

IWIB SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Date: June 17, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Members Present: Elba Aranda-Suh, Tom Ashby, Kristin Richards, Mike Conley, Victor Dickson, David Friedman, Amanda Martin (for Kurt Gadberry), Sylvia Garcia, Thomas Hacker, Grailing Jones, Angela Mason, Mike Massie, Marlon McClinton, Sandeep Nain, Rahnee Patrick, John Rico, Mike Perry, Tom Wendorf, Michelle Cerutti, Tim Verry, Nina Tangman, Whitney Thompson, Barb Oilschlager

Time	Item	Owner
1:00 PM	Roll Call Dr. Julian called role and determined a majority was present.	Aimee Julian
	Approval of March 18, 2021 Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes Chairman Rico called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 Quarterly Business Meeting. Ms. Oilschlager moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Aranda-Suh seconded the motion. The group voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2021 Quarterly Business Meeting.	Chairman Rico
1:15 PM	Welcome Comments and Remarks Chairman Rico introduced the other IWIB Chair, DCEO Director Sylvia Garcia who provided an update on what's happening at the state level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements of several "shovel-ready" sites – capital investments for businesses. • Formation of two manufacturing training academies at downstate locations that will create a pipeline to manufacturing jobs. Both training academies are focused on electric vehicles. 	Chairwoman Garcia & Chairman Rico

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heartland Community College in Normal is partnering with Rivian Automotive. ○ Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville is partnering with Lion Electric. • Meetings with regional CEOs – their primary focus is on building the workforce. • 2022 Budget- things are progressing. They are excited about the \$450M rescue plan. \$300M of that is the “back to business” grants for small business. These funds will be distributed soon. • There will also be \$50M for workforce recovery efforts. DCEO will work to lay out some funding opportunities. These funds will help get people back to work. • Workforce Consolidation Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has been completed and presented to the General Assembly. ○ Director Garcia met with some of the Governor’s team and walked through the study with State Senator Lightford and State Representative Hammond to help them understand the different consolidation models. ○ The Governor’s office is interested in making sure something substantial comes out of the study. ○ Last week Director Garcia was briefed on next steps – Chairman Rico and Mr. Hacker were part of that briefing with the Governor’s office. ○ Later this summer a commission will be appointed to take a comprehensive look at the workforce system and determine how it can be more efficient and how to implement a lot of things that have been developing for a long time. ○ Director Garcia said is excited that the Governor is taking a direct role in this and is confident the commission will look to IWIB for expertise. ○ They asked that Chairman Rico or Mr. Hacker be part of the commission. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several working groups and other components will be part of the commission's work, and they could be looking for additional members to provide their expertise and perspectives. <p>In response to questions about which recommendations from the study the commission would be considering, Director Garcia responded they will look at the two primary recommendations but also exploring others. However, they will be building from the report. She added there is a big focus on Human Centered Design and what the user experiences when navigating the system – whether it is someone seeking employment, or a business seeking employees.</p> <p>When asked if she thought this would be something completed during this legislative session, Director Garcia responded that she anticipated the commission would have recommendations during the next legislative session.</p> <p>Mr. Rico thanked Director Garcia for advocating for IWIB to be included in the commission. Director Garcia reiterated that the expertise of this group is crucial to the work ahead.</p>	
	<p>Update on the next IWIB Quarterly Meeting</p> <p>Chairman Rico announced that the next IWIB Quarterly Meeting would be held on September 16th. Mr. Wilkerson offered to host the meeting at Rend Lake College. A face-to-face meeting with an option to attend virtually is being considered, and a decision will be made sometime in July. A poll asking about attendance preference and plans for committee meetings will be sent soon.</p>	
1:25 PM	<p>Unified State Plan Update</p> <p>Mr. Sweatman provided an update on the two main goals of the report which was provided to attendees prior to the meeting. This is the second quarterly report covering January through March.</p>	Cameron Sweatman

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	<p>The first goal of the report is to use the information regarding which initiatives are moving us toward our state's workforce goals to determine which activities are the most useful to provide updates on.</p> <p>The second goal of the report is to align it with the other larger Annual Report.</p> <p>Mr. Sweatman invited the group to read the report and send any feedback or suggestions to him or Dr. Julian. He will be talking with the IWIB committee staff in July for the PY 2021 kick-off in July. He will be going over activities for PY2021.</p>	
1:35 PM	<p>WIOA Reauthorization Update</p> <p>Ms. Jones reported that re-authorization is on the horizon. There have been three primary hearings about dislocated workers, youth, and justice-involved youth that are really ramping up.</p> <p>Ms. Jones encouraged thinking about the outreach that needs to occur at the congressional delegation to advocate for the changes for WIOA. Priorities we will build on were submitted to the National Governor's Association.</p> <p>Ms. Jones outlined the types of support delegation members will advocate for: expansion of employer driven sector strategies, relaxation of funding requirements, looking at upskilling opportunities, digital literacy, and spending funds on digital literacy. Career pathways is first and foremost in creating strategies to meet business needs.</p> <p>At the national level, a bill passed the house regarding expanding Pell eligibility to include quality short-term credential programs.</p> <p>Also looking at the workforce recovery efforts – looking at supportive services more broadly and going beyond what WIOA can provide. Ms. Jones also discussed thinking about how we can better strategically support recipients who are receiving</p>	Lisa Jones

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	<p>public benefits and how placing them in paid work-based training impacts their benefits.</p> <p>The digital literacy impact reauthorization is not being discussed right now but is something that could benefit from determining how we create better alignment with that.</p> <p>Looking at the public/private data infrastructure which is mentioned in the workforce consolidation studies.</p> <p>Next steps: focus groups with stakeholders to get thoughts on what they would like to see as part of reauthorization.</p>	
1:45 PM	WIOA Core Partner Update	
	<p>IDHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Patrick introduced herself and reviewed her goals for DHS Rehab Services – to change the culture of vocational rehabilitation so that people of varied backgrounds and experiences can feel welcomed. • Attended a national convention for those with HIV related to employment and the intersection with LGBTQIA– will work on this with DCEO. • Waiting for awards to be announced that will provide funds for outreach. • Direct contact with disabled through text message about opportunities to be vaccinated for COVID. 	Rahnee Patrick
	<p>ICCB – Title II Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted a competitive request for a 3-year provider service for adult education, in the process of reviewing for the state. They received feedback from half the local workforce boards to align adult education plans and local workforce plans. • RFP for PD – resetting the vision and alignment for adult education and CTE programs. Will review the RFPs and decide in the next two weeks. 	Whitney Thompson for Jennifer Foster

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Education Plan – there were several questions regarding equity from an access standpoint. When COVID shut down programs, a switch was made to distance learning and online assessment. Not the best solution for this group – however, it does provide additional access for students who can't get to campus. Through the plans, they've had to discuss how they will incorporate distance learning as an option. Providers are required to have a bridge program as well as an integrated education and training program to continue pathways to postsecondary education and employment to receive funding. On behalf of Dr. Brian Durham, Ms. Thompson provided an update on the higher education strategic plan – which was passed by the IBHE at their meeting on June 15. In response to a question, Ms. Thompson shared solutions in place for students who had difficulty with distant learning during COVID. 	
	<p>IDES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDES has largely been focused on the pandemic response. They are preparing for the expiration of federal relief programs on September 4, 2021. Outlined the six new federal programs IDES has facilitated. In the process of standing up a 7th federal program - Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). MEUC makes \$100 supplement available for those with outside income that renders them ineligible for regular Unemployment Insurance. Introduced WorkShare IL, a new program that can bring temporarily laid off workers back to the workplace. Over \$27B in benefits have been paid since March 2020. Shared the five IDES priorities for 2021. IDES continues to hire and train staff. 	Kristin Richards

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	In response to a question about Workshare and if workers can continue to collect unemployment benefits and go back to work at the same time, Ms. Richards responded that people can return to partial work and continue to collect the supplement, as long as the limits aren't exceeded. There is information about this on the IDES website and IDES is working on sharing these details more broadly.	
	<p>DCEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rodriguez shared that DCEO and IDES are both working on the Workshare Initiatives which should help address the issue of receiving benefits while returning to work by creating a program that can be a bridge or transition for people returning to work. • USDOL is sending funds to market the Workshare Initiative and other programs – it is rare that these funds can be used for marketing. • Veterans project – received a grant through NGA to map the services veterans receive across the system and think of ways to get services to veterans and disabled veterans. • Apprenticeship Committee – NOFO coming soon that will provide additional funds to reach general populations but targeting disabled and the creative arts sector. They will focus on getting more diversity and finding ways to increase the skill sets and identify transferrable skill sets for these people. • Announcements of the awardees in Career Pathways will be coming soon. Mr. Rodriguez thanked agency partners and board members who reviewed the proposals. • Working with ISBE to find ways to support residential students and how to address their workforce needs. • Mr. Rodriguez shared two bits of good news. The explosion at the chemical plant in Rockton won't result in any layoffs. DCEO is monitoring the situation. Also, United Airlines recently announced the previously planned layoffs 	Julio Rodriguez

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	<p>have been cancelled and in fact, they are expanding their hiring efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LWIA 5 in Du Page county has launched a program in the sheriffs' office which offers a great opportunity to train those who are previously incarcerated. 	
2:25 PM	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Michelle Cerutti shared that this will be her last meeting and Dr. Lisa Bly-Jones, the new president, will be representing IWP in future meetings. She thanked everyone for the great experience.</p> <p>Victor Dickson said that he would like to invite Jeffery Korzenich from the Safer Foundation and author of <i>Untapped Talent</i> to speak to IWIB about second chance hiring. Mr. Rodriguez offered to explore this.</p> <p>Chairman Rico reminded attendees about the next quarterly IWIB meeting on September 16 and reminded everyone to respond to the poll about the meeting they will receive soon.</p>	
2:30 PM	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Chairman Rico called for a motion to adjourn. Victor Dickson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barb Oilschlager. Attendees voted unanimously in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.</p>	Chairman Rico

