

CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD MEETING
Report of proceedings had at the Chicago Cook

Workforce Innovation Board Quarterly Meeting held at
400 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois, on the
16th day of September, 2025, commencing at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

JACKI ROBINSON-IVY, Co-Chair
JASON SPIGNER
JUAN SALGADO
MARC SCHULMAN
ROBERT REITER
DONOVAN PEPPER - (via videoconference)
PAM McDONOUGH
RAHNEE PATRICK
ADAM HECKTMAN
MATT JOHANSON
MICHELLE SMITH
NANCY CAO - (via videoconference)
XOCHITL FLORES
DR. LISA BLY-JONES
GEORGE WRIGHT
MANNY RODRIGUEZ
VICTOR DICKSON - (via videoconference)
JOSHUA DAVIS
ANTIONETTE GOLDEN

MS. SHAW: Good morning. We're going to call everybody in attendance this morning. I'm going call the names of our board members. If you're here as a proxy for one of our board member, when I call that board members name, you can say present and then your name. When we're holding our meeting, if you please could say your name before you make your statement for our transcriptionist. Otherwise, I'll be walking around the room with microphone as well.

So starting off Jason Spigner.

MR. SPINGER: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Juan Salgado.

MR. SALGADO: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Marc Schulman.

MR. SCHULMAN: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Robert Reiter.

MR. REITER: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Don Finn.

Donovan Pepper.

MR. PEPPER: Present thank you.

MS. SHAW: Pam McDonough.

Carrie Thomas.

Rahnee Patrick.

MS. PATRICK: Present.

MS. SHAW: Adam Hecktman.

MR. HECKTMAN: Present.

MS. SHAW: Hardik Bhatt.

Jennifer Foster.

Matt Johanson.

MR. JOHANSON: Present.

MS. SHAW: Michelle Smith.

MS. SMITH: Present.

MS. SHAW: Nancy Cao.

MS. CAO: Present virtually.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Liisa Stark.

Xochitl Flores.

MS. FLORES: Present.

MS. SHAW: Dr. Lisa Bly-Jones.

DR. BLY-JONES: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Manny Rodriguez.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Present.

MS. SHAW: Victor Dickson.

MR. DICKSON: Present virtually.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

Jacki Robinson-Ivy.

And Joshua Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Present.

MS. SHAW: Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: We're going to have to speak up a bit. (Inaudible) bring the mic or you can come to the stage. Let's do call to order and the approval of --

THE COURT REPORTER: Can you use the microphone, please?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: (Inaudible.) Nicole will do a call to order and then the approval of the June minutes and then I need just a couple more seconds back. I'll just do a call for approval of minutes.

Can I have approval of the June minutes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Move.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: (Inaudible) All in favor.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Nicole, you might have to repeat so everyone can hear it. All in favor aye.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you. No question -- there's no question. Motion passes.

Before George comes up, I want to do a couple of things. I think George is probably going to mention this. First, I would like to welcome Josh Davis. This is first meeting. I don't think anyone else this is their first meeting. Am I correct? We have a bunch of proxies today. I would like to welcome Josh Davis of the Will Group.

Josh, if you would take a few seconds to say hello. We are delighted to have Josh on board. The Will Group is doing great things in the West side of Chicago, and it is a pleasure to have you here.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, everyone. It's an honor to be here. Our business has been doing business with the City of Chicago for 40 years now. We're very (inaudible) about being a part of the communities that we serve including (inaudible). We have a big facility down in North Lawndale. So what this board is doing is pretty much a part of our mission, our core values and so excited to be here and see how I can (inaudible). Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you so much Josh.

We are thrilled to have you.

The next thing before George -- I think George is probably going to have to handle this. Okay, so I'm not going to say what I was going to say. I'm going to pass it now to George. Are you going to get up or are you going speak from there.

MR. WRIGHT: Good morning, all. Hopefully you can hear me. I can use the other mic if need be, but it looks like I got a thumbs up in the back so we're good.

I want to actually -- once again, Susan, you'll love this (inaudible). Okay. There she is. Susan knows that in almost every single time that I address the public or any group that I abore reading comments. My comments typically have to come from within and I have this way of making sure that I say a quick prayer before I say things to make sure that what I'm saying resonates with most people. But I think in this particular instance, I think Susan will be once again surprised that I'm going to read some comments. We'll see how that works.

So as I think about the state of Chicago (inaudible) and it's place in the overall public workforce system, I'm stroked by two words upheaval and disruption. When I was asked to taken the role of CEO

after serving for eight years as co-chair of this body, I never imagined that I would need (inaudible) learned after almost 40 years deeply engaged in a history of financial services upheaval and disruption.

I thought I could simply use my knowledge of the system learned on the board side of things to help stabilize my internal audits, make sure that we were financially fit, improve our leadership and operation of excellence all within a foundation of (inaudible) job and increased accountability, and actually all of that has actually happened.

I began reporting the state of affairs in the last meeting of 2024 as I began to hear news of budget cuts inside this system and words with a foundation of fraud, waste, and abuse in describing the system that we've all worked in. And this message of making sure that we actually move away from transactions into strategic discussions to partnerships, I mentioned at nauseam over and over and over again.

As a reminder, you've heard me talk about dates that are really important that will, actually, in my opinion, set the future course of the public workforce system in this country and the City of Chicago and Cook County and that Chicago workforce

partnership. Those dates are October 1st of this year and mid-April of 2026.

As reminder on October 1st, we will know if the advanced funding of \$34 million which represents second, third, and fourth quarter of adult and dislocated worker funds are available to us to access. And then we will also understand in April of next year if our base funding for the full-year youth and first quarter dislocating funding is appropriate for the next fiscal year. These two dates are critically important to the future of workforce.

As I, again, think about my role as Chief Executive Officer in leading CCWP with this amazing team who I am going to take just a second of reading and actually acknowledge those individuals who work with the partnership in the back of the room, please raise your hand, and you can waive it like you just don't care.

(Round of applause.)

I had an amazing opportunity to spread team and I will afford them and (inaudible) them every single day. And as I think about my role as CEO in leading CCWB through this probable -- and yes, Manny, you heard me say yesterday probable versus possible --

probable upheaval disruption. I (inaudible) learned together in my career in the mid-80s, think about what each of you all were doing in 1985.

As I was working in consumers lending when mortgage rates were 15 to 18 percent then onto the supreme lending spree in 2000, then onto the great recession of 2007, the COVID pandemic of 2020, and then the great resonation in 2022, and now the great detachment in which some describe as we were in the state of quite equate. I learned that no two events are the same, but there is a strategy that I learned and I lean into to this day, and that strategy simply is narrow your aptitude regarding what you can control to fin off attacks and (inaudible) way you don't know where those attacks will come from.

So what does this mean for CCWP and this body? It means I'm dubbing down on continued performance improvement at working with our partners both American jobs and delegate agencies to make certain our performance, the lack thereof, will never be questioned and will never be used against us and/or chief elected official in this region for which (inaudible) all funds are there to support.

We always must be exam ready or audit ready

all at times and never compromise our core values of integrity and understanding, but I can't do this alone. And I reported last time we met that you should expect complaints -- this body should expect complaints about our renewed vigor while looking at performance and holding our partners accountable for predictive measures that could lead to performance erosion.

Pilar who is our new -- raise your hand, Pilar -- who is our new Director of Performance who will continue to report (inaudible) on a performance improvement plan and while I have stressed over and over and over again, we view a performance improvement plan as improving performance, not the penalty box.

If you view a performance plan as a penalty box you are viewing in the wrong light. But, Pilar, I've decided to announce a change publicly that I've not even discussed with you privately, something that I've never done. But I (inaudible) not look at these performance improvement plans in the same positive vein that we are. So, Pilar, you have my authority to change the name. You can call it continuous improvement. You can call it (inaudible) coal mine plan. You can call it (inaudible), whatever you want to call them, I don't care, but I refuse to lower the

standards of protecting our performance but not dubbing down on the notion while CCWB is in rare air -- and, yes, we are in rare air with -- and we work with our partners to get there as we have exceeded every single (inaudible) standard, every single one. And this is across all benchmarks, whether it's youth, adult dislocating worker segments but we must identify ways to make certain that we do not have slippage. I would urge our partners to come along with us on this journey as you see a significant increase in boards entering these plans on approval performance. This will require them to take on increased ownership of their analysis and where they see early indicators of errors.

So why go down this path (inaudible) if we are exceeding? Well, here is one reason. And we received word Congress that's contemplating (inaudible) that would totally eliminate all adult funding that we are to access in October of this year, all of it. Financially that's a \$15 million deficit or cut for us and a \$719 million cut to the workforce system nationally. This is a big deal, and it's starting to get real. Within this proposal also is another lot grant with a twist. You see now they're proposing the governor could apply to move away from the formal funds

and thus this body. (Inaudible) model to a (inaudible) scenario where he or she has total control over all real funding.

So in closing, I have continued to stress the importance of strategy versus transactions. As my previous experience has taught me though, this is difficult and complex. As (inaudible) natural reaction to upheaval and disruption is it to turn your face away and to not deal with it. In particular, if you have grown up in this system and have benefited from it.

The other reaction is to turn inward and hope your organization is positioned to pick up the pieces once the explosion happens and does such. I understand those reactions and perhaps trying to coalesce now around shared values and the (inaudible) that the public workforce system provides at this -- is that we are at a point of no return. CCWB will keep pushing to the very end, which actually could be a new beginning.

My ask of this body is simple, get more involved, come to the service (inaudible), attend the finance committee, come to the youth committee. We need you more than ever because I'm going to read to you two or three sentences that came from the National Association Workforce Board that says, If this is

enacted by Congress, this proposal would cause state and local workforce boards to shutdown critical adult services, layoff staff, and abandon job services. It would disrupt partnerships with employers and training providers undermine equity goals and severely weaken the nations public workforce system. This is where we are. How do we react? (Inaudible) questions but then I have something I'd like special to do.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you, George. Are there questions? Okay. We're going to move forward then, George. Thank you.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. So in light of what's happening with the public workforce system, I want to bring a person who is near and dear to me and taught me so much. Actually, we came on the board together in 2015 while Marc had certainly a career in workforce (inaudible), Chicago Workforce Board before the partnership actually started, we did, kind of, officially join this body the same year in 2015.

He's been more than just a colleague, more than just a board member, more than just a friend, but someone who I could always count on for salient advice telling what I needed to be told and doing whatever he possibly could to help this body. And so Mark's term

has come to an end. He's run a good race. And at the end of the day, we thank him so very much. And I told Marc, as I heard that he was going to end his term and take his, kind of, skills and really kind of focus on his company, is that I looked at the data and the data show that since 2015 when Marc and I came on board together the Chicago workforce partnership has served 59,000. 59,000 individuals this organization has served since 2015, and Marc you've been here for every single one of them. Marc come on up. We have a plaque.

MR. SCHULMAN: Thank you, George. Thank you, Jackie. As I realize my term was ending at the end of October and had seen I served for ten years and I had served on a predecessor board actually knowing that I was at a board meeting the morning that Rod Blagojevich was arrested. It's been a long time to serve in supporting George, supporting Jackie, working with Adam and a very small group of us who really work through a lot and appreciate all the leadership and work in the system. But, you know, the good news is, we get -- I get to focus on our company acceleration and our jobs and our people that I think, you know, it's very important with Josh and new board members. I'd still

support it (inaudible) and I also run (inaudible). So, again, I thank you for the honor and the privilege to serve with all of you. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: There stands a great man who cares about the City of Chicago and the County of Cook. And while he will certainly be missed, Marc, I have all your numbers so I'm still calling for advise, I'm still calling to come up for a cup of tea and slice of cheesecake.

I don't know if everybody (inaudible) but I do and thank you for all that you put into CCWP and to me individually as well as all the members of the board I think we can all say he's provided his wisdom, his (inaudible), and his knowledge. When someone cares deeply about what they do, they do it with excellence, and I think that defines Marc Schulman. So I know you (inaudible). Yeah, they are the best. I don't know if there's enough for everybody today. I (inaudible) get some. But that would have been nice if we still have the -- we'll still have a slight memory of Marc. So thank you again, Marc, and really he is not going anywhere. He just won't be in the room. So thank you again, Marc. Can we have a round of applause for him.

Okay. I want to move to committee reports

but because Adam has class and he's teaching, school started again, and someone else has to go too, let's move to the things that need voting. So it looks like we need to jump to service delivery, if you don't mind Nicole. Pam is not well today, but Amy is here, right?

MS. SHAW: Yes.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: I think that's the only place where we need votes. Here she comes.

MS. SANTACATERINA: Good morning, I'm Amy Santacaterina. Can you all hear me? I'm Director of Programs, Program Director of Budgeting Guidance. The service delivery committee met yesterday and approves policy letters and we'll go through them today. But first I wanted to update the board on a request for service that was issued. As many of you know, on July 1 we had awarded an adult dislocated program to agency serving the west side American job center (inaudible) and American Job Center at Kennedy King College. The provider declined that other award. We had to issue an emergency, kind of, interim request for services. We issued that request for services to our existing American Job Center providers because they had already gone through the procurement issue that -- issued in our RFS and, you know, our guidelines for our

(inaudible) criteria for demonstrated experience, ability to the staff on uprate and cost effectiveness. We've had a team that reviewed those proposals, presented recommendations to our leadership team. We had a final conference call with the selected providers and our selections were rewarded. (Inaudible) for a site Kennedy King College and (inaudible) at Malcolm X west side campus.

Now we have policy letters to review. Attached to your -- you should have received a policy letter on the use of alternative signatures. This is a policy letter that the State has sent to us and required all the whole workforce areas to develop their own policy letter on the use of alternative signatures, and it really extends our previous guidance from the Department of Labor that was used during COVID. As we're using more virtual services, this allows us to verify for eligibility documents, electronic signatures, and if we cannot receive security the electronic signatures, we can also use self-attestations, the policy letter before you outline those requirements of the procedures for security for alternative signatures. This is a local policy. The service (inaudible) passed it and will be subject to

vote. I can move onto the next policy.

Any questions about this policy letter?

The next policy letter that will come up for approval by the board is our training provider eligibility and certification policy. This is an update to our existing policy letter. Some of the changes are highlighted here for you. Basically, it's (inaudible) wanting to increase accountability and are showing and defending our return on investment. We are also -- this policy letter is raising the standards for our training providers. The -- We were changing this policy letter to (inaudible) update several years ago, so we are raising the standard for the goals of training (inaudible) employment, successful completion rate, and (inaudible). The goal now will be 75 percent and with meeting range of ten percent, so that meeting range is 67.5 percent to 74.99. Also in this policy letter, there are -- we outline some expectations of the training provider regarding communication with a referring entity, the career coach. And we stress in there that there's dual responsibility for achieving these outcomes for (inaudible) provider to send documents of measurable (inaudible), credential attainment to the career (inaudible). Again, this

policy letter was approved for discussion and moved forward for approval for services.

Any questions about this policy letter?

THE COURT REPORTER: I didn't catch what you said.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Oh, you didn't hear me?

(Inaudible - simultaneous speaking)

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Sorry about that.

Sometimes City College has to obtain (inaudible). So I was saying to this individually (inaudible) just in the event that we have to. So this is training by recommendation.

Amy, do you mind if I make a motion? Can we have a motion to accept this recommendation.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Manny. Adam second. All in favor.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Question? Motion passes.

Let's move directly to -- thank you. If you didn't have anything else. And then do we go to program performance (inaudible).

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) signature policy.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Am I saying too much? Oh, I see.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The policy letter and there's the one more slide.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Sorry. I'm trying to rush you along.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you want to do the other policy letter.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: (Inaudible.)

MS. SANTACATERINA: Then also the board approved the eligible training provider list again in a packet. There's (inaudible) document that lists the programs that were up this year for initial training certification and continued training programs to maintain our list and a list of the programs that we're recommending that are not continued. There's one program that was not recommended to continue because they failed to meet (inaudible) benchmarks. Again, the board came yesterday with those and approved those recommendations.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you. (Inaudible) we have -- because we have a new board member, we are

(inaudible) acronym around here, if you could, sort of, state out which they were. I got an HHC across, but, you know, we have so many acronyms. Please say the acronym.

MS. SANTACATERINA: AJCs are American Job Centers are not just centers that that we fund.

And if -- I'm not sure if I stated the ITA is an individual training account and that's like a tuition voucher that participates can use among certified training letters.

Any other questions?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: On the second line, we are ready to make a motion.

MR. HECKTMAN: So move second.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Adam.

(Inaudible - simultaneous speaking)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: I don't know who went first. Adam. We're such a fun group. Question?

All in favor.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Motion passes. All right.

MS. SHAW: One abstained from (inaudible).

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: So City Colleges please note, Nicole, that they are abstaining. Do we need a role call, Nicole? You going to do a role call.

MS. SHAW: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: I think for the sake of new person so he knows who is approving and who is not.

We'll get you a list of names of everybody who is here and everything.

Thank you, Amy.

Now are we moving on?

MS. SHAW: Yup.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Pilar, thanks. Trying to move quickly to get everything we need in before Adam has to leave and someone else had to go.

MS. TREJO: Okay. Good morning. Can everybody hear me okay? Good morning. Great. I'm Pilar (inaudible) here. I'm the Director of Program Performance. And yesterday with our service delivery committee we talked about our performance improvement plans. And just really quick, I want to give you an overview of what I'll be discussing is agencies that will be going on a performance improvement plan. We have a few that will also not only being on performance improvement plan but will also with have some decreased funding. I'm happy to say the third component which would be there -- next to the word purpose, we don't

have anybody that's going to be defunded, so that's good news. The program we are looking at is program year 2025 starting October 1st, 2025 and ending September 30th, 2026.

If you look on the PowerPoint that says period of data, when we looked at the data to make the determination of which agencies need to go on the pick, we looked at the period of the three quarters which starts October 1st of '24 and ended June 30th of '25. The models that we're going to be reviewing during this period are called are affiliate American Job Centers. And for those of you that have been around for a while, basically these are our adult and dislocated delegate agencies. The adult works with the low income population basically and then our dislocated obviously works with the laid-off population.

The programs we'll be reviewing or looking at are adult and dislocated work. So I'm going to skip through a couple things, but I do want to show you affiliate AJC's benchmarks and points. I just want everybody to walk away understanding that the method to determine how something is going to be put on a performance improvement plan was looking at points. An agency wants to get as close as they can to 100 points,

and these are the benchmarks that you see on the PowerPoint. For those of you who looked at your materials, you saw that I just put it in one spot for you.

And one thing I do want to make note of is everything on this list that you're looking at with the exception of the purple items, the purple items are files that have been exited. All the other benchmarks basically with the exception of program compliance and physical compliance, they have to do the active files. So I just want you to know we're looking at a good example of exited files and active files. So these are the benchmarks for the affiliate AJCs or adult dislocated.

Then we have our specialized American Job Centers. And I'd like to show you Career Pathways. The Career Pathway program is basically -- just so you know -- it's -- it's a series of courses that an individual takes so that it can lead to a specific industry focused on training with credentials. These are the benchmarks. Again you'll see the color coding, and then we also have our bridge program in this particular category.

The bridge program is exactly what you think

of when you think of a bridge. They're trying to bridge the individuals current skills to the skills that are needed for a specific initial (inaudible). We want to close that gap up. Again, looking at this, you'll see we only have one item in purple that's exited benchmark. The rest, with the exception of the two red ones, program compliance and physical capacity, are all looking at active cases. So just so you know one thing I'm going to say and then I'll go straight to the list of agency, it's not all about the points. If an agency reaches eight points but they have two or more benchmarks that they failed or they got a weak score or a low score, they will go on a pip, so we will get everything. The methodology is looking at the points but also looking at these benchmarks that I just showed you to make sure that they're not going over two or more benchmarks.

So I'm going to skip through a couple things. I will say performance indicators, I'm very happy to say that, as George mentioned, our youth programs throughout the whole workforce area and (inaudible) exceed, and I'm happy to say that that's our bar. That's where we're at and always want to be. So I'm going to skip through this because I talked about that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So right here, the --

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Earlier we talked about raising the standard to something (inaudible). Is that one in the same what we're looking at here?

MS. TREJO: No, this is different. I think Amy was referring to the ITA training providers and that was the 75 percent, I believe that's what you're referring to.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So just ITA (inaudible), it's not --

MS. TREJO: Yeah, this is regarding the problematic piece and the agency (inaudible) capacity, and these were the same categories we used in July. We will be looking at them again. This came up in our service delivery. We're going to take a look at it and look at the waiting, but for now we wanted to keep it on a standard. Did I answer your question, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. TREJO: Yup. Okay. Great.

So I'm going to go straight to the agencies that were discussed and improved by our service committee in the affiliated American Job Center category we have five adult agencies that are going on

the (inaudible). You will notice under recommendations that some of the agencies are also going to be receiving a decrease in funding. Again, if they received less than 70 points and they had two or more benchmarks that they failed, you will see that they are going to get some decrease in funding.

Before I say that, I just wanted to make note in the materials you received there was a grid. We do have some agencies that will be receiving an increase, and if they did not fail any benchmarks and it was an adult program, they will be getting a 15-percent increase.

Amy, is that correct 15 percent?

MS. SANTACATERINA: (Inaudible.)

MS. TREJO: Oh, adult is ten percent. The adult is ten percent if they had a no benchmark issues so they would be at an increase and then the dislocated will get 15 percent. If they had one failed benchmark, the adult would get five percent and then the dislocated would get ten percent. So just some notes if you see in your materials.

All right. Moving forward. Here are the agencies and we will need to vote on this. Dynamic Workforce Solutions, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Safer

Foundation, St. Sabina, Proviso will be on pips and some cases decreased funding.

Our dislocated worker category we have three: Dynamic Workforce Solutions, National Able Evanston & Oakton, and YWCA. So this is one that we will need to vote on. And I don't know if we want to vote at this time or do you want to wait until we --

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: (Inaudible.)

MS. TREJO: Okay. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Before we vote, I just want -- George, I want to make sure that I'm saying this correctly. With respect to our rate and all the exceeds, are we the top ranking in the state as far as -- that's correct, right?

MR. WRIGHT: So we can't -- that's a hot mic. We can't confirm that, but we do know that -- I would answer your question in slightly different approach. The partnership averages typically north of \$50 million in terms of dollars that we have to spend and get out on the street. And the budget that we're working with now will be in there -- there could be some cuts, I mentioned earlier, \$62 million. The entire state of Illinois in terms of the (inaudible) funds to the tune of \$154 million. So if you think

about that, we carry the State's performance. If we don't exceed all measures, the State can't possibly exceed all measures. And so the way to answer the question is, I don't know nationally or locally or other ways what they're doing, but our performance is vitally important to the State's performance and we carry, once again, the line (inaudible) share that performance. Hopefully that helps.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you. I already know the answer but I wanted to hear it from the horse's mouth. When (inaudible) ask a question about why we are so stringent, why Pilar has to keep such -- has to keep her, you know, her foot to the pedal, this is why. We continue to exceed over and over again, and I just wanted to point that out for everybody to know that we don't do this just because it's, you know, fun to press people to exceed their measures. Let's go to vote now.

Can you mention the (inaudible)?

MS. SHAW: We're going to be voting on the performance improvement plans for our affiliate American Job Centers also known our and delegate agencies formerly known as. Okay.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. I'd like to put a motion on the floor.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So moved.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: That was Manny.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Second.

ATTY 1: Nicole, you got that?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Question?

All in favor.

(All say aye.)

Motion passes.

MR. DESIDERI: I'm going to (inaudible).

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Did you abstain?

MR. DESIDERI: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Did you get that, Nicole?

MS. SHAW: (Inaudible.)

MS. TREJO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to add before I move on to the specialized American Job Centers that Chinese American service (inaudible) know as (inaudible) is not on the list because they're no longer with the partnership. Unfortunately, they happened to make a change with regards to the type of career pathway training they were doing. And, you know, we -- you know, we weren't able to do that because that wasn't the agreement that was started with so just in case anybody was wondering. All right.

And this is our specialized American Job Centers. We do need to vote here as well. It's only Career Pathways we don't have any ridge programs that are going on a pip and, of course, nobody is being defunded, which is a great bit of news.

Today we will be looking at the five adult Career Pathways starting with Association House; National Able Network, their ITPs; Greater West Town Development Project, their manufacturing; Revolution Workshop, a construction piece; Jane Addams Resource Center, manufacturing. And on the dislocated workers side of the Career Pathways we have four: Jane Addams Resource Center; National Able Network, IT program; the Greater West Town Development Project for both manufacturing and shipping and receiving. So that is the total there, and we will need to vote on this as well.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Let's -- I'm sorry everybody. Doing too much here.

Can we have a motion to vote for American Job Centers Career Pathways.

MS. EDWARDS: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Stacia.

MR. HECKTMAN: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: And Adam second -- for our motion and second.

Question?

All in favor.

(All say aye.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Great. Motion passes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: You're abstaining?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

MS. SHAW: And I want to mention for Victor Dixon is abstaining from the previous vote the adult and dislocated American Job Centers and (inaudible)?

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

(Inaudible - simultaneous speaking.)

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

MS. TREJO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We do have one quick item. Two things I just wanted you to see, this is -- these are our strongest program performers. These agencies had no benchmark issues and as you could see their points are very high. I will just call out the name Calumet Area Industrial, Polish American Alliance, Moraine Valley, Chicago Federation of Labor, Symbol, and St. Paul Church of God. If we could give

them a round of applause, I really (inaudible).

(Round of applause.)

MS. TREJO: Thank you for the hard work there.

The last thing that we did need to vote on was in June we did put an agency on a PIP, the American Job Center in Harvey, their dislocated work program, it was discovered and reviewed that there was an issue with premier connect and business services. So I'd like to pool that PIP and you discussed this in the service (inaudible) committee and that was approved so seeking approval from our board.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Do we need to vote on that?

MS. TREJO: I don't know.

MS. SHAW: Yes, we do.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Then let's put a vote forth. Is there a motion.

MR. JOHANSON: (Inaudible.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: (Inaudible.)

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Matt, Manny.

All in favor?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Question? Motion passes.

I'm just trying to make sure we got everything for you.

MS. TREJO: Yeah, I think we do.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Are any of those agencies here?

MS. TREJO: The agencies from (inaudible)?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Yeah.

MS. TREJO: I believe Chicago Federation Labor is here.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: You guys are here. Congratulations. (Inaudible.)

(Round of applause.)

Okay. Yeah. I had to take a look at notes. It's good to look at the strong performers.

Yeah, (inaudible) community note as well.

MS. TREJO: Yes, and this will be brief. We wanted to give you an update on where we ended here at the Chicago workforce partnership in our local workforce area for PY-24. This is basically the sheet I wanted to share with you, and there's just a couple things I'd like to really point out, you know, data is one thing but I wanted to just really focus on a couple of the numbers. You see there's about 3,000 people that were registered, and there was about 1,400 that were new enrollees and then a group of -- another 1,400

or so were exited. You know, that's a lot of youth that were reaching out, and it's great, but I want you to look at the population demographics (inaudible) black, two twenty eight percent -- almost 29 percent, 30 percent Hispanic, our white and Asian numbers. Looking also at living in poverty area 48.9 percent and low income 42.8 percent. What I'm trying to say is we could see those numbers all -- as much as we want to, but the partnership is continuing to work with disconnected youth, and we see that in these numbers. We are still a gateway. There's other programs out there but we are a gateway to help that opportunity youth. The other thing I'd like to point out by looking at these numbers, you can see them as you go through this, those that are experiencing homelessness, pregnancy, basic skills deficient, et cetera. Our youth faces multiple barriers, and that's no surprise for the individuals in this room that work with youth. But it is difficult work, it's challenging, and it requires intensive services. So we are really meeting the youth where they're at. And the other thing I wanted to point out to, is if you look towards the bottom, you see that there's two -- about 62 percent, 63 percent that are high school diploma youth and then

we see that some of them, very small amount, 2.7 are post high school attendees, and 2.9 college graduates. What that's saying is the partnership is still working with youth that have potential and may stop there and not know what to do. So I think these things are very, very important. And the other thing I want to focus on before I leave is look at that average wage. Yesterday I asked what was the minimum wage for Chicago and I think somebody said 16. This is the average wage that we're producing for jobs \$19. So, again, our percentage there of 61 percent that were exited with employee and 11 percent with postsecondary speech to our dual approach of working with youth, not only getting them jobs but also looking at postsecondary. And this one I just love showing again, exceed, exceed, exceed. It is important. Our youth program did end exceed along with our others. Thank very much for your time.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Please make sure that you take time to look at these documents. The staff works really hard to make sure that they are preparing these documents for you so make sure that you take time before the meeting to look at them.

Jose, can we have you come up real quick?

Jose will now do the finance committee report.

MR. MOTA: Morning, everyone. Today I will presenting on our bill of financials for the year 6-30-2025. Just as a reminder, we (inaudible) grants and after the first year, there are some State requirements that we are to be -- after the first of the year, which one of them was this 80 percent obligation rate. So 80 percent of the formula funds have to be obligated or spent by June 30th, and I'm happy to report that as of 6-30 we met the requirement for all three funding source for the adult dislocated and the youth funding (inaudible).

The second requirement that we have to meet is the 50 percent requirement, and that's 50 percent of the funds for (inaudible) go towards the right training which is ITA, OJTs, specialized training and incumbent work. As of 6-30 we met that benchmark. We were at 58.6 percent for the year, so we worked that -- we also met that benchmark. Lastly, the last requirement is (inaudible) youth. After the first of the year, we're at 8 but. This is a two-year requirement. So when the grant (inaudible) that year two, we'll be at the 20 percent. So there's no issue, no concerns. We have always met this percentage over the last -- as long as

I've been here.

Any questions on any of the requirements for (inaudible)? Thank you.

Financials for the year, we ended at 81 percent spend for our wheel of funding. The balance you see on here is the 13.5 million carries over into year two. Seven million of that is already obligated towards IT. We have to come in-house and contracts (inaudible) for the adult and the dislocated funding stream. I presented the budget at the last board meeting so if anyone wants to take a look at it please refer to the material from June. If not, you can feel free to reach out to me and I'll share a copy of next year's budget and the spending that was approved by the board in June.

Any questions on any of the numbers? And just as a heads up for (inaudible) our budget has been signed and executed on the State side, and it's in the GRS system, which is the granting reporting system. We are able to draw funds as of right. And so (inaudible) withdraws for the year. So I'm happy to report that as well.

Any questions? Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Jose, (inaudible) the

financials. Please make sure you go back and look at them all. If you have questions about them, Jose is always available to talk through them and answer any questions you might have. Thank you, Jose.

Nicole, can we move to delegate agency now?

MS. SHAW: Yes.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. Jacki Gallo and Janae Riley.

MS. GALLO: Good morning, everybody. We are your agents for (inaudible). A number of you have been to our shop. If you haven't, we can present today but it's not quite the same as seeing it in person so everyone should come take a tour. But I'm Jacki. I'm our Senior Program Director.

MS. RILEY: I'm Janae. I'm Director of Preapprenticship Programs.

MS. GALLO: And the Revolution Workshop really has a background in getting jobs in construction and really beyond that is the (inaudible) of gap and everything like that. We started in 2018, was lucky enough to start a month after (inaudible). So I've got to be there since it was four staff members and now we have close to 40, and since then -- we started on the west side of Irving Park, then since expand to the south

side as well in the Roseland area.

MS. RILEY: So we do go through different programs (inaudible). The first program is our trades pathway program so that (inaudible) and on construction year (inaudible) program that runs Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:00. With the individuals that come to our program we give them all the necessary tools that they might need to be successful, not just in program but two in the long hall of construction. So we will give them the tools, the skills, the development, the one-on-one coaching. We'll also provide them with (inaudible) transportation assistance. And then after they finish our program, they'll have their OSHA-10 certification as well as their NCCRE certification and the average wage there is about \$20 an hour. So program is pretty much funded through our (inaudible) tollway construction works and (inaudible). So our eligibility for this program is they do have to be able to get a driver's license through this program. We (inaudible) flexible with our crew background for these programs so most of our individuals have been either incarcerated or just have lived a different life that our staff is able to accommodate. And, yeah.

So our second program is our professional

pathways program that is a 14-week construction program. This one is getting individuals jobs more so on the office side of construction so individuals who want to designers, assistant project engineers, assistant project managers will come to us and will train them in AutoCAD ready, blueprint reading, and all of the mechanisms needed to be a project manager. So we will do a digital (inaudible) with them in AutoCAD. We'll also provide different (inaudible) support because you know in construction it's very (inaudible) so we work making sure they have all the necessary tools needed, just not mentally but physically to do those jobs as well, so that one is providing coverage (inaudible).

And then while they're in the program, we do a variety of (inaudible) service. So we'll give the weekly classes for financial, life skills, and job readiness. So we're working with (inaudible) to provide all the necessary tools to finish out, like I said, not just the program but any direction of any successful career. So they'll meet with (inaudible) one-on-one, supervisors (inaudible) services. So we'll provide them coaching, what have you, doing an interview, have you call your manager say you're going

to be late. The financials of construction are not always going to be (inaudible) so we give them the understanding that you have to budget, you have to save your money. So we try to work with them (inaudible) working in construction but also as a person.

MS. GALLO: This (inaudible) program entries. And I should say so we serve about 120 to 150 people through our trades program every year depending on the construction market. We fund about 25 of those spots through (inaudible) so this is a snapshot of our overall numbers outside the funding received or (inaudible) and things like that.

Since 2018, we served over 700 people with the graduation rate of 84 percent, a job placement rate of 85 percent, and 85 percent job retention after three months. This -- the average starting wage for our trade's program is about \$20 an hour. For the professional (inaudible) program, it's about \$25 an hour. And I'm going to say that this (inaudible) only has been able to happen because of all of our relationships with our employers. The program that Janae mentioned the professional pathways program, most of the jobs that folks are getting out of that program traditionally require a four-year bachelor's degree,

and we know -- not that college is a bad option but we know that that's not an accessible pathway for everyone in our community, and so we had a lot of folks coming to our trade's program saying, Well, I don't think college is an option for me. I don't think I can afford it so I guess I have to work in a trades and that shouldn't be the only outcome. So we're trying to get creative and give folks multi on, off ramps into these careers. I mean, they might still go to college later on and we're going to work with (inaudible) career pathways (inaudible) services beyond that but trying to make sure that we can understand from our employers what are the fundamental skills that's going to help someone when they put their foot in the door and then what do you need us to train so you guys can take it from there. So our employers have picked a part the curriculum, on the trade side and professional pathway side. If you saw the program in 2018 versus what it is now, it looks a lot better and it's because we had construction companies really like roll up their sleeves and get in the weeds for our curriculum and say, like, teach less of this, more of that, more time in the shop, more working in teams. And that relationship, like we tell our employer, you're

affecting (inaudible) just as much as a job seeker and customer. Because if we're not giving the (inaudible) then we're just (inaudible) job seekers that come to us. So every -- after every (inaudible) employer (inaudible) get (inaudible) and try to tweak it. We also work a lot of our employers through the partnership and their network to get on-the-job training wage reimbursement to help incentivize this idea that, hey, this person might not have a college degree but their really good and have a lot of talent. How can we help support you while you (inaudible) training on individual? We also have employers in every piece of our program coming to us (inaudible) new days, doing job (inaudible) opportunities present training. (Inaudible) all day long. When they (inaudible) versus looks like them and having they want (inaudible).

MS. RILEY: And so our relationship with individuals who come through our program don't get just a graduation. It is life offer and it involves making money. So we do offer (inaudible) services as well post graduation. So as long as the individuals open to receiving phonecalls and calling us (inaudible). And though we provide a lot of the services where if they

need that partnership, they need the financial coaching, if they need that individual support, we are there to provide it. So we give them continued access to those financial classes, to those (inaudible) resources they need may. And today (inaudible).

MS. GALLO: And the other thing that we wanted to tell you about is our social enterprise, which is not funded through the partnership, but I would say it's like been a critical piece of our success in the longterm for our graduates, especially in construction. If you're a brick layer in Chicago, you work during the summer and you might get overtime in the summer. And winter comes and you're probably laid-off for about four months. To folks coming out our program, a lot of them are not just starting at zero in their bank account. Most of them are in debt when they come to us. They don't have that (inaudible) built up yet to weather the winter slow season in construction. And so we have used our social enterprise where we actually do pay projects to hire trainees and then be able to keep money in their pocket while their out of work. And so we do three-month shifts for anyone out of work which is a job. We're doing paid projects. We have the same accountability (inaudible) as any employer would. If

you're late too many times we're going to ask you to leave, but we also have all the case management support that we always get from which is, Oh, you have a criminal or like a legal situation that's holding you back, how do we get you in the (inaudible) legal clinic and make sure we get that resolved. Oh, you have problems (inaudible). We work to get that resolved. And the whole role of transition employment is that (inaudible) so we can get you back to where you need to be. So through (inaudible) certain two. One of them is our wood shop where we make beautiful wood furniture. You can see that photo on the left (inaudible) offices, that's -- we made that 26-foot long (inaudible) table. And we also do revelation contracting where we do different off site construction projects and hiring graduates to help with that. The project we're working on right now is we got a house donated to us in Hohman, and we working actually with our alumni to restore this house with the goal of selling it back to one of our grads, a first time homeowner, and you know (inaudible) education is how we're going to tag these, that kind of (inaudible) homes in the community that are graduated and also work with them on the financial literacy side to be able to

achieve that goal.

So we'll just end with a couple success stories. We looked a little further back in time so that we can show folks we've actually had now careers of success in the workshop. One of them is Dorothy. She came to us in 2022. She went through our trades program. She's a veteran. Got sponsored in (inaudible), which for many folks getting into the carpenter's union it's, like, a two-year process, right? She was able to start shortly after graduating our program because (inaudible) and (inaudible) are so involved in all the training we were in, actually came to teach demonstration (inaudible) that you got to meet. Your (inaudible). And many of you know that these jobs come with some of the best healthcare you'll see, pension, and a good wage, but also it had that up and down slow season so it's like critical that Dorothy had her own (inaudible) to come back to if she was out of work. Because two-thirds of women and people who start union apprenticeship never graduate the apprenticeship. Now Dorothy has been able to (inaudible) carpenter union. She's now third year making 36.86 an hour plus benefits.

(Round of applause.)

And then the other one runs (inaudible) Montreal who tried to apply for a job at (inaudible) construction in 2023, and they told him, hey, you don't have enough experience in construction, why don't you go Revolution Workshop. If they tell you -- if they tell me afterwards that you're top of your class, we'll give you a job. And so Montreal came to Revolution workshop. (Inaudible) and Montreal got up to introduce himself and he said, I was referred by (inaudible) gentleman. He said if I'm on top of my class, they're going to give me a job, and I'm top of my class. And the staff said he didn't lie, you know. So the gentleman did say they offer -- they said, hey, we can see your potential on the office side or the trade side and they walked him through like what career he (inaudible). He decided he actually wanted to go down the construction management pathway. Started as an assistant project engineer at \$26 an hour. In less than a year he's earning \$30 an hour. We recently formed a board of our alumni to help (inaudible) programming and also our alumni programming. He's now the chair of our board (inaudible). He's the one on the interviewer side of the table (inaudible).

That's all I've got unless you have

questions.

MR. JOHANSON: So back on the employer relations slide, can you just give a little bit -- there's something about EAC meetings -- talk about what that is? How do you track -- How have you tracked over 300 (inaudible) employers?

MS. GALLO: Okay. So the employer advisory counsel we've had since we started revolution that a EAC and that's the group that (inaudible) of our programming. That counts as a mix of like small mom and pop shops, big commercial contractors, union, nonunion, plumbers, carpenters, we try to get a good skill set. Back when we started the professional pathway program, only a couple years ago now, we ended up splitting our employer advisory counsel in to two different working groups. One for the professional pathway. One for the trades program. And they're the ones -- they'll review our curriculum. If we're doing advocating work, they'll help us with things like that. They help -- I mean, they helped us in so many ways. We meet quarterly with the whole group of all the employers and then each quarter we also do one working board meeting where we get more into the details, so about one per month meeting.

The 300 employers is -- are the folks who would answer our e-mails, you know, like, regularly somewhat consistently would engage. We have a tiering system for our employers. So we tier everyone like tier one, tier two, tier three, and then neutral. Our tier one employers are folks that consistently engage in pretty much every option that we had. They hire. They consistently give us feedback. They consistently donate. They consistently make (inaudible) from everything like that. The vast majority of our hirers can be linked back to a tier one partner.

Tier two, we'll say like they consist of the engagement in a couple of those areas. Tier two they consist in one of those areas. And then neutral is like they're not consistent yet in anything, but we're going to try to get them up.

Did that answer your question.

MR. JOHANSON: Yeah.

MR. DAVIS: Wonderful job. I continue to hear excellent things in the construction industry about what Revolution Workshop is doing so keep it going. Question for you: What is the typical (inaudible) job placement for those that completed the program?

MS. GALLO: It's about 84 percent overall. It

used to be like 92 percent, but since the last year and a half, two years ever since the interest rate have gone up, now the cranes disappeared from downtown. It's been a little more of struggle so the past couple year have (inaudible).

MR. DAVIS: How do you support those the employers (inaudible)?

MS. GALLO: That's where lot of our alumni chairs come into play and our social enterprise where we're actually like, hey, you're not working yet. You got to keep your spirits up. You go to keep (inaudible), keep going, all while they're working (inaudible) wood shop or like contracting projects, yeah.

MS. TREJO: Janae, I just wanted to commend what I just heard you say. I think it's really interesting. Usually, with career seekers we want to have a talent pool to understand where people fit but having like a talent pool for the employers, the way you explained it as far as tiers, I think that's a really good practice. I hope everybody heard that. I could say it again. Okay. I just wanted to commend Revolution Workshop, Janae, and --

MS. GALLO: Jacki.

MS. TREJO: -- Jacki that you talked about putting

employers in different tiers. I think in our industry we spent a lot of time putting our customers in a talent pool, right, but you don't hear that too much with our employers. So I just I thought that was the best practice. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Jacki and Janae, thank you so much we appreciate it.

(Round of applause)

I'm sure that you'll be receiving calls from other folks.

Susan, can we ask you to come on and (inaudible) and do what she's got to do.

MS. MASSEL: Hi, everybody. I'm Susan. Thank you all for sticking out with us here. I'm director of -- I sorry -- I am the Director of Communications and External Affairs here. I want to thank everybody for being part of -- for -- oh, no wrong direction. There we go. Thank you. (Continued) for helping, and I will be the -- often in closing acts.

First thing I want to say is that our refreshed website, voice branding and logo launched, we've got nice feedback from it. We actually -- our website developer company, Clarity, we contracted with (inaudible) knowledge submitted the website for an

award and we won, so we won the super (inaudible) and nonprofit website category (inaudible), so it was nice. I have gotten a lot of feedback that it pops, which is a good word, that it's easier to navigate.

We have really spent a lot of time making this an easier way to interact with us, and I think it worked. I do want to take a moment to talk about levelupAJC.org. This, of course, is the partnership website, but levelupAJC.org is (inaudible) created just (inaudible) directly to American Job Centers. We started in October of '23. It has connected 4,400 career seekers directly to American Job Center, about 70 employers. I need to see that number again, because employers (inaudible) customers must be on copilot, and that is something we talk about all the time. It's so easy to focus the career seeker, which is important, but if the career seeker has no destination, we're not going to get there. So we're very proud (inaudible) business have used it. It's got more than 80,000 views. So I do want to mention that cite as well.

Social media followers continue -- I can't see -- social media followers continue to grow especially on LinkedIn and Instagram and that is an easy way for people to find us and we're happy to see

that. Looking at the kind of themes that we put out there, the partnership rebrand, the partnership principles, who we are, and then success stories, and, you know, success stories are so important but George and I -- we've talked a lot about (inaudible), they're important. But these days data is every bit as important, and so those success stories that Revolution Workshop just changed -- I mean, just shared, they lift up the data, right, they bring the data to life. And we have to keep -- we have to keep doing that. And some more examples of the kind of themes we're sharing, we, of course, had a golf fundraiser, which we can talk about in a second, career center hiring events, and always looking to expand the universe of people who are applying to have contracts with organizations (inaudible).

So we had an unbelievable great ever first golf outing on August the 2nd. A lot of people sitting in the black there leaned in heavily to it.

(Round of applause)

(Inaudible) it was really -- it was really amazing. And we -- one of the things that we were able to do, not me, somebody else on our team was able to secure complementary video and photography services

from a company called Love City. I believe I'm saying that right, Claudia. Love City, have I got that right? We have just seen the final video. I was shown it but it's not quite ready. We will share it with all of you. It is amazing. And I would hope that, again, as our copilot (inaudible) share strongly when we do share it with you and the pictures. They're just -- it just speaks a thousand words.

So we continue to work on branding. We continue to share our events on social media. One of the things I spent some time doing when we launched the new website was trying to make American Job Centers (inaudible) ubiquitous names for everything in our -- you know, most customers and even employers, they don't know the difference between career pathways -- (inaudible) nice words but they don't say anything so trying to be consistent with the branding and signage we put up at a site has (inaudible) center marks now. Again, so much we share is network events. It's not just the events the partnership meets but that the network use. We are after all (inaudible), we are nothing with out 70 base communities organizations that make up our whole. So this an example of the kind of fliers that (inaudible) and I see every day and try to

make sure our logo is present but really it's about the (inaudible).

So career connector events have been funded through Cook County by (inaudible) funding, which I think I'm speaking (inaudible) it was tied to pandemic recovery. And I love this picture because she got so many offers there she didn't have enough hands, so that's the kind of success that we want to have as well as the fliers about the events. Okay.

So this is workforce development month. I think that it is ironic that George had to give the opening remarks he had to give on the 20th anniversary of the workforce development month. We are in serious times. We are all working very hard to be prepared and get ahead of whatever is going to happen. One of the things we're doing is four live podcasts. We have done two. We have two more to be done. You all should have gotten your inbox I hope yesterday, a description of what those podcasts are. We're going to be doing another one live on Facebook (inaudible) this afternoon. I want to thank the members of the group that have participated, you know who you are, and these are what I'd like to call, do I look fat in (inaudible). Yeah, sometimes. So what are we going to

do? Are we going to take the shots or (inaudible)? I mean, these are very pragmatic how is the system doing podcast. Pretending that (inaudible) chose is not going to do anybody any good so I want to be very clear about we're doing well and where we can improve. George is the host. He's an incredible host. He has a gift of listening to the questions and not just listening to the answers -- pardon me -- and not just (inaudible) to the question, which is an interview, and is very hard to do, and he has done a great job and I look forward to the rest of them.

So the question is, are we in a tornado warning or a tornado watch? Right, Manny, you taught me yesterday watch is worse, right?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: (Inaudible.)

THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't get them, right. So maybe we're in a warning.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: (Inaudible.)

MS. MASSEL: Whatever, it's bad, guys. There's (inaudible) out there. So that's what we're trying to get ahead of, of reinforcement of press release, reinforcement of social media, (inaudible) put something on our website about workforce development

and we published something called, In the works which is our e-newsletter (inaudible) subscribe to. That is also lifting it up. So I'm going to ask you guys all a favor at the end of the day, which is my job, right, what is your story? What is our story? George said that since he and the bringer of the good food as I like to call him started on the board, Marc, 56,000 people served, right. We heard today from Pilar about the first of the class, 100 percent, but then we also heard from Revolution Workshop about the people how we figured it out, if it's a (inaudible) job, don't worry. Don't worry if it's snowing or there's no cranes. We'll get you a job on (inaudible). This is our story. So I want to ask everybody (inaudible), I'm going to ask at the end for Nicole to put the agenda back up, I'm going to ask you take a pick of me with this sign and I'd like you to tell me what you wanted to be when you grew up and what workforce development means to you. And I really want the will be the leaders in my next few weeks of working with development month to try to get the word out what we're dealing with and where we are, and I did that without asking my boss. That was it, guys. That's the end of this part of the presentation. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Thank you, Susan.

We are now moving into public comment. We will not go until 2:00 o'clock, I promise you. I think that's a typo.

George, do you have anything before we move to public comment.

MR. WRIGHT: No. Other than, madam chair, thank you, thank you, thank you, for all your support. As I said we need you now more than ever. And so -- and with that and, once again, just thanks everybody. And, Josh, you're welcome as the newest member of this esteemed body and hope to work with you in the future real closely. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: I would echo the same back to you, George, thank you to not only you but this amazing staff. I don't think we talk about the staff enough. These folks rock, and we need to give them their dues. Could we give them a round of applause?

(Round of applause.)

And now we will move into public comment. Nicole has the mic. There is one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. We're still in morning time. Four more minutes. I'm going to try to stand over here, hopefully that helps

with the echo. I'm (inaudible). I'm with Care a Corporation, and we previously operated the Kennedy King College and also the Malcolm X west side -- should we switch? Let's try again. Is this better? Okay. All right. Let's try again.

So my name is (inaudible). I'm with Care a Corporation. I'm the current chief operating officer, and what that means is basically I oversee HR, accounting, and marketing communications or as we like to call it public outreach. We previously operated the Kennedy King College location as well as the Malcolm X west side location. We've been with the network since 2016. This year we did have to make the very difficult decision not to accept the renewal and it was mainly -- you know, I wanted you guys to know it was a business decision. It's not financially feasible with the funding cuts that we received about two years ago for us to continue. And I -- we appreciate that the -- you know, the partnership CCWP has a diverse portfolio of providers. But with that, I think this is the best decision at the moment with what we're facing to do some consolidation. So bringing in these two providers that are already a part of your network actually is going to save you money. This kind of work requires

back office, so we're not just hiring career services and business services. You have to have an accounting team, an HR team. You have to do recruitment. You have to do all these other things, so you're paying for a share of a CEO. So you know -- so when you have so many providers, you're sharing -- you're paying for so many companies CEOs, so a consolidation actually benefits the community in some cases. We are a national provider, and some community in some (inaudible) they in only have one provider running the entire system or only a few providers. So there is some savings to you, more that's going to go out to the community and stay within the community. So that's -- again, I think it's smart business decision. But, ultimately, I wanted to just thank everyone here for your partnership, your trusting confidence. We have some caring staff that are now with the partnership. We also provided the names of our staff that were with us and hopefully they'll find a home within the network. They're hard working individuals. You know, a caring -- you really believe in the employee experience and staff development so you're definitely getting some really -- individuals that are passionate about the work that we're doing. But I also wanted to

thank the staff. I started with KARA eight years ago, and I actually helped put together the proposal that they won in 2016. I was working as a consultant. So I want to thank the staff. I feel like these are kind of like my coworkers, my colleagues, Jose Mota, you know, Claudia, Pilar, Amy, I feel like I grew up with you guys in some sense. I think we all had a different position eight years ago than where we are now, so it's really nice to see how the partnership has grown under the leadership of Mr. Wright, the rebranding, the reorganization, it's really neat to see and it was great being part of this journey. And we just want to wish, you know, the partnership the best. You know, we don't know what the next three years or the next five years will bring. We will continue to collaborate with you whether it's at a national level, a local level, but you know at this time we understand we have to do best what's for the network and for the community and for the people that we serve. So thank you so much for your partnership and we are always here as a resource. Our website is KRA.com. We also have a podcast which is Claudia and Mr. Wright have been a part of, which is KRA (inaudible). Thank you all.

MS. SHAW: Are there any other in-person public

comments? Is there anyone online on the teams call

that would like to make a public comment?

CO-CHAIR ROBINSON-IVY: Okay. If there's none it
is 12:00 o'clock -- 12:01. We will call the meeting
adjourned at 12:02 now. Thank you everyone. Have a
wonderful afternoon.

(Which were all the proceedings had
in the above-entitled cause.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF COOK)

 Trixie L. Schuzer, first having been duly sworn, on oath says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter doing business in the City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of Illinois;

 That she reported in shorthand the proceedings had at the foregoing Chicago Cook Workforce Innovation Board Quarterly Meeting;

 And that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid and contains all the proceedings had at the said meeting.

Trixie Schuzer

TRIXIE L. SCHUZER, CSR

CSR No. 084.004763

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to
before me this 24th day
of September A.D., 2025

Jennifer Elise Rives
NOTARY PUBLIC

OFFICIAL SEAL JENNIFER ELISE RIVES Notary Public - State of Illinois Commission No. 1011188 My Comm. Expires on June 2, 2029
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