



## Illinois Workforce Investment Board

Pat Quinn, Governor

Warren Ribley, Co-Chair

John Rico, Co-Chair

James R. Thompson Center

100 W. Randolph Street

Room 9-031

Chicago, IL 60601

June 23, 2011

### IWIB Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Present:** John Rico, John Coliton, Donald DeDobbelaere, Elizabeth Dickson, Ronn Morehead, Barbara Oilschlager, Janet Payne, Michael Perry, Tom Prinske, Dr. George Reid, Jay Rowell, Eloy Salazar, Shelley Stern-Grach, David Stoecklin, Larry Walsh, Mike Williams.

**Present by Proxy:** Warren Ribley (Sandy Moldovan), Joseph Costigan (Carmela Gonzalez), Robert Kilbury (Philip Locascio), Geoffrey Obrzut (Lavon Nelson), Larry Walsh (Nick Palmer), Diane Williams (Jack Hazan)

**Absent:** Tom Ashby, Rosiland Bruce, Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Charles D. Johnson, Dr. Chris Koch, Terri Payne, Honorable Sandy Pihos, Michelle Saddler

### Opening Remarks

Co-Chair John Rico welcomed the IWIB members and guests to the meeting. He explained Director Ribley of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) was unable to be part of today's meeting and had asked Earl "Sandy" Moldovan to serve in his place as co-chair. He announced to the IWIB that Governor Quinn named Jay Rowell as the new Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). He was a former Deputy Director in the Chicago City Clerk's Office and replaced Maureen O'Donnell who now serves as Director of Human Resources for Cook County. Also in attendance for the first time was Dr.

George Reid, the new Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Dr. Reid was a former Assistant Secretary of Planning and Academic Affairs for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Finally, he noted Joseph Costigan recently replaced Catherine Shannon as Director of the Department of Labor. Director Costigan served as the Secretary-Treasurer of Workers United and also as Vice-President of the Illinois AFL-CIO. Co-Chair Rico announced that Mr. Costigan was being represented by Carmela Gonzalez.

#### Introduction of New Members

Co-Chair Rico asked participants to introduce themselves as many of the newly appointed IWIB members were present. Co-Chair Rico thanked all members for choosing to serve on the board as it plays a vital role in advancing workforce development in Illinois.

#### Approval of March 24, 2011 Minutes - Action Item

The board members were asked to review the March 24, 2011 minutes as provided in the meeting handouts. Co-Chair John Rico requested a motion to approve. Barbara Oilschlager made a motion and David Stoecklin seconded. The motion passed.

#### Update on Grant Opportunities

Jason Tyszko, DCEO staff, provided an update on the various grant opportunities. Jason informed the board members of the *Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge* in which regions compete for funding to support sector-based workforce and business development projects. He stated the opportunity provides a unique aspect as it leverages financial and technical resources from sixteen federal agencies and bureaus to support sector-based strategies. Total proposed funding for the *Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge* is approximately \$33 million provided through the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, and the Small Business Administration. Awards are expected to range from approximately \$1.5 million to \$2.2 million per cluster through the three funding agencies and matching funds are required for a portion of the funding. DCEO is currently collaborating with two prospective grantees. One is a statewide consortia led by Clean Energy Trust and the other is a partnership between the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, which is targeting healthcare information technology for the Chicagoland region.

#### Update on IWIB Membership

Therese McMahon, Deputy Director of DCEO's Office of Employment and Training, provided an update on the IWIB membership. Therese expressed her gratitude and patience of the newly appointed IWIB members as the process was tedious; however, the board will benefit greatly from the new member collaboration and their contributions will continue to improve workforce development in Illinois. She announced that sixteen additional private-sector members are waiting for final approval from the Office of the Governor.

### Update on WIA Re-Authorization

Therese McMahon provided a progress report on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Therese reminded the board members that this is the eighth year states have been trying to have the Workforce Investment Act reauthorized. She briefly addressed the State's efforts with Illinois' Congressional delegation and staff as well as the continued efforts of the local workforce boards to help inform the reauthorization process. Therese referred to a letter and a stakeholder comment form which was included in the meeting materials. She highlighted several areas of the legislation that would impact Illinois' workforce development system. She encouraged all members to work with their local workforce areas to continue to contact their Congressional representatives to support positive and effective changes with the reauthorization of WIA.

She also mentioned several DCEO staff members and other stakeholders will be visiting with members of Illinois' Congressional delegation in the near future to ensure Illinois' position is represented regarding the proposed bipartisan legislation. Sandy Moldovan emphasized that with the current budget crisis, it is important to understand budget cuts will need to be made but it is imperative to clearly state to the Congressional delegation that the workforce training programs have been proven to be effective through performance measures. The focus should not be solely on the expenditure of the dollar but the return on the investment. A brief discussion continued on how well Illinois' position is being received and what steps need to be made next in the reauthorization process.

### Annual Benchmark Report Presentation

Lisa Jones, DCEO staff, presented the seventh annual Illinois Benchmark Report and stated that the ten established benchmarks are designed to provide a comprehensive and balanced picture of the status and progress of workforce development services in Illinois. The state benchmarking process requires the inclusion of competitor states for comparisons over time. These states were selected on the basis of their total populations. Additionally, those states represent the largest industrial states competing with Illinois for business. The states used for the comparison are: California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

The ten benchmarks that are required by Public Act 93-0331 are divided into three general categories: workforce quality, earnings, and competitive business advantage. Workforce quality benchmarks are arranged in an order that tracks the life of a worker through various educational milestones. The benchmarks are: education level of working-age adults; percentage of the adult workforce in education or workforce training; adult literacy; percentage of high school graduates transitioning to education or workforce training; high school dropout rate; and the number of youth transitioning from the eighth to ninth grade. The earning benchmarks include percentage of individuals and families at economic self-sufficiency. The competitive business advantage benchmarks focus on net job growth and productivity per employee.

Lisa stated that some data for the benchmarks were not updated due to challenges in measuring and reporting progress on many of the statewide benchmarks on an annual basis, specifically: Benchmark Three: Adult Literacy; Benchmark Four: Percentage of High School Graduates Transitioning to Education or Workforce Training; Benchmark Six: Number of Youth

Transitioning from eighth to ninth Grade; and Benchmark Seven: Percentage of Individuals and Families at Economic Self-Sufficiency.

Lisa reported Illinois is keeping pace with other states and the nation as a whole on most key educational benchmarks, but not moving fast enough to move ahead of leading states to establish a clear competitive advantage. In addition, Illinois continues to have persistent racial/ethnic differences in high school completion and four-year attainment. She stated in the continuing effort to benchmark Illinois in comparison to other competitor states with respect to persons with disabilities, the state finds the resources to be extremely limited and the available data to be overall unreliable.

Following a brief discussion regarding the data period in which the benchmarks are based upon, clarification of several of the benchmarks' outcomes, and the continuation of efforts to make the benchmark report reflective of Illinois' workforce development system, Co-Chair John Rico requested a motion to approve the report. Ronn Morehead motioned to approve the report and it was seconded by Lavon Nelson. The motion passed.

#### Task Force Updates

***Veterans Task Force*** - Bob Sheets provided an update on the Task Force on behalf of the Task Force's Chair Stephen Konya, DCEO's Chief of Staff. He stated the "Report of Findings and Recommendations" for the Task Force was submitted for approval at the March 2011 IWIB meeting with the sole condition that the "Improving Access and Utilization of Veterans Benefits and Services" category be expanded to address both mental and physical health barriers, including disability programs available to veterans. He noted that the meeting materials included the new language.

DCEO, IDES, and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) are finalizing the details of a proposal to the Office of the Governor to serve as the three core agencies to organize and oversee the establishment of a Statewide Veterans Transition Team as well as review the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. Key roles identified are: DCEO to support and staff statewide transition team and further develop the IL workNet Vets Portal; IDVA to utilize statewide Veteran Services Officers (VSO) to organize and coordinate local/regional networks of veterans service providers; and IDES to continue to build out, house, and analyze the veterans database created through the interagency data sharing agreements and support VSOs in connecting with local/regional networks of veterans service providers. In addition, the three agencies will assist the Office of the Governor with identifying and organizing public-private transition team members.

Bob concluded by outlining the Task Force's next steps: 1) finalize proposal of three core agencies and submit for approval to the Office of the Governor; 2) finalize and recommend Statewide Veterans Transition Team Members; 3) appoint Chair and Co-Chair of the Statewide Veterans Transition Team; 4) schedule press event highlighting the work of the Task Force and the creation of the Statewide Transition Team; and 5) establish private sector advisory groups from human resource departments to be educated on veteran employment issues, including sharing best practices.

A brief discussion followed and Co-Chair Rico concluded the discussion by encouraging any of the new members to join IWIB approved task forces to understand how they work and to contribute their expertise.

***State Energy Sector Partnership*** - David Gallagher provided a brief overview of the State Energy Sector Partnership's (SESP) function and activities during the past. He stated the March SESP meeting focused on updating members on the federal grant and local project implementation. In addition, the SESP reviewed progress on improving the energy-related labor market information available in the state. Finally, the SESP moved forward with identifying a working group to develop an Energy Programs of Study model consistent with the State's STEM education reform strategy.

David also provided additional information regarding the SESP meeting activities. He discussed the federal grant and emphasized the seven local projects were underway and enrolling and training participants. A total of 240 participants are enrolled in the program (172 currently reported in the Federal data system; 222 are currently enrolled in training, case management and/or job search and the remaining 18 waiting to receive training).

The statewide activities included two main points of interest. First, a project operator has been chosen by DCEO for the Energy Efficiency Statewide Collaborative Project, which was included as part of the federal grant proposal. The project will be designed to help the five energy efficiency-related projects to: 1) coordinate their outreach, training and placement activities; 2) share information and best-practices; 3) develop information to assist energy-efficiency training programs in the future and elsewhere; and 4) to assist with federal evaluation projects and federal technical assistance projects in the state. Secondly, Illinois has been chosen for customized technical assistance from the federal technical assistance project contractor.

He stated a work group met and developed a set of initial recommendations for the labor market information project for presentation to the SESP Task Force; however, implementation of those recommendations has been delayed in order to focus on building the Energy Program of Study model to meet the timelines associated with implementing the State's STEM education reforms.

The Energy Program of Study model is being developed by a public-private working group selected from SESP members. Since beginning work in April 2011, two meetings and a conference call have taken place. Presently the working groups has reviewed the labor market information and developed career profiles consistent with the SESP report. Also, they have begun developing a secondary education course sequence that is consistent with providing students a sector level orientation experience followed by career pathways specific courses that articulate into postsecondary program offerings and credentialing opportunities. Lastly, the working group will review a baseline analysis of program offerings at both the secondary and postsecondary level to understand how effectively Illinois is producing talent in this sector.

#### STEM Initiatives Update

Jason Tyszko, staff of DCEO, provided an update on the Illinois Pathways Initiative. He emphasized that the Illinois Pathway Initiative has been an effort building on the last eight years of promoting sector-based initiatives using Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. He stressed the importance of the IWIB's support and participants' contributions, as well as local

workforce boards, to ensure continued success of the initiatives efforts. His presentation provided an in-depth explanation of the handout provided in the meeting materials with the following topics discussed: 1) Race to the Top Update, 2) P-20 STEM Programs of Study, 3) STEM Learning Exchanges, and 4) Learning and Performance Management System (LPMS).

Jason explained that while Illinois was not a recipient of Race to the Top funding, the application remains the State's blueprint for reform. Recently the State of Illinois was notified that Illinois will be receiving a Round 3 Race to the Top award. A portion of the award may be used to support planning grants for the envisioned STEM Learning Exchanges. Updates will be provided to the IWIB as more information is made available from the U.S. Department of Education.

As part of the State of Illinois' Race to the Top application STEM Programs of Study were highlighted as a key education reform initiative to help promote college and career readiness aligned to the State's growing economic development clusters. Programs of Study serve as a model for bridging programs across P-20 education institutions and are demonstrated to improve academic achievement, increase graduation rates, and improve transitions to postsecondary education and employment. Programs of Study provide opportunities for learners to choose and explore a program related to their academic and career interests while also providing opportunities to demonstrate real-world skills through applied learning.

As part of the effort to scale-up Programs of Study offerings and launch STEM Learning Exchanges, the State is forming nine public-private P-20 cluster-based working groups to develop statewide frameworks for each of the targeted clusters. The goal of each working group is to establish a common set of expectations, assumptions and definitions in each cluster area that will support statewide networks, such as STEM Learning Exchanges, that facilitate connections between both public and private partners, including schools, communities, and business and industry. These statewide networks will be able to support planning, resource sharing, access to professional learning communities, and conduct P-20 talent pipeline performance reviews.

The final report from each working group will be used to inform the establishment of the proposed STEM Learning Exchanges later this year. The final report will feature the following deliverables: 1) Career Profiles - a listing of occupations by cluster and pathway, including employment and earning projections; 2) Baseline Supply Analysis - an inventory of existing cluster programs by institution in Illinois; 3) P-20 STEM Programs of Study Course Model - a recommended secondary course sequence that articulates into postsecondary programs and pathways and connects to industry certification opportunities; and 4) Student Support Resources - an inventory of best practices and partnerships that support students pursuing academic and career plans within a sector.

Jason also mentioned that DCEO, IDES, ISBE, IBHE, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) are negotiating an intergovernmental agreement that would establish the Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee (IPIC) as a governing body that can manage the solicitation and establishment of sector-based STEM Learning Exchanges. The agencies hope to have a final intergovernmental agreement

executed by fall of 2011 in order to proceed with establishing the first round of STEM Learning Exchanges.

Finally, the State of Illinois was notified that it has been invited to participate in a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Carnegie Foundation project known as the Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI). Illinois will join five other states in developing an application platform that supports implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Jason explained that the SLI is consistent with the vision of an LPMS.

Following the presentation, questions and concerns were voiced regarding the Illinois Pathways Initiative. Specifically, Shelley Stern-Grach discussed the digital divide where low-income and underserved populations do not have internet access, which could inhibit their ability to meaningfully connect with the envisioned STEM Learning Exchanges through the LPMS. Jason responded by stating that the education and economic development agencies will continue to work collaboratively with the Illinois Century Network as the main provider for public internet access to public libraries and schools. He stated that while Illinois is continuing to support statewide access to broadband services there is still a need to continue to keep moving forward with innovative initiatives.

Ronn Morehead inquired about the plan to engage the students as well as the parents in connecting with career pathway programs. Bob Sheets responded by saying each and every task force has had this challenge and each time it was determined that a common infrastructure needs to exist. The P-20 infrastructure provides the opportunity for career awareness, career exploration, and career development through the identified pathways across cluster areas.

Eloy Salazar built upon Ronn's question and expressed concern regarding the IWIB's ability to impact local school district adoption of the career pathways into their curriculum. Jason responded that the IWIB has no authority to mandate adoption of a career clusters approach; however, the focus currently is to work collaboratively with those school districts that have expressed an interest in implementing a career pathways approach. In addition, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) conducted a survey to identify which school districts are willing and have the desire to be engaged in building Programs of Study based on the STEM focus areas. He added a list of school districts that responded to the survey could be provided to interested members.

Sandy Moldovan commented that the willingness to participate and to have the funding available to implement are separate issues. Also, the program is extremely complex with new concepts to be understood and implemented. He asked how the state was managing these issues. Jason responded by noting that DCEO is working with interagency partners as well as private sector industry associations to raise awareness of the State's efforts to date as well as to raise funding through an anticipated Round 3 U.S. Department of Education Race to the Top award.

Mike Williams stated he would like to be more involved with the rollout of the project particularly as it would apply to the secondary education level. He noted Rockford tried an innovative educational approach by establishing the Academic Career Education High School, ACE School as a charter school, but due to a change in the local board's leadership the initiative

was not further pursued. He asked if the STEM initiative could be expanded to provide an opportunity to implement charter schools to use the curriculum as outlined. Jason responded that the focus at the present time is to continue to work with existing schools and career academies, such as Instituto del Progreso Latino, which focuses on preparing students for careers in healthcare. He recognized that although other states focus their STEM initiatives around founding new career academies, Illinois' position is to provide the opportunity to any school district that wants to build Program of Study capacity and to assist the school district in finding ways to participate in STEM Learning Exchanges.

Lastly, Jason urged members interested in being part of the Illinois Pathways Initiative to contact him.

### Shifting Gears Update

Lavon Nelson, ICCB staff, provided a definition of a bridge program for the new members and continued with an update on the most recent Shifting Gears activities. She stated the development and implementation of bridge programs are taking place throughout Illinois with several initiatives and events to promote and embed bridge programming at the local, state, and national level. For example, a Shifting Gears Cross-Site Meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota which was designed to bring together the Shifting Gears states to share best practices. Also, a National Governors Association Governor's Education, Workforce, and Economic Development Policy Advisors Institute featured Lavon and Whitney Smith as presenters on Illinois' bridge programs as a state strategy to increase postsecondary credential attainment. Finally, the Illinois Bridge Development: Past, Present, and Future conference was held as a statewide one-day conference for education and workforce development professionals interested in developing, implementing, or expanding bridge programs.

Lavon noted that the focus for the fall of 2011 will be in three areas. First, the Illinois Bridge Guide, which is designed as a web-based tool, will be finalized and disseminated broadly. This tool will be a comprehensive guide to the development of bridge programs for the practitioner. Secondly, a survey will be conducted to assess progress. Third, bridge programs will continue to expand through Adult Education and Family Literacy and through the Developmental Education and Career and Tech Education work at community colleges.

### Illinois workNet Update

Julio Rodriguez, DCEO staff, provided a basic overview of Illinois workNet. He distributed a handout outlining the latest activities and statistics from the Illinois workNet website. He noted from the period of January through June 2011 over 9.5 million visited the Illinois workNet website and over 1.2 million of those visits actually spent a substantial amount of time as evidence by the site's tracking capabilities. He noted Illinois workNet can be accessed at approximately 1,200 sites which includes Illinois workNet Centers, other government agencies (colleges, state agencies, etc.), libraries, community based organizations, and in some instances labor union halls and private companies. The state recognizes that people are exposed to information in a variety of different ways and it is Illinois workNet's goal to be visible and available to meet the need of the individual.



Additionally, Julio referred to the handout identifying the newly made changes to Illinois workNet's pages based on an annual user study. The overall consensus was the home pages needed to include more icons and fewer words to help users navigate easily from resource to resource.

Several new pages have also been added to the Illinois workNet portal. For example, a veterans page has been created that is designed to target resources more effectively for the veterans population. Also, a site for IWIB board members has been created that has a wide variety of information, including meeting notices, meeting minutes and other important information. Julio plans to organize a live demonstration of the Illinois workNet website at the September meeting.

#### Public Comment, Closing Comments and Adjournment

Co-Chair Rico announced the next IWIB meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the central region with specifics to follow at a later date. Co-Chair Rico then opened the meeting for public comment. There being none, he requested a motion to adjourn. Mike Williams made a motion. David Stoecklin seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.