

IWIB SPRING BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Date: March 18, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Online

Chair: John Rico

IWIB members present:

John Rico, Angela Mason, Barb Oilschlager, David Friedman, Elba Aranda-Suh, Jennifer Foster, Kirk Gadberry, Kristin Richards, Margi Schiemann, Marlon McClinton, Mike Conley, Mike Massie, Sandeep Nain, Rahnee Patrick, Terri Payne, Mike Perry, Nina Tangman, Sylvia Garcia, Terry Wilkerson, Tom Hacker, Tom Wendorff, Whitney Thompson

IWIB members absent:

Aaron Tennant, Andrew Warrington, Brian Durham, Carmen Ayala, C.D. Davidsmeyer, Henry Beards, Michelle Cerutti, Daniele Ferrari, Grace Hou, Grailing Jones, Marcus Evans, Melinda Bush, Norine Hammond, Tom Ashby, Victor Dickson

Time	Item	Owner
1:00 pm	<p>Roll Call Dr. Julian called roll of all members of IWIB – a quorum was present.</p> <p>Welcome Remarks Chairman Rico welcomed the IWIB members and members of the public to the meeting. He informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded and asked that the public hold their questions until the end. He expressed his gratitude for everyone's effort in the light of COVID.</p> <p>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Chairmen Rico called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Winter IWIB Quarterly Business Meeting. Mr. McClinton moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Mr. Hacker seconded the motion. Acceptance of the minutes was approved by unanimous voice vote.</p>	Dr. Julian
1:08 pm	<p>Welcome Co-Chair Garcia Chairman Rico introduced and welcomed new DCEO Director and IWIB co-chair, Sylvia Garcia. Ms. Garcia gave a brief background of her work in the public and private sectors and expressed her passion for working 'on the ground' and connecting people with opportunities. She views IWIB as a great forum and is excited to be a part of the Board.</p>	Director Sylvia Garcia
1:11 pm	<p>IWIB Workforce Consolidation Feasibility Study (HB2170) Ms. Phillips presented an overview, progress update, and emerging themes of the IWIB Workforce Consolidation Feasibility Study. Board members received the materials being presented prior to the meeting. HB2170 was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on March 8, and the Board shall submit its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by May 1. Ms. Phillips shared an outline of the study and some initial findings and invited questions or comments via chat. Emerging themes the study has uncovered to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There aren't only two consolidation scenarios, Illinois should look before it leaps. • Organization structure is second to mission, purpose, strategy, and management. • The system exists for customers – job seekers and business. <p>Implementation recommendations based on current findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust user-experience analysis with both job seekers and business as customers • A management consulting-level analysis of fiscal costs/savings, state agency organizational impacts, and impacts on state employees and existing union contracts • An IT systems audit across the four primary partners and 16 additional WIOA partners that includes customer interface, data agreements and overall system architecture 	Jennifer Phillips and Brian Richard

	<p>The finalized report will be published online May 1.</p> <p>The members discussed and asked questions. Ms. Phillips invited members to send any additional comment or questions to ICSPS@ilstu.edu. Final review will be conducted by the Executive Committee, but Ms. Phillips invited members who would like to be part of that final review to contact ICSPS@ilstu.edu. General Assembly reaction to this study may be on the next quarterly meeting agenda.</p>	
1:55 pm	WIOA Core Partner Updates	
	<p>IDHS</p> <p>Ms. Patrick introduced Raven Pulliam who presented information on the Business Enterprise Program for the Blind - Blind Vendors Program. The program provides people who have visual impairment the opportunities to own a business-primarily vending, cafeterias, gift shops, convenience stores, and micro-markets. Mr. John Gordon gave some background on his personal experience with the program. Ms. Patrick shared the requirements for these opportunities and invited members to let her know if they have a location that would be suitable for a blind vendor. Also, under Mr. Gordon's leadership, training centers for blind and low-vision individuals will be re-opening on April 6 to provide in-person life skills training.</p> <p>Ms. Patrick shared data about the Supported Employment Program, which supports people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 people with disabilities across Illinois are part of this program. • 106 of these participants secured competitive employment this year. • 2,534 individuals with disabilities have also been able to secure competitive employment this year. 	Rahnee Patrick and Raven Pulliam
	<p>ICCB</p> <p>Ms. Foster provided an update on programs they are working on in conjunction with other agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Skills Coalition – looking at non-degree credentialing. They are focusing on inclusivity of several different agencies. ICCB, ISBE, IBHE, DCEO, NIU, and the Governor's Office participated in a five-session workshop. Learned about non-degree and stackable credentials and how they relate to the students we serve. • Adult Education will be launching a new competition for FY22 sometime this spring. They will be re-competing for both state and federal funds for adult education. It is a part of the Unified State Plan. This was delayed last year due to COVID. 	Jennifer Foster
	<p>IDES</p> <p>Ms. Richards welcomed Acting Director Garcia on behalf of IDES. In the near term, IDES will be working with DCEO to roll out a short-time compensation program - a workshare program in Illinois. Ms. Richard gave an overview of what IDES has seen during the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine times more initial claims across all program during COVID vs. the prior 12 months. • Continued claims are at six times the rate they were the prior 12 months, at just under 800,000 claims across all programs. 	Kristin Richards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to the IDES website increased 784 times during 2020. • IDES has completed 2.3M callbacks under the new callback system. <p>The recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act will have a positive impact for claimants statewide. IDES is working hard to implement program extensions, combat fraud, improve technology, and better serve claimants. Since the beginning of the pandemic IDES business outreach has pivoted to remote work and adapted to providing virtual services. While there has been significant job loss, hiring continues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past six months have seen significant activity in business services and veterans' programs. • Working with state and local partners, IDES has hosted or co-hosted 107 virtual events during the past year – 98 in the last six months. • Veterans programs – 628 veterans were served during the last six months. 	
	<p>DCEO</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez commented on the beneficial partnership opportunities with IDES and shared that DCEO just received a grant from the National Governors Association to explore how services can be aligned to better serve veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Job Fairs through workNet and LWIAs. LWIA #7 (Chicago and Cook County) have been very successful. • To date there are 466 employer booths on the site, and 29,000 jobs openings have been posted on the virtual job fair site. • Ninety-eight virtual job fairs have been completed since last year, with a total of over 4800 job seekers participating. • Setting a goal to track the outcomes of the job fair attendees. • Recently released a NOFO for Career Pathways. Title I, ICCB, and ISBE are role models that have been very successful with community colleges and local schools that present good opportunities for expanding those programs across the state. • Continue to see local LWIAs and job centers slowly open. Centers continue to offer virtual services, but as the Governor continues to open the state, the centers will continue to open. Collaboration is key. 	Julio Rodriguez
2:18 pm	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Chairman Rico called for public comment or announcements from members. Phaedra Leslie from Chicago Workforce Partnership, expressed what a positive experience it has been to work with IDES and DCEO on the virtual job fairs and is excited that there are plans to track outcomes.</p>	
2:23 pm	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Chairman Rico thanked IWIB staff and the committee chairs for all their efforts, and again welcomed Director Garcia. He mentioned that the Biden Administration used information from the white paper in the stimulus package. Chairman Rico said that overall, Illinois is viewed very highly. Chairman Rico called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Oilschlager moved that the meeting adjourn, and Ms. Foster seconded the motion. After a unanimous voice vote to accept the motion the meeting adjourned.</p>	Chairman Rico