



## Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

Bruce Rauner, Governor

John Rico, Co-Chair

Sean McCarthy, Co-Chair

**To: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB)**

**From: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Executive Committee**

### IWIB Executive Committee March 16th, 2017 Report

#### Overview

The Executive Committee has continued meeting on a bi-weekly basis to address new policies being developed, the strategic planning project, and activities of the subgroups of the IWIB. A strong message has been made to ensure there is involvement of businesses throughout all of these processes and discussions. Active involvement by board members has also been a consistent request.

#### Policy Updates

During the past three months, the Committee has reviewed and/or discussed policies related to One-Stop Center Certification, One-Stop Operator Procurement, Service Integration, and Local Area Designation and Redesignation. They have had significant discussions on the Strategic Planning, as well as the work being handled by the Inter Agency Work Group.

The One-Stop Center Certification policy has been developed through an IWIB Policy Workgroup consisting of the State and Local Workforce Innovation Boards, Chief Elected Officials (CEOs), the four Core Agency Partners, and representatives of the local areas. This policy will provide guidance to the Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIBs) who have the responsibility to appoint a certification team to assess all one-stop centers and the one-stop delivery system at least once every 3 years. This

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certification process evaluates the effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility and continuous improvement.

At the March 6, 2017 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the final draft policy, with minor changes. This policy provides both the process for conducting certifications by the local board and the criteria for which centers will be evaluated. To strengthen the requirements related to business services teams, a meeting has been scheduled to include state and local board members, core program partners, and representatives of the local area.

The expectation is that all comprehensive centers (locations providing all of the required partner programs, services, or activities either at the location or via technology) will be evaluated and a certification determination made by July 1, 2017. For affiliate and specialized centers, (locations providing at least one of the required partner programs, services, or activities), a limited evaluation is required by July 1, 2017 with a plan for when these centers will be evaluated as required. Local boards should also be identifying opportunities for continuous improvement through reviews of the success of the process and annual reports by centers submitted to the board.

One-Stop Operator Procurement policy is focusing on recent guidance provided by the US Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA). These outline more clearly the competitive process for procurement that should be developed by the LWIBs with selection of a one-stop operator for Illinois workNet system that is in place by July 1, 2017.

Assurance that there are no conflicts or perceived conflicts of interest need to be considered as the process unfolds at the local level. There are challenges with this policy that the Executive Committee has been made aware of and will continue to consider as the requirements are further refined and presented to them as a final draft for review and approval.

One of the key components of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the need to streamline services, performance evaluations, and funding by integrating services in the one-stop centers, also known as Illinois workNet Centers. Aligning the services and resources of all programs provides better services to job seekers and employers. The Inter Agency Work Group has been discussing how this can occur throughout the network of workNet Centers in Illinois in a manner that supports the goals of the Illinois Unified State Plan, as well as the Regional and Local Plans.

Under WIOA, local workforce innovation areas were allowed to be grandfathered in for those that had been approved under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This period of "initial" designation expires in 2018, so discussions have begun on new policies related to the designation and re-designation of local areas throughout Illinois. Because there is a conflict between current local areas being split across regional boundaries and the WIOA prohibition against such, data is being gathered to determine how local boards can best identify the proper local area boundaries going forward. The baseline data is the EDR data used as part of the WIOA planning process and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Realignment local areas with Regions must be completed by July 1, 2018. As the process requires broad stakeholder input in conjunction with CEO's, the Governor's Office and the IWIB we are getting planning underway now.

Finally, the IWIB has been reviewing the work of the IWIB Strategic Planning Task Force, as well as the data being included in the upcoming training to be provided at the IWIB Spring Meeting on March 16, 2017. The Committee has asked that the information presented be kept at a high-level with follow-up meetings scheduled to discuss more detailed data and information related to the workforce system in Illinois, business involvement, the performance of training providers and programs, and the outcomes of customers following services received.

### **Summary**

The Executive Committee welcomes feedback of all of the IWIB members in any of their current or future discussions. They also encourage members to join the many committees, task forces, or work groups to provide insight from your particular viewpoint, whether it is from a business perspective, considerations of organized labor, recommendations for education and community development improvement opportunities, or from the local perspective as a provider of WIOA services. If you are not currently a member of a subgroup but would like to participate in future discussions, reach out to the Chairperson for more information.