

Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2025

In Person

Ben Beckwith
Alice Bunjan
Chris Casey
Richard Gloede
Dr. Val Harris
Robert Heape
Stace Holland

In Person

David Lacy
Chuck McEvers
Matt Jones
Joena Meier
Willie Rees
Bob Sancamper
Betty Scheldt
Nick Williams

Online

Sarah McConnell
Stephanie Stahlhut

Willie Rees, the Vice-Chair, led the meeting in the absence of Dan Bates, Chair. Willie called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. Roll Call was taken by self-introductions.

Alice Bunjan was presented with a cake and card in honor of her retirement from Lewis and Clark Community College.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Rees asked if there were any corrections or comments on the minutes from the November 20, 2024, WDB Meeting as provided in the meeting packet. There being none:

Motion: It was moved by Dr. Harris and seconded by Dick Gloede, to approve the November 20, 2024, Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
All votes aye. **Motion carried.**

Staff Reports

Betty Scheldt reported the Workforce Development Board Membership is unofficially approved. On the membership site on Illinois workNet, all members are active, but we still have not received an actual letter from DCEO addressing the status. The newest board member, Stace Holland, representing Boyd Hospital in Carrollton, introduced himself and gave a brief description of his background.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ben Beckwith was called on to give the Fiscal Officer's Report. The report was included in the meeting packet. Ben reviewed the six current grants which include Formula Grants, QUEST, Supplemental, Home Illinois and 1E Grants. He also reviewed key financial metrics, obligation percentages by funding streams, budgets, projected obligations and overhead costs, and the total projected and left to obligate. The in-house audit and the DCEO monitoring have been completed. Ben thought there might be one recommendation/finding on the fiscal side of the monitoring. He then discussed a voting item on the agenda. He asked for approval on the participant mileage to remain at \$.50/mile with a maximum of \$60 per day from April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, and will reassess at the May 2025 meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Harris and seconded by Bob Sancamper to approve the extension of the Participate Milage Reimbursement rate until June 30, 2025. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Program Manager's Report:

Chris Casey presented to the board changes required by DCEO to Policy Letter #4 regarding Individual Training Accounts. The changes were highlighted in his revised Policy Letter included in the meeting packet. The changes include the definition of the ITA, the responsibility of the Career Specialist once the participant is exited, the ITA review and modification process and a list of important considerations prior to expending WIOA funds for training. The ITA cap will be reviewed annually by the WDB and the WCDC Boards.

Motion: A motion was made by Chuck McEvers and seconded by Dr. Harris to approve the changes to Policy Letter #4 as presented in the meeting packet. All votes aye.

Motion Carried.

Chris then reviewed the LWIB Program Oversight Report included in the packet. This report includes information as of February 15, 2025. He reviewed the charts and numbers on the number of enrolled, exited, and completed participants per county, the overview of enrollment status of participants, the breakdown of enrollments by program area, the number of participants by education provider, the breakdown of enrollment by providers, the percentage of enrollments by Department of Labor categories, the overview of Paid Work Experience by county, the overview of Career Specialist caseloads, and the overview of past Core A Services. Chris then reported on the WCDC website. There are constant changes being made on the site. He reviewed the report showing the number of page views/visitors since May of 2023 with a breakdown by month. He discussed the average number of site per visit, and a year-to-date overview. He informed the board about the programmatic portion of the DCEO monitoring visit. This year they increased the number of files to be pulled for review. Overall, he felt the monitoring visit was very positive.

Executive Director's Report

Matt Jones began by thanking the board for the great turn-out and Betty for setting up the meeting. He then reported on the Organizational Overview chart. All board members have been certified. He also reviewed the Performance Measures (which need to meet or exceed the goals by June 30, 2025), the Core A/Local Services Summary, the IDES Labor Market information and the unemployment report. There will be a State of Illinois Spring Career Fair at SIU Edwardsville on March 6th from 11 am. To 2 p.m. The success story of a participant was included in the packet. There are now upward of thirty of these success stories posted on the website. Matt included an article on J.B. Pritzker's announcement of support for Community College Baccalaureate Degrees to strengthen the state's workforce. Matt informed the board of the retirement of Annie Dorr, the DCEO Regional Manager for our area. They have not yet hired a replacement. Our Litchfield Job Center was moved in November to 311 South State Street in Litchfield and the Jacksonville Office will need to be moved in the upcoming months. As well as the DCEO monitoring, we are also working on addressing the findings from the EO Monitoring. We've been working with our WIOA Partners on the PY 25 MOU as well as the budget. The WIOA Summit is taking place on May 8th and 9th in Peoria. At the end of March,

Chris and Matt will be attending a National Association of Workforce Board Forum in Washington D.C. We will be meeting with guidance counselors at some of the schools in our area to discuss the youth programs available. Chris and Dawn from the Litchfield Office have taken up training on the IWDS 2.0. We have signed MOU's with the Macoupin County Public Health Department. Three Blackburn College students that may meet the criteria for barriers have visited the Carlinville Job Center to see about WIOA services. Matt congratulated Alice again on her retirement and thanked her for her invaluable service and partnership.

Committee Reports

Business Services Team – Robert Heape reported on the Business Services Team Committee Meeting held at 3:00 p.m., before the WDB Meeting. During the meeting, Chris reported on the success of the website. We had a virtual WIOA Partners' Workshop on February 4th where all partners presented their agency's services to various businesses in the areas. We had a good showing, so it was decided to do this workshop twice a year. It was recorded and there is a YouTube link available. Jenny Reed with DRS Business Services has updated business contacts throughout the area.

One-Stop Partner Committee – Dr. Val Harris reported on the One-Stop Partner Committee Meeting held at 3:30 p.m. She reported on Chris' work on the website to build a Customer Satisfaction Survey and how the survey could assist in creating referral forms. Partners reported on what is going on in their agencies. We will meet again through Zoom to finalize the survey.

Policy Committee – The Committee did not formally meet, but they reviewed and discussed the changes that were passed earlier during the meeting.

Youth Committee – Chuck McEvers reported on the Youth Committee Meeting held at 4:30 p.m. During the Youth Committee meeting, Ben gave an overview of the youth budget. The committee discussed involving other schools in starting a Youth Program similar to Chuck's at North Greene High School. There was a discussion about a possible Community Gardens Project in Carlinville and how maybe youth could be involved in that and will check with the U of I Extension Office to see if they have funds available to get us started on such a project. North Greene's Day Care is moving forward and the position of the Director has been posted. The day care will be for district employees of the school, but given that day care in the community is not readily available, this will pull employees' children out of the community day care system freeing up space for other children. So, indirectly, it is a plus for the entire area. We are still working on setting up a youth program so the students can spend part of the semester in classroom training on childcare and the next semester, working in the day care for Paid Work Experience. Val mentioned during the meeting that LCCC has some "Taking Back the Trades" funding for avionics studies.

Partner Reports

Alice Bunjan, Lewis and Clark Community College – Perkins – The college is hosting a Job Fair on April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Joena Meier, Private Sector – Marshall's and Hobby Lobby are close to opening in Jacksonville.

Nick Williams, Private Sector – Nick brought in an excerpt of a newsletter he received from an affiliate regarding the federal rates. According to the excerpt, the rates are about fifty basis points lower since mid-January and down 22 basis points this past week.

Bob Sancamper, Labor Union – Shell is having a large shut-down through March and April that will affect the entire area. They have started work on the new lock in Winfield. Work on the new bridge in Calhoun has begun. There are a couple of thousand acres at the old power plant in Alton that will be a solar field.

Dick Gloede, Private Sector – There's been a major management change at GPI. They have a new manager and assistant manager. There is a new County Board Chair, Tad Mayhall. A \$50,000 grant was received for 106 students to be fluent in Spanish. Old and new home prices have gone down recently.

Stace Holland, Private Sector – Congress is going to open up the availability for hospitals that did not qualify to be critical access. They are going to loosen the restrictions and allow some of the rural hospitals to participate. Stace doesn't feel there is a nursing shortage; he feels nurses don't want to work in the environment that hospitals have created. If we had a better environment for them to work in, they will come out from being homemakers and out of retirement. One of the biggest drawbacks is day care. More nurses would come back to the workforce if we had viable & affordable day care.

Stephanie Stahlhut, Illinois Valley – They have funds available to help clients needing assistance for tools, uniforms, cash vouchers, etc. They have five scholarships for anyone trying to get an associate or bachelor's degree. There are still funds available for LIHEAP assistance, housing programs and the CSBG program that helps with books, tools, etc. The property for the new building in Jerseyville has been rezoned as commercial and they hope to get that purchased soon.

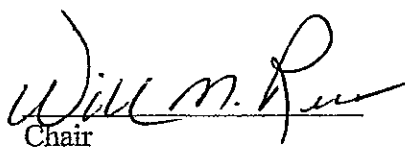
Dr. Val Harris, Lewis and Clark Community College – Dr. Harris asked that everyone mark their calendars for June 5th for the Illinois High School Diploma Graduation. The College Commencement will be held on May 15th and on March 24th 8 week classes are scheduled to start.

Vice Chair Rees then asked if there were any other comments. Willie thanked everyone for coming, congratulated Alice on her retirement and formally welcomed Stace Holland to the board.

Next Meeting Date

The next Workforce Development Board meeting will be on May 22, 2025. A meeting notice will be sent out as a reminder. All committees will meet that same day at the usual times. Meeting notices will be sent out for those as well.

Adjournment was at 7:08 p.m.


Chair

5-22-25
Date