle. I think it continues to be

doubling down on your staff, investing in our people. One of those accomplishments I'm so proud of the fact that there have been more people that were promoted within the Partnership in one year than was promoted in the previous 12 years combined.

Let me repeat that again. There have been more people promoted within the Partnership in 12 months than was promoted in the Partnership in all the years that it's been existing combined. Fifty staff members were able to go to conferences and learning opportunities. So we will continue to double down on investing in our people.

The other thing that we need to do and we need to invest in our technology. So I believe the Partnership is in this ecosystem that their technology is in the 19th Century, and I think as we continue to grow as an entity we must double down and invest in our technology.

The other thing that we're doing is something important which I believe is that we're figuring out are we in the right places. You know, if one does a cost benefit analysis and looks at where we are in terms of our facilities they would question this doesn't pencil out, and so we are looking at every

single place that we're actually doing business, all of our ten AJCs, and saying is this the right place, is this the process, and do we have the right support systems within these communities that need it the most. We're going to continue to double down and make sure that we are looking at every single place we do business.

The other thing we're doing is that we're actually looking, you know, in essence who we partner with, right. There are some that say we partner with the same organizations but we are going to be diligent, more diligent than ever, in terms of holding our agencies, holding our partners to account to make sure that they are delivering the results that they say they are delivering, and we will continue to look at that procurement process to make sure that we are partnering with people who rise to the level of the standards that we've created in the Partnership.

And, quite frankly, the Partnership now is a different organization. We've changed.

So that takes care of my time. I don't know if I beat the time but that is the -- as I guess one person I heard say this one time to our court reporter the State of the Union is strong. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I didn't ask for questions. I can do it at the end, but it's okay.

MR. WRIGHT: The Board has questions?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Yeah.

Are there -- From the Board do you have any particular -- I mean you ought to have tons of questions.

Go ahead, Xochitl.

MS. FLORES: More of a comment. Congratulations.

I know you've only been here a short period of time and to invest in this type of change and seeing the impact already in terms of savings and having a vision for investing in technology and continuing to invest in individuals that's fantastic.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Xochitl.

MS. FLORES: So thanks for that overview, and I like the direction that it's heading.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

Any other questions from the Board?

Comments?

Concerns?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I will echo what Xochitl said from the Board and the not-for-profit. We

talked about this already. I don't want to -- You can't give too many accolades, but George would say it's the staff and it absolutely, 100 percent is, but I also believe that staff follows good leadership and, you know, I know George very well professionally and I know that he pressed you all to get here.

So I'm looking at the staff smiling like yeah, you know, not a walk in the park but you've come out so much better for it. It's like a good trainer. You know, you don't like them when you're working out and having to do what you've got to do, but when you get to the other side you think oh, that was great.

So I think that from the Board, from other folks -- I don't know if anyone has anything to say on the line -- just another sincere thank you to George and staff and to -- we are excited because we know there's more to come. So thank you again.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Can we go directly into service delivery committee report, please?

MS. McDONOUGH: Yeah. Okay.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I think you've got to

come up here because there's more people, Pam.

MS. McDONOUGH: Okay.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Are there people that don't have seats back there around the corner?

MS. McDONOUGH: Just one standing.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Does he want to come and sit down?

MS. McDONOUGH: Everybody good?

Okay. Our WIOA funding is approximately 38 million. Our adult funding was increased by 10 percent. Our dislocated workers was reduced by 14 percent.

Our AJCs in the Chatham Center we are recommending renewal of all of those. Our sector center funding recommendations also the committee is recommending renewing those fundings centers. And then we've transferred \$600,000 to dislocated adult and then we make up for it in other shifts in funding, but with respect to our training provider recommendations we also recommended to continue funding in those.

Generally we might have some of the training providers report some of these centers or whatever have had to, you know, be shifted to a performance improvement plan. We don't have that this round so

that's good. It sounds like we've been making sure people have sufficient technical assistance to perform the way we expect them to.

All of our providers scored above 70 points in terms of their -- their performance.

A couple other things, the American Job Center in East Garfield is moving to Malcolm X's West Side Learning Center so that has assisted us with some of our cost reductions. American Job Center at Daley is moving from I think essentially a trailer into the main building so that's another improvement in terms of access to services.

And one of the other things that we've done the organization we had to do an RFP for a group to our One Stops, and we had two candidates for that. The person that won the proposal was scaleLIT, which is the one that's currently managing our One Stops. We're very pleased with them. We feel like they've brought professionalism and communication and, you know, cost policy to our system, and so they were approved. They had a better -- a better score and a better price point so that's the update for the service committee.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Can we go right into youth and we'll do the vote at the end of this whole segment?

Adam?

MR. HECKTMAN: What did you say?

MS. McDONOUGH: Go up.

MR. HECKTMAN: Oh.

Okay. So this is the -- Thank you. Wait. Yeah, that's it.

MS. McDONOUGH: Wait. One thing I forgot --

MR. HECKTMAN: Yeah.

MS. McDONOUGH: -- several of us have been doing -- going to the One Stop Centers because we have to recertify them every four years I think -- is that correct? -- yeah, so we've been doing site visits. Some of us sitting at the table were together. I think I have another one this afternoon, and there might be one more before we're finished. So we have to sort of evaluate the facility and make recommendations for everything that we think.

MS. MASSEL: The four comprehensive One Stops?

MS. McDONOUGH: Yeah, the four comprehensive One Stops. So that should be completed probably this week, but, you know, there were some not significant

recommendations, more ideas for improvement on issues with things that we've seen. So sorry I forgot to mention that.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you.

MR. HECKTMAN: Thank you for buying me time, Pam.
(Brief interruption.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Did someone say something?

MR. HECKTMAN: Okay. No. We were zipping past a video.

Okay. We're going to go through the youth funding, the youth budget, and then we'll talk about some programs.

Is this the next slide with the detail?

Okay. Perfect.

So this is just an overview of the budget plan. \$19.183 million was the allocation. Ten percent comes out -- Or we get 10 percent of the administrative funds, and we can repurpose administrative funds. Administrative funds can be repurposed for programming. Programming dollars cannot be repurposed for administrative funds so --

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Can you say that again?

MR. HECKTMAN: You can use administrative funding for programs if you have extra funding, but you can't do the opposite. You can't use programming funding for administrative funds. The net of this is that we have \$464,000 that can go back into the programs.

We also have -- I'll talk louder. There we go.

And we also have some dollars that were carried over from 2023 into programs along with -- that can be put into programs and with fiscal and accounting and other administrative funds and that's about \$1.5 million of unspent funds from 2023 that come into this year's budget which is what gives us the \$19 million and that after the Partnership's expenses leaves us with \$17.425 million, and the rest of the slide is how we -- how we break that up between out-of-school programs, in-school programs, sector centers. ITA are the individual training accounts, and OJT is on-the-job training reserves.

Oops. Oh, you did it for me. Thank you.

Okay. So this needs some explanation. So there's out-of-school benchmarks and in-school benchmarks, so for out-of-school programs and in-school programs. When we rate them we rate them on a total of

100. And these are the variables that we rate them on the first set of variables up to the last three are live measures of what's going on in those programs, and then the last three, the WIOA second quarter employment, the WIOA median earnings, and the WIOA fourth quarter employment numbers are long-term. They're looking back. They're longitudinal.

The only thing that I think that is new here -- and, Amy, you can tell me if I'm wrong -- is the percentage of active cases with up-to-date case notes. We're starting to track back because it's an indicator -- an early indicator of potential problems in the future.

Let's see if there's anything else that I want to say on this one.

(Brief pause.)

MR. HECKTMAN: Oh. Percent positive exits. So there's two compliance pieces here. There's the program compliance and the financial capacity.

So program compliance monitors go out and they look for program compliance, and then for financial capacity other monitors go out and they look for financial compliance, and then the percentage of positive exits is everybody who went through the

program and if those who left the program went into employment they use that as a leading indicator of how well this program is going to perform in the -- what I call the longitudinal benchmarks, the ones that are at the bottom benchmarks for next year.

Next slide.

So the rubric is that any organization over 70 out of 100 points is recommended for continued funding. If they're less than 70 they're put on a performance plan, and the performance improvement plan, the PIP, will meet with them, they'll help them set their goals. If they're not seeing improvement we can work towards defunding and closing out the contract or ideally they improve.

And, in fact, some of the ones that are under 70 today are already improving.

The American Job Center is being defunded. I think Pam mentioned this. They're moving their site, and what we were funding was the physical space and the staff that were managing that physical space so now that they're moving and relocating that funding is not relevant.

The KRA that was new last year and they had a very minimum number of youth participants, it was

like four or five, so they are getting defunded this year as well.

Let's move into the in-school. So the in-school benchmarks also out of 100, same rubric, similar benchmarks. The one difference here is the second to last, the WIOA measurable skill gain. All of the youth and school activities have to show measurable gains, and the measurable gains are either in their academics or in their job training. Other than that it's similar and it's the same rubric 70 out of 100.

Next slide.

Manufacturing Renaissance has been on a performance improvement plan and it is now being defunded. The challenges of it were it was originally located in a high school and they had to move out of that a few years ago and they've had issues with staffing changes and recruiting participants and subsequently they have been unable to meet their benchmarks multiple times so we will move them out.

Next slide -- Oh, that was it.

Okay. So we have to do these separate.

We have to vote on these separately, right?

Okay.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Yes.

MR. HECKTMAN: Motion to -- I need a motion to approve the out-of-school delegate agency recommendation.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: I have a question.

MR. HECKTMAN: Yeah.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Because some of them are located at City College locations do I need to recuse?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: That's usually what they do.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Okay. We usually just do the training providers.

MR. HECKTMAN: I don't know.

Does she have to recuse?

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: We don't operate them. They're just at our sites.

MR. WRIGHT: Unless you're comfortable with it or you could play it safe.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: But I know the training providers. It's when we go back --

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: It seems like normally they recuse.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Okay. For that one I will recuse. For these I'm going to vote.

MR. HECKTMAN: Okay.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay.

MR. HECKTMAN: Okay. Do I have a motion to approve the out-of-school delegate agency recommendations?

MS. McDONOUGH: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MR. HECKTMAN: Okay. All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MR. PEPPER: (Via videoconference.) I'm sorry. Is there a discussion?

MR. HECKTMAN: Discussion?

Questions?

MR. PEPPER: (Via videoconference.) Yes. This is Donovan Pepper. I have a question.

Just with respect -- First of all, thanks for the presentation.

Just with respect to the one program you mentioned KRA that's in Chatham that -- are they on a -- were they on a performance improvement plan previously or are we just eliminating funding from them because of the low attendance or low participation?

MR. HECKTMAN: I'll defer to Amy on that.

MS. SANTACATERINA: They were not on a program improvement plan. They only served five youth this

year so we're recommending for defunding.

MR. PEPPER: (Via videoconference.) Okay. Thank you, Amy. I appreciate that.

Just real quick what does KRA stand for?

Is it an acronym for a broader name?

MS. SANTACATERINA: It's the name of the -- The initials are the name of the company KRA, Inc. It stands for the owner's initials.

MR. PEPPER: (Via videoconference.) Great. Okay. Thank you.

MR. HECKTMAN: Any other discussion?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: We have to finish the vote.

Who made the motion?

MR. HECKTMAN: I think it was Pam.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Pam.

MR. WRIGHT: Do I hear a second?

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MR. HECKTMAN: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MR. HECKTMAN: Any opposed?

Any opposed?

MR. HECKTMAN: Okay. The motion goes forward.

So now I have a second one, the motion to approve the in-school delegate agency recommendations.

Do I have a motion?

MS. McDONOUGH: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MR. HECKTMAN: All those in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MR. HECKTMAN: Any opposed?

(Brief pause.)

MR. HECKTMAN: Motion carries.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay.

MR. HECKTMAN: Thank you.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you, Adam.

I thought we were going to do this all at one time so can we go back and do Pam as well?

MS. McDONOUGH: Yeah.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Just -- Just backtrack it.

And for the record we're going back to do the service delivery votes now.

MS. McDONOUGH: Okay. Do we need anything else on the motion?

Okay. So can I entertain a motion for the AJCs in Chatham recommendations?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I'll make a motion.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: Okay. Do we have a second?

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: City Colleges is
recusing.

MS. McDONOUGH: Okay. City Colleges is recusing.

And then we'll do the sector center funding
recommendations.

Do I have a motion to approve?

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Nays?

Abstentions?

MS. McDONOUGH: Transfer of funds from dislocated to adult as to \$600,000 can I entertain a motion to approve?

MR. HECKTMAN: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: All in favor?
("Aye" response.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Any opposed?
Any abstentions?

(Brief pause.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Next is the training provider recommendation.

I'll entertain a motion to approve.

MR. HECKTMAN: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: All in favor?
("Aye" response.)

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: City Colleges recuses.

MS. McDONOUGH: City Colleges recuses.

Nays?

(Brief pause.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Okay. And training provider approved. Thank you.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: One Stop.

MS. McDONOUGH: And then the One Stop operator procurement that were chosen through the process, but the Board needs it approved so can I have a motion to approve?

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: So moved.

MR. SCHULMAN: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Opposed?

Recusals?

(Brief pause.)

MS. McDONOUGH: Thank you.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you, Pam.

Jose?

We'll now move into finance.

Amelia, next time you throw a party you need to have a big enough place.

Okay. Jose?

MR. MOTA: Good morning. Today I will be going over the requirements that we have met on the finance side with the State and next year's preliminary budget.

Next slide.

Okay. So two of the requirements that have to be met on June 30th is the 80 percent obligation requirement across all funding streams, and right now we are meeting or exceeding that requirement.

Sorry if the presentation is a little small. For next time I'll make it a little bigger so everyone can see.

The next requirement is the direct training requirement which is 50 a percent direct training has to be met after the first year. So PY23 is ending 6-30 for the first year and 50 percent of those funds have to go towards direct training.

As of this report we are at 53 percent, and, you know, I've been keeping track over the last couple of months going into the end of the year to make sure that we are going to meet that requirement, which we are on pace to meet.

And the last requirement this one doesn't have to be met after the first year. This one is met second year when the grant closes and that's the 20 percent workbase learning requirement for youth. As you can see right now it's at 9 percent, but I have no issues or concerns with not meeting that requirement going into the second year of the two-year grant.

Any questions on the State requirements that have to be met?

MR. MOTA: Next slide.

I'm just going to go directly to the budget.

Okay. So next year's budget is

57.1 million. As you can see here there's a lot of things that have come into consideration when preparing the numbers for next year. You know, one of the things that we do is around May we send out projection sheets to all the agencies. So we fund over 70 agencies and have over 100 contracts where all the agencies submit projections to us through what the final numbers are going to be through June so we can calculate how much carryover we're going to have into next year and that amount going into this year was a little bit over \$5.5 million across all funding streams, and we just added money to refund some of these agencies going into the new grant year for PY24.

Overall there was an increase in adults as you guys saw earlier in the earlier presentation. 1.8 million -- There was an increase in youth for 1.8 million, and a big decrease in dislocated of 3.2 million, but overall an increase compared to last year of 400,000.

And here you can see where all the funds are going to be allocated for the year.

Any questions?

MR. MOTA: Thank you.

Do I have to do a motion to approve the budget?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I can do it.

Okay. There are no questions?

(Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Jose, next time get a laser so you can point to it so people can see.

Let's go into first preliminary fiscal year and then WIOA budget we'll do them at the same time.

Can I have a motion on the floor?

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: So moved.

MS. McDONOUGH: Second.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay.

Question, anybody?

(Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: All in favor?

("Aye" response.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Motion passes.

MR. REITER: Just for clarification the budget doesn't include any grantees; this is just the budget itself?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: This is just budget because you have to recuse.

We're moving quick. I like this.

Okay. Jasmine, our senior research -- Does anybody want to introduce Jasmine?

Does everybody know her?

MS. LEWIS: I will --

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay.

MS. LEWIS: -- but I'm not going to get up. I'll just speak from here.

Jasmine has been here for seven years in a number of roles and she is our senior policy analyst and so one of the big aspects of her job is she does research and she looks at demand data. She looks at occupational data, history data to try and help both on our internal teams and external stakeholders understand what types of programs you should have, where they should be, what they should be training people for and what we should be focused on.

So she's going to give a little update of kind of her capability broadly and then hone in on her report that seems to be -- we post it on our website, we send it out to our stakeholders. It seems to be one of the most useful that folks look at. It's kind of real time information about jobs.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: So kudos -- Welcome, Jasmine, but kudos to George and the entire leadership

team. This is how you build your bench and move forward, and last time I think it was somebody in finance that came. I can't remember.

Was it finance, George?

MR. WRIGHT: (Nodding.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. So I think it's important that the staff see George and the leadership team are actually, you know, building as they climb and bringing people forward.

So welcome, Jasmine.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Good morning, everybody. Today I will be presenting the Where Are The Jobs report. This labor market information report is produced and disseminated quarterly by the Partnership on our website.

So let's just begin with asking ourselves what is LMI; that acronym stands for labor market information, and it is information about the size and characteristics of our labor market. This includes things like the demand and supply for labor; the education, skills, and training needed for a particular occupation; wage information; and the top employers in our region. Ultimately it helps us more effectively direct our workforce development programs.

So who uses this information, we definitely use it inside of the Partnership. As one of the grant writers here I use it to make the case for various programs that we might seek funding for.

Additionally, we provide this data to our programs teams. So as they decide programs, if they are going to be sector-based we provide information to them to make sure that they're designing programs in sectors that actually have demand as well as with our training programs. So when we are deciding which training providers to use we want to have information to back all of that up.

We also provide data to several entities. So just this year we provided information to the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, the City of Chicago, the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, Civic Consulting Alliance, City Colleges, and really just about anyone who asks for data we give it to them.

Where do we get this data from?

So the Partnership uses a paid system called Lightcast, and it analyzes data from over 65,000 sources, many of those are public sources like the Bureau Of Economic Analysis, the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau Of Labor Statistics, IDES, and the

Department Of Education, but it also pulls data from a number of job boards like Indeed, Monster, and CareerBuilder.

So to dive into what you would find on a report this is actually data from Quarter 2 of 2024. So you'll see that we have over 230- we've observed, 230,000 job postings, and on the side you can see a breakdown of what that looks like.

Health care is -- has historically in the last year been the largest industry with job postings, but you'll see management, which is across industries; information technology; transportation and manufacturing; food service also have, you know, thousands of listings posted.

Now, in the next section of the report we see the top five employers by industry. So in the last slide that was actually analyzing occupations where is this analyzing industries. So this is always interesting to watch because there are some employers who we see consistently, right, some of those big names like JPMorgan, Chase, or Bank of America we might consistently see them in the finance world, but it's always good to observe new players in the game.

Manufacturing is a really interesting

industry because there's a lot of food manufacturing going on so that industry is changing a lot. Newly Weds Foods, Ingredion these are groups -- these are entities who we have not previously seen.

Finally near the end of the report the -- we analyze by industry you're able to see the top occupations, credentials, and skills that have been associated with the job postings in a particular industry.

So to take, for instance, the manufacturing industry the top occupations that we see are things like production workers and machinists, installation and maintenance and repair workers, HVAC, so your heating and air-conditioning mechanics and installers and then under that we see the credentials. So we see welding. We see OSHA. We see the EPA certification. And then you see simple skills so hand tools, plumbing, and welding. And, again, on this report we have this for each industry.

So where can you find this report, it is posted quarterly on our website. So if you go to the Outcomes And Information on our website and you can go to Labor Market Research under that you will see not only a visual of the report, but you'll have a link

where you can download a PDF version of this report.

Does anyone have any questions?

MR. EVENSON: I'm just curious on the job postings where you see it increased over time flat.

MS. WILLIAMS: You know what, post COVID we've seen an increase. We saw a big dip, but in the last I would say three to four reports in the last year we saw a steady increase. So it was about 20,000 more in this quarter than it was in Q1 of 2024.

MR. EVENSON: Thank you.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: You said food manufacturers are newly showing up as top employers within the manufacturing sector?

MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. Yes. There is some interesting trends happening in manufacturing in particular like I said because the field is changing so much.

So manufacturing used to just be about -- I don't know -- more manufacturing-type items and now we're seeing a lot of food manufacturers start to come into play, and I think it's also starting to split some of those listings. So, you know, the No. 1 employer that actually fell under manufacturing was Kraft so it seems like does Kraft belong under manufacturing or

like food, but it's not the same type of thing as like a McDonald's or a Starbucks.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: And is that -- is that like within the last six months? within the last couple years?

What's the time frame that that's been shifting?

MS. WILLIAMS: I'm sorry. I was having trouble hearing you.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: Is this shift of food manufacturing coming up within the last six months, couple years, and what's the time line of this happening?

MS. WILLIAMS: I would say in the last year. I would say in the last year, and I don't know because this is also a regional report so we are specifically looking at Cook County when we look at these trends so I think it also has to do with some movement in physical locations of factories, right, because it's not a national report; it's a countywide.

MS. McDONOUGH: So we're not using the metropolitan statistical area data?

MS. WILLIAMS: I'm sorry. I'm not able to hear you.

MS. McDONOUGH: I said are we not using the metropolitan statistical area for the numbers or are we just using Cook County?

MS. WILLIAMS: We are using Cook County in part because that MSA includes places like Naperville --

MS. McDONOUGH: Right.

MS. WILLIAMS: -- and, you know, we have the choice either the Chicago MSA or Cook County, and Cook County just seems more accurate for what we do because you end up with Naperville, you end up with Elgin --

MS. McDONOUGH: Right.

MS. WILLIAMS: -- and it's not as -- it's not as good for us.

MS. McDONOUGH: Yeah. I think it just gives a better stated perspective on our region, but in terms of our role here at the Chicago Cook County it makes more sense.

MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

MS. McDONOUGH: We've always had the most diverse manufacturing area in the country so food and steel and whatever else we make there's a lot of opportunities and different types of skills I think in that sector.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: To Pam's point I think the -- certainly for partnering with the employers Cook

County is our -- is our market, but I'm wondering how many job seekers are getting placed outside of Cook County.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Xochitl and I were just saying that that's a question. I think that's something we can have a continued conversation about.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: City Colleges we just added MSA access to our (inaudible).

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I'm a firm believer that it's Chicagoland, if you will, and that's a whole other situation, right?

MR. REITER: But if you're comparing -- So if you're looking at what our job is it's a good comparator to see what's happening in the suburbs, what jobs place people in Cook County and that is our job. So I think it's good to know what's happening regionally, but I think the county numbers are relevant numbers for the work that we have to do.

I would say that the food manufacturing is in the right place in the report. It's line production so the systems, the people who run -- run the line production or maintain the equipment all those jobs they're similar to job skills as to other types of manufacturing. Obviously there's other requirements

that get placed on top of that.

I do find it interesting that food production is on the higher, higher end because there has been a trend from -- from the city to the Cook area into different parts of the suburbs, specifically out to the southwest suburbs, so that I think that actually is really good because there are advantages to doing manufacturing in Cook County, in Chicago that's -- you know, transportation, logistics, but also resources like water and stuff. So I think that's a good trend because we want to have that.

I do -- So the follow-up that I would on the manufacturing question is other forms of manufacturing like gear production, casting of parts, things like that -- electrical components are those numbers -- did food go up while other things are going down or is it the people who used to be in the top five are they still here growing or did food surge?

Is food just increasing at a rate where it overtook everybody or are we seeing a trend down in another subset of manufacturing?

MS. WILLIAMS: I think it's more so that food is increasing because we still saw S&C Electric it's like top three and Medline still producing like medical

equipment.

MR. REITER: Right.

MS. WILLIAMS: So those are still top three. Kraft just kind of has moved up in the last year. So it's possible that they just have a new facility, but I don't think it's that the others have gone down.

MR. REITER: And someone knows this -- I may mention this and people who know this who represent Kraft workers, what is Kraft?

Kraft is a big food company. They don't -- They just don't make cheese. So I'd be interested in what they're actually doing where there's growth in that food sector compared in terms as to what their output is.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN-WALTER: This is really helpful to hear for City College. We're building -- expanding our manufacturing offerings and are focusing on clean energy and electrical manufacturing technology.

We don't have food manufacturing right now, and I think it's an important thing for us to look at so thank you for highlighting that.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: That's huge. That's huge.

MS. LEWIS: I just want to say one thing as we

talk about these trends, and just one of the first things that Jasmine said is these are not necessarily total job numbers in different subcategories; it's just postings over that quarter so it could be that there happened to be a large number of postings --

MR. REITER: Cyclical.

MS. LEWIS: Yeah, cyclical.

And then the other thing is because it's a posting that is then categorized as having one location, one title it could be that it's the headquarters or something like that that is Cook County but the jobs may be in other kind of production facilities that are outside the county.

So it's job postings. There's just a few little things that go along with it that are different like the official PLS numbers, the accounts by occupation that would be a different set of data that, you know, we could look at alongside this and that we look at that alongside this, but I just wanted to catch it what it is based on.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I'm going to ask you to hold your question because you're public, not Board so if you could just give me a second to get to -- anybody else from the public we just want to hold off

and we'll get to you in order.

Yes?

MS. MASSEL: Can you identify yourself for the minutes?

I'm so sorry.

MR. REITER: Yeah. Bob Reiter, Chicago Federation Of Labor.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Let's just so we can keep moving, Jasmine, what a wonderful report.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: You'll probably be getting some calls.

Let's move directly to Susan.

MS. MASSEL: Actually, if you don't mind, Madam Chair, we sort of skipped over Pilar and a really wonderful new arrival success story so if you could go back.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Where did I miss that?

MS. MASSEL: I think it was at the very end toward the budget presentation.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I don't -- My apologies, Pilar.

MS. TREJO: It's okay. No worries.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: My sincere -- Maybe I'm missing it, but my apologies.

So, Pilar, I don't see it.

MS. TREJO: No worries whatsoever.

Pilar Trejo with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. I'm really excited about sharing this story with you all here today. I want to introduce somebody to you. This man was a police officer in Venezuela. Okay?

Things changed. There was a dictatorship that took over to the point where he was persecuted because of his occupation and he was told he had to leave and if he didn't they gave him an ultimatum. Eventually this man felt like his life was in danger, and he also was worried about his family's safety. This is the journey of one of our new arrivals. He had to make a decision to live and leave and that's exactly what he did. Two years ago he passed the border, south border, and came into the United States. And this man talks about an opportunity. When he says opportunity he talks about it as though it was gold, and he's going to share in this clip what that opportunity was, and it's about his experience at an American Job Center in Pilsen. Please meet William Majadas (phonetic).

If you can play.

(Video viewed.)

MS. TREJO: So that's one piece of our clip.

Before we go into the next clip I want to tell you since October of '23 the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and key partners have been meeting with the new arrivals, finding out what kind of services they're looking for, and how to help them with workforce services. We've gathered and completed up to 3,500 workforce surveys; that has given us a lot of information, phone numbers, and how to keep in touch with them. So we've been able to as a network, as a group of partners to go out and provide frontline initiatives.

So, for example, anything from resource fairs. We've done one already. We have one coming up June 20th at Arturo Velasquez Institute at 2800 and Western. We also have job readiness classes. Done several referrals to ESL courses, whether they're at colleges or on-site in the community. We've also done a lot of prep sessions, and we've done some sector-based training, culinary as well as manufacturing. Very proud to say that we already have 30 graduates from the culinary course at Food Hero so

that's wonderful. Things are moving.

One other thing that I want to say before we play the next video is something else that's impacted our frontline initiatives is the Partnership leveraging monies, and here's one example. The national dislocated worker grant we used some of that funding to put out two crews in the community to help us reach the new arrivals, call them, and I want you to know that this approach was a human centered-type approach and what I mean is we hired actual new arrivals that had their work authorization. Who better to talk to them. Who better to approach them. Who better to understand and then tell them about the scary, big place that they're in now, the United States, and how there are many workforce services for them. So they really helped bridge that and they're doing a fantastic job.

So what I want to say with this next clip is that William was one of those people that got hired, and -- Can you hold one second? -- I was just going to say he is the community outreach supervisor at the American Job Center in Pilsen, and we're very proud of him, and he wants to tell you what he's done or what he's doing on this job.

So now we can play it.

(Video viewed.)

MS. TREJO: This is the next one. It's Clip 2.
No. It's the next one.

(Brief pause.)

MS. TREJO: There you go. This is it.

(Video viewed.)

MS. TREJO: And for the last clip I probably -- I wish we could do this more often because this last clip speaks to the impact of our work. You're not going to find this information in the numbers that we send to funders. It is qualitative in nature. It's probably the most important thing we can do to impact someone's life.

So I want you to know something about this last part. We called William -- Actually our Pilsen office called William and asked him to say something to board members. This part is especially for you so please listen to this part.

Go to the next one. There you go.

(Video viewed.)

MS. TREJO: So, everybody, that is a real story. That is what we do. That's somebody's life that we've changed. I could talk about service immigration, I could talk about frontline initiatives, I could talk

about employer engagement hiring events, but this at the end of the day exemplifies everything we do and I just want to say to the members in the room many of you were partners in different ways or you can be a partner to help participate in our hiring events. Every little bit that we do matters, and last but not least our new arrival workforce team here at the Partnership and all of our key partners and also thank you very much to the American Job Center Pilsen, National Able for making this happen and doing such a good job with one of our best customers. And I kind of hear that they're trying to see if they can hire him full-time. I'm just saying.

So thank you, guys. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you very much.

Can we move now into Susan's update?

MS. MASSEL: Okay. Hi, everybody. We'll go to the next slide, please.

Is somebody moving it?

Sorry.

Okay. So whatcha been up to, well, I try to give everybody a flavor of what's happened over the last quarter since we met.

As someone mentioned we are going through a recertification of the four comprehensive American Job Centers and we thank so much of the members of the board and members of our staff who are a part of it. It's not a small thing. It takes a lot of time, but quality control is so important -- right? -- we can't sort of say we're going to keep doing it the way we've always done it.

So that's a picture of one the people who -- one of the groups that was part of the AJC recert as we call it so thank you so much.

The middle picture is from a graduation of people who earned their GED in North Riverside at the North Riverside AJC. They have taken it upon themselves to create this program, and I've got to tell you something there were as many tears there. I was at my nephew's graduation from an Ivy League college and this was more meaningful, and I'm not even being sarcastic. It was un- -- George kind of made fun of me because I got teary-eyed. He said, Susan, you don't know these people, and I'm like I know but oh, my lord, they were just wonderful, this man -- this guy in particular. So I'll stop talking about it, but it

was a wonderful thing and that's something that's happened since we last met.

And we had a grand reopening of our Wheeling American Job Center. They moved a couple years ago but it was during the pandemic and they couldn't have a public-facing event so George and I went there. 157 people were there. Many had never been there before. It was just a terrific reintroduction to a very important community that definitely has a strong need and a very dedicated agency who runs that AJC so that was terrific and I wanted to share it.

Next slide, please.

So let's look at social media numbers. So they are growing you can see, and this is important because this is one tool that we use to talk to people, so, especially as I always say, LinkedIn. I always love when I see that growing because that is where more and more people are looking for professional opportunities so -- and you can see we've looked best back over the last program year so that's going the right way.

Next slide, please.

So just looking at what's pulled best for social media. Again, none of it is a surprise. As I

always say social media has got to have a heartbeat. It's opportunities to get jobs. It's Hospitality Hires, one of our most successful events, and as you can see we're so proud to have that campaign of I got the offer, I got the job, and we have signs in English and Spanish. We had some new arrivals who were there and that shows that we're very accessible to them.

And then we honored our administrative professionals on Administrative Professionals Day. And our Opportunities Summer Program funded by Cook County is open now and that's something that a lot of young people need for paid internships.

So these are just examples of the social media posts that have pulled best over the last quarter.

Next slide, please.

So our website continues to be important; but I consider it a tool, not the tool. And you can see that the numbers continue to rise for our website chicookworks.org. But it's important to remember that we really have three that we somehow touch, the Cook County Career Connector website, which of course lifts up a series of programs that is funded through (inaudible) funding by Cook County. We have one

tomorrow -- no, tomorrow is Juneteenth -- Thursday in Palos Hills that's gotten over the last program year almost 24,000 views. LevelUpAJC.org that I know you guys are all familiar with. It's gotten 18,000 views, and about 1500 people have used it directly to go to an AJC. And then we just started Good Job Chicagoland, which is a program that many of you are familiar with, but we are the lead and it's gotten about 3,000 views and that just went up in the last month.

So though these numbers are good as I say I consider it a tool; not the tool.

Next slide, please.

And these are just some of the fliers. I started a -- When I first got here it will be actually four years in a few days that I've been here, but I started something called project request form, which was a way to try -- I know everybody at the staff we know, Susan, about the PRX. It's the way that I ask people to submit requests for support. A lot of it -- See, Marion just can't stop laughing. I know. I know.

But, anyway, it added some sanity to our situation and we have gotten -- it's only me and Jesus Ramirez in the unit and, of course, we're blessed that we can use some outside agencies. We've gotten over

150 requests over the last program year and that's not just internal, you know, like Marion and Pilar, but they're representing external agencies too.

So these are three of the fliers that we've been asked to look at. One for Thursday and then two Hospitality Hire events, one, of course, that Marion leads downtown, and then we actually took it on the road.

What higher compliment than someone saying I like what you do, can I do it too. So we gave them a lot of support. They did it in Evanston and it was very successful as well.

Next slide, please.

So I talked about this last time, but I want to talk about it again. One thing that we spent a lot of time doing is the internal newsletter and the external newsletter. You should all get the In The Works the first working Monday of every month. If it doesn't ring a bell let me know. There's a way to subscribe right on the website but that has grown about 26. That has grown substantially. I'm trying to read my own notes here. About 40 percent in the last year, and then the posts, the internal newsletter has grown from a 24 percent read to a 62 percent read.

Yes, that's -- I know. I've been bothering my colleagues about it. So these are real newsletters that offer really good information and we spend quite a bit of time writing them and editing them.

Next slide.

All right. So let's talk about some media.

As you all know we have the Partnership Show with is George Wright, but pivoting off of what Jacki said George feels strongly about lifting up other members of our staff so two other members, Josh Williams and Danny Marshall, also not cohost anymore; they go alone and they take the steering wheel. So for this this is the third set of programs that we're doing, and they have been leading on their own and it's been terrific.

We have had over 700,000 listeners since we started last year. Our ratings, per se, are beating out the hour before and the hour after. We get a lot of calls in. It's really -- And I know all of us on Saturday morning are at home with our coffee and PJs on internal texting. Marion and I are always saying hi, good morning on Saturday mornings listening and really supporting. It's been just a terrific way to lift up our network and our partners.

In addition, we were in the Daily Herald wrote a column about our Road Home program for returning residents. They reached out to us.

I always ask how did you find us, oh, I went online and looked around who's doing good programs and you guys came up. I'm like yes, okay. So we connected them with one of our agencies and employers who are second chance friendly and that was a great piece. And then we were also in the Tribune talking about Opportunity Works and that was also great because that was Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller mentioned us, they didn't call us, but it came up in our clips because she said the Partnership has this program so this is what you want. It's better for somebody else to compliment you than to compliment yourself.

And if we have a few more minutes I'd like to close with one more video.

Can we go to the next slide?

I won't take up too much of your time but this is a video for Hospitality Hires and much like Pilar said this is why we do what we do. So if you have two minutes I'll share this with you and my bit will be done.

(Video viewed.)

(Applause.)

MS. MASSEL: So I just want to close with two thoughts. All of you in the room have access to this video, all of you board members. All of you represent funders. Please, if you've got to speak somewhere start with this then go to the talking heads. These videos are powerful and they shouldn't just be sitting on our YouTube channel.

The last thing I want to say, George didn't really spell it out, is that at the end of this program year is actually the end of his first year and I think I speak for the staff to say congratulations, George.

What is it you say nothing good happens without change, something. It's been good and it's been changed and we appreciate the support and the push. We appreciate being pushed. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, and I echo and from the Board we echo all the things that you had just said.

It is now time for public comments. I don't want to forget you because you had your hand up and it was during the Board meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I spoke with Jasmine about

this earlier but just as an asterisk the County uses Lightcast as well, and as Marisa correctly pointed out all Lightcast does is aggregate jobs across the internet and sometimes that data is not fully accurate for manufacturers because many of the manufacturers in Cook County don't post their jobs on the internet. They're small shops in industrial corridors that have help wanted signs, and actually in a survey about half don't use the internet to post their jobs. So -- And it's a similar trend in construction as we talked about.

So just putting an asterisk there that the slight hypothesis as to why the food manufacturers were outsized in that report is because they're larger companies.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Thank you.
Thank you.

And as far as other public comment we have lots of public people here today.

There is a question on the floor.

If you could just for the record note who you are.

MS. RUIZ: Sure.

My name is Zaskia Ruiz, EVP and COO of KRA

Corporation.

Can you guys hear me okay?

I have a -- I'm not a high volume speaker.

KRA Corporation has been in business for 43 years. We are not an African-American-only business. We currently operate on the West Side in Garfield Park and also in the Chatham Center, and I thank everyone for your contribution, all the staff.

I have been with KRA for seven years so I can testify to the improvement in the fiscal processes as a vendor. So thank you so much Mr. Mota, much appreciated. We've had several conversations over the years. I've transitioned from many roles. I'm currently the EVP and COO.

Prior to, many moons ago, I used to work for a local board in California so I've been in this role where I am responsible for the subcontracting of -- choosing subcontractors to run our centers and some of the providers that you do business with I've done business with in California, but one of the things that I can -- that was surprising to me is that for the Chatham Center defunding of the youth program there was not a conversation.

So I just want to put that on the table. I

am also the compliance training -- compliance trainer on the uniform guidance so I'm very familiar with the requirements of a passthrough entity. You are a passthrough entity, and there are some requirements. Usually when you are experiencing problems with a contractor there is technical assistance, there is physical monitoring, there's an engagement so to come to a meeting and find that the center youth funding is being taken away and we have to proceed with some layoffs is kind of shocking so that's my feedback and thank you so much for your time and everything that you're doing.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Anyone have a response to her comment?

(Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Any other public comment?

MS. BATEY: I have one.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: You are not public.

MS. BATEY: Oh, I'm not.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: You can make your comment.

MS. BATEY: I'm not public?

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: You're not.

MS. BATEY: I'm Marion Batey. I'm with the Partnership. Now that I can have this.

George, thank you. Okay?

I've been with the Partnership since the inception of 14 years and we feel holistic. I'm so proud of Cook County and the City coming aboard and engaging us and empowering us. We are a holistic, meaning all of us, and Susan and the radio station you've made our jobs easier because when we go into the public and the public knows who we are, what we are, and what we do I don't have to work as hard and we don't have to work as hard.

So I just want to give Susan and George a few kudos that radio station is fabulous. The seventh year of Hospitality Hire Chicago is because of the work not only all of you all did but because of the innovative thinking of Susan and George getting that radio station, putting us out front because it was a long time where we didn't publicize. We didn't market ourselves.

So I want to say thank you for the road that we are coming on 14 years. I don't know how much longer, but if we keep going in the direction that you all are going in with the County and the City engaging

in us and onboarding us the sky is the limit for the holistic partnership organization.

So I'm usually the one with the biggest mouth so thank you for letting me say something. Thank you.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: We again echo everything that Marion has said and since she's been here since its inception she would know, right?

One last call any other comments?

(Brief pause.)

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Then I will -- George, anything, sir?

MR. WRIGHT: No. I just think that I would love to say at the end of my first year thanks to the staff and also thanks to the Board. None of this could have happened without your constant support pushing us. I push them. I think there's no secret that they have done an unbelievable job.

I will always tell you though that we will never arrive. There will always be areas that we need to improve upon and we will do that and so please make sure that those comments both good and not so good because that's how we grow and keep coming to us and we need to get better and we will get better, but for now

I'm so fortunate to have led a great team. So fortunate to be supported by a great board, and I just think I agree with Marion the sky is the limit. Thank you all.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I think that -- Thank you, George -- one thing that we can do better because there's always room for improvement is that we, the Board, can do a better job of telling our story.

One thing we don't do well enough is brag on ourselves, and if you need any ideas obviously just go to Susan because she has plenty of them. It sounds like Marion has some as well. We can do a better job as a board of telling the story of the Partnership and that goes for the folks on the call as well so that should be our takeaway as board members.

So there's lots of great things going on as you can see. Susan can tell us where to get all these materials. I think she said YouTube and some other places, but we need to make ourselves a party of one and make sure that we are -- I talk about the Partnership almost every day in some way, shape, or form, but I certainly could do a better job of showing people. I often say -- my mom is from Missouri, don't put that in the record -- show me, but I think that

that's something we can certainly do.

So again thank you, thank you.

Congratulations on your year, Mr. Wright.

And to the rest of the staff we are looking forward to more, right?

If there's nothing else, do I have to make a motion to adjourn?

MS. McDONOUGH: Yes.

MS. FULGHAM: Yes, you do.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I would like to put a motion on the floor to adjourn. It is 11:49.

MR. REITER: Second.

MS. McDONOUGH: So moved.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: Wait a minute. Bob seconded before somebody made the motion. How did that work?

MR. REITER: Well, I thought you made the motion.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: I made the motion on the floor.

So did you guys get that?

MS. McDONOUGH: So moved.

MR. REITER: Second.

She made the motion. I seconded.

CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON-IVY: All right. Then all

in favor?

("Aye" response.)

(Meeting adjourned.)

