



## **Illinois Workforce Investment Board**

**Pat Quinn, Governor**

**Adam Pollet, Co-Chair  
John Rico, Co-Chair**

**Illinois Medical District Commission  
2100 West Harrison Street - Room 106  
Chicago, IL 60612-3706  
June 19, 2014**

### **IWIB Welcome/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Adam Pollet, John Rico, Tom Ashby, Henry Beards, Elizabeth Dickson, Michael Massie, Sandeep Nain, Barbara Oilschlager, Michael Perry, Tom Prinske, Juan Salgado, Margi Schiemann, David Stoecklin, Thomas Wendorf, Mike Williams

**Present by Proxy:** Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson (Lavon Nelson), James Applegate (Amanda Winters), Joseph Costigan (Larry Thomas), Dr. Chris Koch (Debbie Hopper), Jay Rowell (Gideon Blustein), Eloy Salazar (Donna Fantozzi), Sophia Shaw (Patsy Benveniste), Gary Swango (Tom Swearingen), Diane Williams (Jack Hazan)

**Absent:** Scott Frick, Honorable Esther Golar, David Hanson, John Holton, Justine Hood, Honorable Andy Manar, Francisco Menchaca, Janet Payne, Terri Payne, Honorable Sandy Pihos, Michelle Saddler, Larry Walsh, Grover Webb, Terry Wilkerson

### **Approval of March 20, 2014 Minutes**

Board members were asked to review the March 20, 2014 minutes as provided in the meeting handouts. Co-Chair John Rico requested a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Ashby made a motion to approve. David Stoecklin seconded and the motion passed.

## **Opening Remarks**

Co-Chair Adam Pollet thanked the Illinois Medical District and its Executive Director, Warren Ribley, on behalf of the entire Illinois Workforce Investment Board for hosting the meeting. He noted Mr. Ribley was his predecessor as Director of DCEO and Co-Chair of the IWIB and invited him to address the Board.

Mr. Ribley welcomed everyone to the Illinois Medical District and briefly provided an overview of the Illinois Medical District and the significance and important role it plays for today's healthcare industry. Mr. Ribley indicated through the Illinois Medical District 8,000 medical students are trained each year; 30,000 are employed, and 50,000 individuals per day seek healthcare services. He also noted various high schools and colleges focus on the healthcare sector.

Co-Chair Pollet also thanked Mr. Ribley for hosting the meeting and for his many important contributions working with the IWIB throughout the years.

Co-Chair Pollet followed with updates on several grant opportunities in which Illinois is competing for funding:

**Job Driven National Emergency Grants** - DCEO will partner with the Illinois Pathways Information Technology (IT) Learning Exchange to work with local and regional industry/employer partnerships to provide work-based accelerated training in IT occupations for 520 dislocated workers. This project will target high growth IT occupations and related technology sectors that apply and use information technology. The employers targeted will mostly be found in: 1) information industries such as software publishers, data processing and hosting service providers, and telecommunications providers; 2) professional and technical service industries such as computer system design services; and, 3) manufacturing and wholesale and retail services for computer-related hardware and software products.

The project will align with Illinois pathways and build on current DCEO initiatives and partnerships with our education, workforce development, and human services agencies to expand and improve accelerated work-based training models and career pathway programs; i.e. the ATIM Project.

DCEO applied for a \$6 million grant under this program and submitted an application in May and expect to be notified if chosen for grant funding by the end of June. He noted an update on the progress of the application will be provided at the next board meeting.

## **Ready-to-Work Grant Update**

Co-Chair Pollet turned the meeting over to Co-chair John Rico who has been leading the effort to respond to a federal "Ready to Work" funding opportunity in Information Technology.

Co-Chair Rico reminded the board members as discussed at the previous board meeting that the *Ready to Work Grant* was a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) funding opportunity to support public/private partnerships that will provide long-term unemployed individuals with the range of services, training, and access needed to fill middle and high-skill jobs. DCEO has developed a

\$3 million project proposal for Illinois in conjunction with the IT Learning Exchange and a group of IT industry representatives.

Under the Illinois grant proposal, the Information Technology Accelerated Training (ITAT) Project would provide IT training to 260 long-term unemployed individuals and veterans. Using experience gained from the Accelerated Training in Manufacturing (ATIM) project, ITAT will combine training, credentialing, and work-based learning to enable long-term unemployed individuals to move into occupations that have the strongest projected job growth and highest number of job openings in local and regional labor markets throughout the state.

He stated that the proposal was submitted to DOL earlier in the week. It is anticipated a decision will be made with regard to the grant funding by the September meeting at which time the IWIB board members will be notified.

Ms. Barbara Oilschlager asked when a decision would be made and if Illinois was chosen, what will the turnaround be to implement the grant proposal. Co-Chair Rico stated a decision should be made by the end of July and the implementation would begin within 30-60 days from the date of grant notification which would be early fall.

#### **Career Connect Metro West Presentation**

Mr. Tom Wendorf presented on the Career Connect Metro West Project which is a DuPage County manufacturing workforce initiative.

He stated that partners in the new workforce initiative include the support of DuPage County, DCEO, and Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing (AIM), North Business and Industrial Council (NORBIC), and the Jane Addams Resource. He stated that the initiative has developed manufacturing career paths for underemployed and unemployed adults through direct hiring and entry level training.

He noted the purpose of the initiative was to develop manufacturing career pathways for underemployed and unemployed adults through direct hiring and entry level training with candidates being placed by using the success of JARC's training and expanding it to the Tech Center of DuPage. The Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing is the connection to employers and federal workforce training dollars for on-the-job training. He explained in coordination with WorkNet DuPage and JARC, candidates eligible for federal workforce funding would be identified and trained. AIM serves as the business intermediary and leverages existing partnerships and relationships, recognize expertise in the sectorial approach to job training and workforce development, knowledge of the workforce system, knowledge of advanced manufacturing and metal fabricating, and established collaboration with manufacturing employers and the community. Mr. Wendorf emphasized that a new focus of the initiative was the creation of Career Connect DuPage which will serve as the local screening organization for underemployed and unemployed adults. This will be accomplished by working through a network of churches and community organizations to identify candidates to refer them for aptitude/screening process to enter into a manufacturing career. He explained as part of the initiative, an Industry Advisory Board was created which has local manufacturers and the ability to serve as industry experts communicating current and future workforce challenges and needs.

Mr. Wendorf stated Career Connect has dedicated a full-time recruitment specialist for the recruitment and assessment process to work with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Illinois WorkNet of DuPage, other community-based organizations, and the community at-large. He stated the specialist was responsible for educating people on the opportunities in manufacturing and transporting individuals to weekly orientations that included an overview of the programs, manufacturing career paths, application process and testing. The specialist also served as a conduit to support those individuals.

Mr. Wendorf noted that the pilot program included JARC replicating its proven recruitment, testing, and screening process. Following orientation, a JAR program coordinator screens individuals for suitability and eligibility for the training programs. JARC's job training programs target skill gaps in the metal fabricating and manufacturing sectors such as CNC and welding and serve a variety of populations. Prospective applicants who fell below the requisite numeracy and literacy levels required to be successful in the program are sometimes referred to remedial education through adult basic education and bridge programs such as JARC's Manufacturing Bridge or the College of DuPage.

He explained the two distinct advance training programs for individuals include: CNC Fast Track and Welding Fast Track.

The CNC Fast Track is a twenty week, 500 hour job training program for unemployed adults. Trainees learn how to program, set up, and operate Computer Numerical Control machine tools. Graduates may attain up to three industry credentials through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills; NIMS Measurement, Material and Safety, NIMS CNC Milling Level 1, and NIMS CNC Turning Level 1. Graduates also complete two OSHA approved safety training courses (OSHA 10 HR – General Industry and OSHA Forklift Operator – a three year license).

The Welding Fast Track is a fourteen week, 350 hour job training program for unemployed adults. Trainees learn the fundamentals of Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW or "MIG") process that are used in manufacturing. Graduates are qualified to a standard of the American Welding Society: AWS GMAW Structural 3/8 Plate, 2F Position. Graduates also complete two OSHA approved safety training courses (OSHA 10 HR – General Industry and OSHA Forklift Operator – a three year license).

Mr. Wendorf stated these programs are project based, stimulate a real-world workplace environment, and operate on an open entry/open exit format. He emphasized that this format was a departure from traditional lock-step formats used by the community colleges and other training providers in which there are defined start and end dates. The open entry/open exit model allows individuals to enter the program at any time and graduate once they have secured full-time training-related employment. It also gives employers a continuous flow of qualified candidates to meet their hiring needs and allows individuals to be trained year round.

Additionally, he stated the JARC's Center for Working Families provides bundled financial support services, including public benefits screening, financial counseling, and employment coaching. JARC prepares trainees for the workplace in two ways – through a simulation of the

work environments and through work readiness training during the training programs with follow-up retention coaching after placement.

Mr. Wendorf discussed the placement process after individuals obtain credentials. The AIM leverages its network of employers and organizations such as the TMA to place trainees into jobs with manufacturing companies. AIM meets with each company showing interest in hiring trainees from the Metro West Manufacturing Workforce Collaborative and processes them through the Alliance business Assessment Program. This program determines the financial stability of the company and whether or not it would be able to support entry level workers. Feedback from employers regarding the quality of candidates are shared with the Collaborative. AIM has collected and continues to identify open positions and works to fill the vacancies through candidates identified through the program.

In conclusion, he stated that the program plans to recruit 250 individuals to determine eligibility with 50 people to be enrolled into the program. Twenty five candidates will be placed into jobs following training and twenty will be placed using on-the-job-training wage reimbursement training. Candidates will continually be recruited for both training and direct placement throughout the course of the year-long grant which responds to the market demand for local DuPage manufacturers.

Following the presentation, several members congratulated Mr. Wendorf on their efforts. Some questions raised were as follows: *What are the criteria to be accepted into the program?* He responded by stating an individual must be a legal resident, be able to pass a drug test, and have the knowledge or the ability to learn Algebra II in addition to a proper attitude and attendance. *What is the success rate for ex-offenders completing the training and being placed for employment with a manufacturer?* Mr. Wendorf stated most manufacturers will employ an ex-offender if it was less than a felony charge. He stated JARC has an ex-offender training population of 40% and has been successful in placing those individuals mainly because of the extensive recruitment and assessment process. He did state that some employers have specific drug use stipulations for employment which is known from the beginning. Mr. Gideon Blustein, representing Illinois Department of Employment Security, stated that his agency does statewide recruiting through Illinois JobLink which may be an additional resource for Career Connect. Mr. Wendorf thanked him for the information and reiterated that Career Connect is utilizing all traditional and nontraditional avenues. He emphasized that the community has opened its arms in many ways to make this initiative a success. He added College of DuPage, which has its own two year manufacturing program, has provided office space and there are many volunteers willing to tutor individuals throughout the program.

### **Local Workforce Investment Areas 15/16 Transition Plan – Action Item**

Mr. Michael Sloan with Illinois Central College and Mr. Steve Martin, Director of Career Link, provided information on the proposed transition plan for the Local Workforce Investment Areas 15 and 16.

The presentation provided a collaboration effort between the two Local Workforce Investment Areas as requested by Chief Elected Officials from all eight counties. The geographic area will encompass Fulton, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

The first projected outcome of the merge will be improvement to the regional collaborative efforts. The eight counties will form a central core of commerce and economic development in the state to include three counties with diverse industry sector makeups and five with a more rural population which feeds into the labor market area. The reconfiguration will build upon collaborative education and economic development efforts already in place within Peoria, Tazewell, and McLean Counties.

They explained the merge will allow for streamlining of staff and overhead costs as additional funds will be available to provide case management in all eight counties. The consolidation will also implement a single management team with over thirty years of experience in successful program delivery.

They stated the merge will provide program efficiency by increasing the Regional Program Design that expands services to both in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly in the current LWIA 15 counties. Additionally, consistent policy and program design for all eight counties that build upon thirty years of success in meeting state and federal performance expectations and consistent reporting of both, costs and program outcomes, in addition to the consolidation of the human resources and fiscal responsibilities will be achieved.

Mr. Sloan and Mr. Martin noted Tazewell County will be the grant recipient with the Untied Workforce Development Board/CareerLink designated as the sub-grant recipient. Current LWIA 15 staff will become United Workforce Development Board/CareerLink staff. The existing office will remain open with a goal of opening offices in other counties. In conclusion, they stated that the new Local Workforce Investment Board will be formed with proportional representation from all eight counties. The Policy Board is to be comprised of the Chief Elected Officials from each county. The effective date for the new local workforce investment area is proposed for October 1, 2014.

Following a brief discussion regarding next steps following Board approval of the transition, Mayor Ashby applauded the collaboration effort of the two Local Workforce Investment Areas to improve and streamline the ongoing programs while maximizing funding. He made a motion to approve the transition plan as presented to the Board. Ms. Barbara Oilschlager seconded and the motion passed.

### **Veterans Task Force & Project Updates**

Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs, provided an update on the Veterans Task Force and other related veterans projects. Mr. Garcia stated the focus of the presentation is how military qualifications can be transferred to state licensing requirements and the importance not only to the veterans and their families, but to the taxpayers and citizens of Illinois as many training hours and tax dollars are spent to train these individuals for military service which needs a bridge and to be recognized by various licensing authorities in Illinois.

He stated Governor Quinn will be signing a bill this summer making the Illinois Joining Forces a foundation. The foundation will be a statewide network of veterans and military serving organizations working together to better serve Illinois' service members, veterans, and their

families. He briefly mentioned other executive orders and legislation that assist military members and their families.

Mr. Garcia noted several grant fundings that were received and how those grants are being used to move forward with military experience and training into civilian skills and state licensing requirements. The top three license programs that are currently being examined are the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and law enforcement; however, over seventy-two different licenses are being reviewed. He emphasized that by providing bridge programs or skill gap training, military training requirements as outlined and provided by the Department of Defense will be compared to the state's requirements and only those areas with skill gaps will need to be fulfilled as a cost and time saving measure.

Following Mr. Garcia's presentation a brief discussion ensued. A question arose regarding the licensing process; How are trade unions (plumbing, welding, electrical, etc.) being approached to encourage and recognize the individual's veterans training/knowledge as civilian experience? Mr. Garcia stated that since the trade unions are not under the governmental control, it is in the best interest to continue to foster a working relationship and continue to provide outreach and to show the benefits. He stated the Teamsters and a few other trade unions have been forthcoming in the efforts. Mr. Mike Williams stated he feels trade unions should be invited to the table earlier than later. Mr. David Stoecklin stated that the U.S. Department of Labor approves the apprenticeship programs; therefore, there if the Illinois Veterans Affairs staff would engage in a conversation with the federal staff members regarding these issues, a better outcome may be the result. Additional questions and concerns included: How are Illinois veterans being targeted for these training programs, the level participation of the City Colleges, what are the requirements for a college to be a leader versus a follower to provide the military bridge training program? Mr. Garcia any interested colleges or educational institutions should contact his office for more information.

### **Workforce & Education Training Policy Task Force Update**

Ms. Lavon Nelson with Illinois Community College Board addressed the board on behalf of member Terry Wilkerson who was unable to attend the meeting. She noted Task Force was being created to address student loan default rates. She stated that the Task Force has been examining the default rates on student loans and how WIA, Pell Grants, and other funding sources available to the students are being impacted by the default rates and what policies and procedures may be implemented in reducing the default rates. She added that the Task Force is working on receiving student loan default rates at a much earlier timeframe in order to assist community colleges experiencing problems.

She noted several of the issues Task Force will be watching is the progress of the WIA Reauthorization, the Carl Perkins Reauthorization, the Higher Educations Reauthorization, and how these they will impact community colleges throughout the state and how the Task Force may assist in relieving some of the stresses. The Task Force has also committed to assisting with aligning with the Trade Act grant funding with a concentrated effort for community colleges and local workforce investment areas to identify eligible clients.

In conclusion, she stated that these and other concerns are being addressed not only at the Community College Board but by reaching out to the Local Workforce Investment Areas to form partnerships and exchange knowledge. She mentioned Executive Director Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson of the Illinois Community College Board is scheduled to meet with various Congressional leaders and staff in Washington, D.C. regarding the issues outlined in her presentation.

### **Private Sector Membership Committee Update**

Mayor Tom Ashby provided an update on the Private Sector Membership Committee noting the following highlights: 1) Per the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, the Board is awaiting final approval on several members; 2) The Board received approval to begin the vetting process for new business members to fill vacant positions needed to meet the 51% business requirement; 3) Reminder to members with terms expiring July 1, 2014; please watch for an email concerning the renewal process and return the required documentation promptly. Mayor Ashby stated that DCEO's IWIB staff has established a good working relationship with Boards and Commissions and the membership process is moving much quicker than in the past. Lastly, he reminded board members with expired terms, they remain in good standing with full voting rights unless the individual becomes ineligible to serve or is replaced.

Mayor Ashby acknowledged Shelley Stern who served as an active member of the board; however, she is no longer eligible due to the Illinois residency requirement. He thanked her for her dedication and service and encouraged her to continue her role in the various Task Forces and Committees. He also acknowledged Mr. Henry Beards from UPS as a new board member representing the business sector.

Mayor Ashby provided a brief overview of a June 2, 2014 letter to the Honorable Thomas Perez, Secretary of Labor, signed by Illinois Congressional Members (Bill Foster, Tammy Duckworth, William Enyart, Mike Quigley, Brad Schneider, and Danny K. Davis). The letter expressed concerns over the layoff aversion requirement set forth in the Department of Labor's Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL 30-09) and how it has limited options for layoff aversion strategies to be implemented in assisting the employer and employees. He stated the letter acknowledged the Employment and Training Administration's efforts to release a TEGL in the near future that will grant Workforce Investment Boards additional flexibility to train incumbent workers to help open positions for businesses hire unemployed and dislocated workers. The letter respectfully requests revocation of the layoff aversion requirement of TEGL 30-09 be considered to allow businesses to remain competitive within Illinois.

### **Disability Task Force & Disability Employment Initiative Updates**

Mr. Sandeep Nain, Task Force Co-Chair stated the Disability Task Force, a business led Task Force, has identified fourteen major employers who appear to be making a concerted effort to recruit, hire, and/or provide support for individuals with disabilities. The Task Force is preparing to contact employers for interviews to determine their readiness and desire to participate in a "network of champions" to educate other employers and replicate their effort with regional and statewide meetings scheduled for the fall. He mentioned several of the employers identified as: Marriott Foundation, SAP, Country Financial, Abbott, Walgreens, and PepsiCo, and other regional employers.



*Round V Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant* - Mr. Greg Sutton provided a brief update on the Round V DEI grant with the focus being the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in career pathways to attain credentials and full employment. He stated objectives are: 1) increase employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities and maximize their economic self-sufficiency; 2) add flexible and innovative strategies into intensive training programs that increase participation of individuals with disabilities; and 3) expand capacity of the public workforce system to serve individuals with disabilities, especially in existing career pathway programs, including partnerships, policies, and practices.

He stated the required partners are: 1) one or more local workforce investment boards; 2) one or more community colleges, technical institutions, or colleges/universities that will provide the education and training activities under the grant; 3) one or more businesses or industry partners such as business membership associations, Chambers of Commerce that will participate in defining the program strategies and goals; provide specific resources to support education and training; provide work-based learning opportunities; or implement innovative employment strategies, when appropriate; 4) one or more public state-level agencies that serve individuals with disabilities such as the vocational rehabilitation agency and/or other disability focused agencies; and 5) one or more local education agencies to facilitate the development of secondary, post-secondary, and career training..

Mr. Sutton concluded by stating Illinois is currently one of five states to have received two rounds of funding through the DEI. If awarded funding for this application, this will be the third grant Illinois has received in four years to address barriers to employment for people with disabilities. This specific grant was designed to increase participation of individuals with disabilities in existing career pathways programs in the public workforce system; improving employment outcomes. Illinois' proposal for this round of funding will complement the job driven NEG grant looking at full inclusion models for out-of-school youth in the information technology sector. The due date for the grant application was July 8, 2014.

Mr. Tom Prinske, Task Force Co-Chair, stated he hoped those who attended the farm tour prior to the meeting enjoyed the learning experience. He stated that the Chicago Botanical Gardens and the Julie & Michael Tracy Foundation created an employment program for individuals with disabilities to work in occupations related to sustainable agriculture which was seen firsthand by those participating in the tour. Mr. Prinske stated that in the next week, the produce seen at the farm will be showcased at a local farmers market at Rush Hospital. He stated he was excited to participate in the process in which produce was cultivated by individuals with disabilities who experienced hands-on-training for sustaining farm produce, time management, tool maintenance, and social skills. He encouraged everyone who will be in the area to stop by the farmers market to offer support.

### **Workforce Information Grant Application Update**

Gideon Bluestein provided an update on the Workforce Information Grant in place of Director Jay Rowell was participating in a meeting with U.S. Labor Secretary Perez. He stated that the Workforce Information Grant is an annual grant issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration which allows DCEO and IDES to collaborate and

provide economic information. The economic information includes short and long term industry and occupational projections in addition to career occupational labor market information. He stated that the \$1million grant has been leveraged with other grant funding to maximize labor market information. Mr. Blustein briefly highlighted the components and deliverables of the grant as outlined in the meeting handouts.

He provided a brief demonstration of IDES' website that houses the database and the information available for use by local workforce boards, economic developers, and analysts. Greg Sutton asked if the data market information was being distributed to the Illinois workNet website; it was discussed that the grant funds provide the ability to share on various partner platforms. A question regarding the availability of the board members receiving the grant application to see what is being proposed; the answer given was that the application is submitted electronically and there are limitations as to what the grant provides. Mr. Julio Rodriguez of DCEO stated a copy may be obtained prior to the electronic submission. Co-Chair Rico suggested that the application be distributed to the board members. Mr. Blustein thanked the board for their time and invited anyone with further questions to contact him.

### **WIA Reauthorization/Legislative Update**

Ms. Rebecca Harmon, Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Employment and Training, provided an update on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization process. She stated that the House and Senate Leadership introduced the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a bipartisan, bicameral legislation reauthorizing WIA which would reauthorize the program from 2015 through 2020. Ms. Harmon emphasized that the legislation maintains the existing basic structure of the current WIA with changes in the legislation ensuring the program links directly to economic development, provides flexibility to meet employer needs, and creates conditions for a wider adoption of career pathways.

She emphasized that the Office of Employment and Training is at an advantage in implementing the reauthorized program, given the foundation in place that has tied workforce and economic development together through a targeted employer-driven industry sector approach. She briefly explained the key changes related to DCEO/OET's priorities and investments, as provided in the meeting materials, which included alignment in economic and workforce development, restoration of the statewide set-aside to 15 percent funding, emphasis on work-based learning, and linking economic development regions to local areas.

A brief discussion regarding the importance of the reauthorization followed. Julio Rodriguez noted the state of Illinois is one of the most aggressive states with regard to WIA reauthorization efforts. He stated staff prepared a side-by-side analysis of the original and proposed legislation and the impact for Illinois for Congressional staff. Mayor Ashby stated the National Governor's Association (NGA) recognizes Illinois as a leader and has been using Illinois' model for the rest of the nation. Additionally, he thanked board members and the local areas for their continued support and encouraged everyone to contact the Congressional staff to show support of the current legislation. Lavon Nelson briefly mentioned how the 15% funding played an instrumental role in building the "Bridge Programs" which allowed the state to secure additional funding from the Joyce Foundation for the 2006-2012 timeframe.

### **Carl Perkins Reauthorization**

Lavon Nelson provided a brief update on behalf of Terry Wilkerson regarding the progress of the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. She stated that the state received the federal allocation which is based on a federal-driven formula. The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) receives the post-secondary Perkins funding with other funding allocated to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She emphasized that the reauthorization is not the same process as the WIA reauthorization process. Currently the House and Senate legislation has major differences with no reauthorization anytime soon. Ms. Nelson provided contact information for Brian Durham at ICCB as he would be able to answer any specific questions regarding the reauthorization progress.

### **Summer Youth Employment Projects**

Mr. Julio Rodriguez provided a brief update on the Summer Youth Employment Program grants. He stated \$6.2 million was awarded to DCEO, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Human Service with DCEO receiving seventy-six applications. DCEO funded twenty-eight organizations last year with slightly less funding so it is believed the number of organizations will increase this year. Grantees will be listed on Illinois workNet and youth are currently submitting applications on the website in order for connections to be made for enrollment in the summer program. He stated this year's curriculum includes a component regarding workplace violence and DCEO staff has been working diligently to process grants for grantees. He concluded by stating he is hopeful this year's projects will be just as successful, if not more, than last year's projects. Mr. Gideon Blustein with Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) encouraged those post-high school summer youth participants who are not pursuing a four-year college degree to utilize the employment services the IDES provides to assist with their job search once the summer youth program concludes.

### **Public Comment and Adjournment**

Co-Chair Rico opened the floor for public comment. On behalf of Dr. James Applegate, Board of Higher Education, Ms. Amanda Winters invited Co-Chair Rico to participate in the Guided Pathways to Success Conference sponsored by the Lumina foundation in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference focuses on making college more affordable and boosting college completion.

Co-Chair Rico announced the next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2014 in Bishop Hill, Illinois details to follow at a later date. Mr. Mike Massie stated he is honored to host the next meeting in Bishop Hill which is a Swedish colony with plenty of charm formed in the 1840's. He encouraged everyone to attend the meeting and to explore the community which has not only immersed with the agricultural pathway but has transportation/distribution/logistic and energy pathways such as nearby wind farm and a variety of arts and cultural experiences.

There being no further public comment, Co-Chair Rico requested a motion to adjourn. Mayor Tom Ashby motioned. Mr. David Stoecklin seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.