



## Agenda

### Workforce Innovation Board: Youth Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17; 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: 1 N Dearborn, Rooftop Conference Room, Chicago, IL, 60602

**Quorum:** 33% or 4 out of 12 committee members must be physically present in the room. Once quorum is met, additional members or proxies can vote or participate virtually. *(Must be in person/proxies allowed)*

**1:30 – 1:35**

#### **Welcome and Roll Call; Confirmation of Quorum**

Nicole Shaw, Board Secretary

**1:35 – 1:36**

#### **Approval of December Youth Committee Minutes\***

Adam Hecktman, Chair

**1:36 – 2:05**

#### **WIOA Youth Program Updates**

Carly Bykerk, Associate Director of Program Performance

- Participant data PY24 to Jan 2025

**2:05 – 2:20**

#### **WIOA Youth Agency Spotlight**

LaGrange Area Dept. Of Special Ed (LADSE)

Alex Budziszewski, Vocational Program Coordinator

Veronica Carey, LADSE/WIOA Program Manager

**2:20 – 2:25**

#### **CEO Remarks**

George Wright, CEO

**2:25 – 2:30**

#### **Public Comments & Adjournment**

\*Denotes items requiring a committee vote to recommend action to the WIB



## Minutes

### Workforce Innovation Board: Youth Committee Meeting

Monday, December 16; 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: 69 W Washington St, Chicago, IL, 60602. Floor 22, Conference Room C

In Attendance: Adam Hecktman, William Otter, Miriam Martinez, Angela Morrison, Mark Sanders II, John Kasper, Sean McGinnis, Sibyl Nash, Armano Rodriguez. Quorum was met for this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Adam Hecktman. Amelia Fulgham conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.

Adam Hecktman called for a motion to approve the September 2024 Youth Committee minutes. This motion was moved by William Otter, and seconded by Miriam Martinez. This motion was moved.

Marisa Lewis, Director of Program Performance gave her report of the PY 23 Youth outcomes. She reviewed the 5 measures that we are held to, employment, median earnings, retention, credential rate, and measurable skills gained. Employment status for Youth includes being in education. She advises that we have negotiated with the state some new targets for this program year, we are at the midpoint for the current PY 24.

Marisa Lewis spoke to a high level overview of our demographics. We have a fairly even split for male and female participants, and a majority of our participants are people of color. Marisa Lewis advised that we are often working with youth that are experiencing a lot of barriers, additional barriers are often not reported at intake. We are working on getting accurate barriers entered in by career coaches, and from the people we serve. In illustrating our impact, Marisa Lewis reported that our Youth participants total earnings added up to \$7M in the second quarter. Marisa Lewis stated that the Youth program participants are considered a success if they are employed or go into education at the end of their program. Marisa Lewis advised that we were able to lead the team that negotiated with the state on the new rates. We were able to hold true negotiations over the five measures for Youth, and walked away with targets for PY24 and PY25. She advised, with the hardships we are facing in Chicago, we were working with the state to find a middle ground. She advises that we will continue to report exceeded measures to the WIB.



The WIOA Youth agency Phalanx was invited to this meeting to speak about the work they are doing. The presenting staff advised that Phalanx has been partnered with us since 2008. They advised that they have over 72 staff members and 20 different Youth programs and other workforce programs across the agency. Phalanx offers wrap around services, community partnerships, and hosts 10 annual events through out the year. This past Saturday they hosted their event December to Remember. Phalanx served over 1000 youth and their families by giving away toys, coats, and providing basic health. Phalanx advised that The Partnership allows us to do this through funding. Our services include job readiness training, vocational training, mentoring, digital and financial literacy.

Phalanx advised that their Community Health Response program, WIOA Youth program, and Road Home programs are all funded through The Partnership. Through Cook County Reconnect, 21 returning citizens have housing support for 24 months. These individuals are returning after 2 – 3 years of incarceration. Through this program, they can now save money for home ownership. Phalanx also collaborates with PNC bank so participants can learn even more about financial literacy.

Phalanx advised that they had 40 youth participants enrolled in their WIOA Youth program for FY24. These participants are aged 16 through 24, are out of school, and have some kind of workforce barrier. Aside from job placements, these participants also receive mentoring, internships, counseling, wrap around services and more.

Phalanx advised that their Road Home program, WRAP program, is a space for making a future of choices and not chances. Participants benefitted from the housing program. Those who were curious about home ownership saw this as an opportunity. One participant who recently got his CDL was hired at PACE. This program provides services for the south suburbs. The target enrollment for FY24 was 54 enrollments, it was shattered with 83 total enrollments for the Road Home program over 3 quarters. The new contract year carry over 34 service users. During this past program year the Road Home program ran out of funding and had to request a budget reallocation. Phalanx advised that they were awarded the additional funds needed to meet the demand.



# CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

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1 NORTH DEARBORN STREET | SUITE 750 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

[www.chicookworks.org](http://www.chicookworks.org)

Adam Hectkman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was moved by William Otter and seconded by John Casper. The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 pm.



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# WIOA Youth: Program Performance Update

March 17, 2025

Carly Bykerk

# WIOA Youth Updates

Data through January 31, 2025:

<b>Total Served</b>	2341
<b>Male</b>	45%
<b>Female</b>	54%
<b>African American</b>	62%
<b>White</b>	18%
<b>Asian</b>	3%
<b>Hispanic</b>	28%

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New Registrants: 824  
Entered Employment: 329  
Average hourly wage at placement: \$18.71

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# LADSE/WIOA YOUTH BOARD PRESENTATION



## LADSE/WIOA Staff

Alex Budziszewski -  
Vocational Program  
Coordinator



Veronica Carey -  
LADSE/WIOA Program  
Manager



# Who is LADSE?



- A special education cooperative which serves 3500 students in 16 School Districts within west-suburban Cook County
- 5 different programming options, school psych, alternative school, Early Childhood Services...
- AND the LADSE VOCATIONAL UNIT

## Who do we serve?

- Early Childhood through High School Graduation

## How do we serve?

- School district staff identify student with needs
- Referrals to LADSE for individual services

## LADSE History

- Founded in 1957
- 1st Special Education Cooperative in Illinois!

**300+ Referrals  
for Vocational Services to  
the LADSE Vocational  
Team in 2024!!**

# The Partnership at LADSE



**LADSE Partnership began in 1993 as a part of the JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act)**



## Who do we serve?

- 16-22 olds with a disability

## How do we serve?

- We build a network of business relationships in the community which we access based on the individual needs of our students.
- 80+ different community partners

## LADSE Partnership?

- Community based work experiences
- Skills Building Workshops
- Direct Job Development Services
- College Initiative Program



**52+ Customers Served through LADSE Partnership Program in 2024!**





# Relationship Building

- Capacity in the Community
- Business Partnerships
- Foundational Skills
- Experiential Learning!



10 Years



20 Years



20 Years



10 Years



10 Years

**80+ Business Relationships in Western Suburbs**

85% - PY 21

87% - PY22

**Positive  
Outcome  
Percentage  
s**

100% PY23

**Project SEARCH**  
**85% Success rate**  
**since it's inception**  
**in 2012**

**College Initiative**  
**100% positive outcome**  
**rate during it's first year**

**Work Experiences - PY 24 to**  
**date**

**21 customers served in 9**  
**different locations**

# Success Stories

**Alese** participated in LADSE WIOA Work Experience and Project SEARCH programs. In May 2024, she was offered a Teaching Assistant position!

**Rickey** participated in the LADSE WIOA Work Experience Program and in June 2024, joined the LADSE staff as a Peer Team Leader! He is pursuing broadcasting degree in college.

**Cade** participated in the first pilot of the College Initiative Program. He is currently studying business at Triton College



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# LADSE District High Schools



Lyons Riverside Brookfield  
High School Program  
Alternative School



LADSE DEAF AND HARD  
OF  
HEARING PROGRAM



LYONS  
TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL  
NORTH  
&  
SOUTH



RIVERSIDE  
BROOKFIELD  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Thank you!

# LADSE



VOCATIONAL ALLIANCE





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## Questions?



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