Executive Committee

Date: October 6, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Chairperson: Marlon McClinton

# **Members Present:** Mr. Marlon McClinton, Ms. Kara Demirjian Huss, Dr. Brian Durham, Mr. Daniel Serota, Mr. Sandeep Nain, Dr. Andrew Warrington

**Members Absent:** Mr. Terry Wilkerson, Ms. Jennifer Foster

**Guests:** Mr. Julio Rodriguez, Ms. Lisa Jones, Mr. Drew Thomason, Ms. Becky Locker, Mr. Antonio Gomez, Ms. Chris Warden, Mr. Demar Harris, Ms. Jennifer Foil, Dr. Lisa Bly-Jones

**Committee Support:** Dr. Aimee Julian, Ms. Coryn Barger

| Time | Item | Presenter |
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| 10:00 AM | **Welcome and Introduction** | Marlon McClinton |
|  | Chairperson McClinton welcomed the group and requested a motion to approve the September 2025 IWIB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Sandeep Nain made a motion to approve the September 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. Dr. Andrew Warrington seconded the motion. Dr. Aimee Julian performed a roll call to uphold the motion. The motion carries. The September 2025 IWIB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes stand approved as presented. |  |
| 10:05 AM | **Legislative Executive Order, and IWIB Reappointment Update**  Mr. Julio Rodriguez provided an update on how Title I has been affected by the government shutdown.  Mr. Rodriguez stated that many individuals at the federal level have been furloughed, resulting in a significant reduction in staff. This means that there are fewer people to approve vouchers. The DCEO is in the process of meeting with local workforce areas to discuss strategies for addressing the issue in the short term.  Mr. Rodriguez stated that there will be lengthy delays as a result of working with a skeleton crew and noted that meetings are being held with local areas to discuss how long they can withstand the delays.   * Extending lines of credit and loans are being looked at as possible relief strategies   Mr. Rodriguez stated that the impact of the shutdown will be more substantial for those with less flexible funding and limited access to additional resources. This means that more rural communities will be the first to feel the effects of the shutdown if it continues.  Mr. Rodriguez noted that office hours have been scheduled with regional staff to assist local offices and providers as the shutdown continues.  Dr. Brian Durham provided an update on Adult Education, stating that they receive a significant allocation of state funding and will be able to continue regular functions.  Ms. Lisa Jones stated that they are working through the IWIB Reappointments and noted that they should be coming through soon. | Lisa Jones and Julio Rodriguez |
| 10:15 AM | **WIOA Annual Report Update**  Mr. Drew Thomason provided the WIOA Annual Report Update, noting that the report is due to the Department of Labor by December 1, 2025, and will describe WIOA activities and outcomes that occurred in Program Year 4, which spanned July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.  Included in the Report:   * Continued system progress and adaptation. * Focus on connecting job seekers with meaningful work and meeting employer needs. * Emphasis on innovation, collaboration, and measurable outcomes. * Alignment with the IWIB Strategic Plan and committee priorities.   Highlights:   * The Teacher Apprenticeship and EV Workforce pilots launched, addressing teacher shortages by creating pathways into teaching, especially Special Education. * Career pathways tied to high-end sectors. * Home Illinois Pilot * Bridges workforce and homeless response systems. * 4 pilot grantees developing coordinated employment-housing models. * Success is measured through employment, training, and housing retention. * Illinois Interagency Referral Group * Finalized statewide Referral Relationship Guide – launched in April of 2025. * Promotes consistent, high-quality cross-program referrals. * Workforce Service Delivery Assessment * Field assessments of the One-Stop centers statewide * Focus: infrastructure, staffing capacity, and customer experience. * Geographic analysis mapping center locations against populations in need. * Findings will inform actionable recommendations for system improvement. * IWIB Alignment and Governance – IWIB strategic plan operationalized through realigned committees and is focused on measurable outcomes, equity, and system coherence: * CASE * CIA * WBLA * Executive Committee * Professional Development Impact * 35 Workforce Wednesday webinars reaching 1,500 plus participants. * Rebranded Illinois Workforce Summit. * Continuous learning loop between state leadership and local practitioners. * Apprenticeship Illinois Ambassador Program * Launched in 2024 to expand access and awareness of apprenticeship opportunities. * Ambassadors are current or recent apprentices who share their stories statewide. * Focus on inclusion – especially individuals with barriers to employment. * Employers that support Ambassadors are recognized as workforce champions. * Two cohorts so far: 11 Ambassadors (2024) and 10 (2025); 2026 cohort now open.   Next Steps:  October   * Work group finalizes draft report. * Draft report circulated for review.   November   * Final report presented to IWIB executive committee for approval.   December   * Final report submitted.   Ms. Kara Demirjian Huss noted a marked shortage of math teachers, specifically in the Central Region of Illinois, due to the influx of focus on STEM and career pathways. Ms. Demirjian Huss noted that they are working with the regional superintendent’s office to address the issue. | Gina Wells and Aimee Julian |
| 10:20 AM | **Dignity in Pay Legislation Update**    Director of VR Services Rahnee Patrick provided an update on the Dignity in Pay Legislation, focusing on ways for IWIB Members, specifically the Executive Committee, to play a role.   1. Policy Oversight and Recommendation  * Recommend system-wide policy changes to ensure that they align with guidelines in Illinois to foster what is competitive, integrative employment. * Review and provide input on the implementation strategy to phase out subminimum wage in Illinois. * Support Legislative regulatory adjustments to ensure that equity is enhanced for employees with disabilities.  1. Collaborate and Coordinate  * Engaging with local workforce innovation boards to ensure that competitive minimum wage employment opportunities align with labor markets. * Facilitate deeper partnerships with community providers and employers to assist in finding placements and vacancies for individuals with disabilities.  1. Promote training and technical assistance organizations and assist with resource allocation. 2. Submit recommendation updates for the multi-year plan for Dignity and Pay as an IWIB. 3. Review the Analytics of the organizations that have the 14-C waivers for the DOL to make evidence-based decisions. 4. Track the progress of Transition Grants that have been funded through the Department of Human Services. 5. Help IDHS to monitor compliance with wage and benefit requirements. 6. Champion the hiring of individuals with disabilities. | Kara Demirjian Huss |
| 10:25 AM | **Communication and Stakeholder Engagement (CASE) Update**  Ms. Kara Demirjian Huss stated that Mr. Jason Horowitz and Ms. Sarah Sadot will be joining the Sector Strategies Working Group.  Additionally, Ms. Demirjian Huss noted that the Communications Working Group is working across three primary industries and evaluating the state CRM systems as well as building a relationship inventory and stakeholder database for CASE to ensure strong channels to deliver information.  The Sector Strategy group is getting ready to deploy a sector partnership survey and has identified what their KPI and interest is regarding partnerships. The working group is focusing on apprenticeship as a key KPI around growth for partnerships. |  |
| 10:30 AM | **Continuous Improvement and Accountability (CIA) Committee Update**  Chairperson McClinton shared highlights from the previous CIA Meeting, noting that the decision to appoint vice chairs has been a successful one.   * Data collection across the board is focused and centered around federal and agency specific and how to deal with that regarding global needs? * The Data and Performance workgroup is implementing plans that have been in place for months. * Performance recaps for titles will occur at the October meeting. * The committee has reviewed language for its priorities: It has been suggested that age, and disabilties be added. Additionally, it has been suggested that race be updated to ethnicity. | Marlon McClinton |
| 10:40 AM | **Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship (WBLA) Work Plan Presentation**  Mr. Daniel Serota provided a WBLA Update, noting that the committee has completed the report and is currently in the graphic design phase. The goal is to work with the governor’s office on promotion of the report as well as getting it out to the business community and others.  Chairperson McClinton expressed that he is very impressed with the concept of ambassadors gaining in-person experience.  Ms. Demirjian Huss noted that the CASE Committee could align with these goals. | Daniel Serota |
| 10:53 | **New Business:**   * **Legislative Strategies from DCEO – November** * **Action Items for Legislative Support- December** * **WIOA Annual Report Request to Approve – November**   **WIOA Reauthorization – Updates as they become evident**  Dr. Warrington highlighted the NAWB Strategy, the America’s Talent Strategy, and America’s Action Plan as documents that should possibly be circulated to the board before the next meeting. Dr. Warrington noted that he has made an AI Summary of these reports and offered to share it with committee members if they are interested.  Dr. Warrington suggested that the IWIB should focus more on AI and asked that a section on AI discussion be added to the agenda for the next meeting.  Mr. Serota agreed with Dr. Warrington and stated that it is very important for the IWIB to get ahead of the discussion.  Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is now a statewide group that the Governor’s Office will be convening regarding AI. Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez noted that he has been involved in multiple conversations regarding incorporating/embedding AI and highlighted multiple points for consideration.  Things to consider:   * Training staff * Standards around AI * Cost considerations/ access at the federal level | Marlon McClinton |
| 10:55 AM | **Public Comment**  Chairperson McClinton opened the floor for public comment.  Lisa Bly-Jones asked about what this board knows about recommendations regarding the Chief Workforce Officer Role.   * Becky Locker stated that direction has not changed. The position as it was envisioned and described in the budget remains the same today. The appointment will reside within DCEO and reporting within the agency would occur. The full scope of duties will become evident when the role is filled. | Marlon McClinton |
| 11:00 AM | **Adjournment**  Chairperson McClinton requested a motion to adjourn the October 6, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Daniel Serota made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sandeep Nain seconded the motion. The October 6, 2025, IWIB Executive Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM. | Marlon McClinton |

**Next Meeting:** November 3, 2025, December 1, 2025