



Illinois Workforce Investment Board

Pat Quinn, Governor

Warren Ribley, Co-Chair
John Rico, Co-Chair

**Lincoln Land Community College
Trutter Center
2450 R. L. Poorman Drive
Springfield, Illinois
March 22, 2012**

IWIB Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Warren Ribley, John Rico, Tom Ashby, John Coliton, Joseph Costigan, Donald DeDobbelaere, Elizabeth Dickson, Scott Frick, Mark Harris, Steve LaRocca, Michael Massie, Francisco Menchaca, Sandy Moldovan, Sandeep Nain, Janet Payne, Terri Payne, Michael Perry, Jeff Pritts, Dr. George Reid, Jay Rowell, Juan Salgado, David Stoecklin, Gary Swango, Larry Walsh, Grover Webb, Mike Williams

Present by Proxy: John Holton (Jennifer Morrell), Geoffrey Obrzut (Lavon Nelson), Barbara Oilschlager (Kim Villanueva), Eloy Salazar (Donna Fantozzi), Sophia Siskel (Patsy Benveniste), Kristine Smith (Phil Locascio), Diane Williams (Jack Hazan)

Absent: Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Dr. Chris Koch, Honorable Sandy Pihos, Tom Prinske, Michelle Saddler, Shelley Stern

Approval of December 15, 2011 Minutes - Action Item

The board members were asked to review the December 15, 2011 minutes as provided in the meeting's handouts. Co-Chair Ribley requested for a motion to be made to pass the December 15, 2011 minutes. Sandy Moldovan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Tom Ashby seconded and the motion passed.

Opening Remarks

Co-Chair Ribley welcomed the board members and guests to the meeting. He thanked Dr. Charlotte Warren, President of Lincoln Land Community College, for hosting the meeting. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to hold the quarterly meetings in different statewide locations which is made possible through the support of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board's (IWIB) valued partners.

Co-Chair Ribley welcomed Karin Norington-Reaves, Director of Cook County Works and former Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Deputy Director for the Office of Urban Assistance. He mentioned Karin would be providing a presentation on the reconfiguration of Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) 7, 8, and 9.

Co-Chair Ribley noted all board members should have received an ethics form, which members are required to complete annually to certify they understand and are in compliance with State ethics guidelines. He stated completed forms members brought with them could be provided to Kathy Schwab for submission.

In conclusion, Co-Chair Ribley announced after the current meeting Governor Quinn will be appointing a new co-chair to the IWIB. Mark Harris of the Governor's Office, as well as a current member of the IWIB, will replace him in his duties as co-chair. He thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as co-chair of this important public-private board and requested Mr. Harris be afforded the same level of support provided him throughout the years. Co-Chair John Rico and many of the members thanked Co-Chair Ribley for his continued leadership and support of workforce development throughout the state. Mr. Harris briefly addressed the members and thanked Co-Chair Ribley for his years of dedication to the board. He stated he looks forward to being actively engaged with the IWIB and its members to ensure workforce development issues are addressed within the State of Illinois.

Grant Initiative Updates

Jason Tyszko was asked to provide an update to the IWIB on current grant initiative. First, DCEO, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) filed a joint submission for the U.S. Department of Labor Innovation Fund (an abstract of the application was provided in meeting materials). The grant application builds on the recently launched Illinois Pathways initiative by extending career guidance and training programs to low-income and dislocated adults. The application will support a network of regional grantees in the manufacturing sector and will coordinate their activities through the statewide, public-private Manufacturing STEM Learning Exchange. These networks will also scale-up bridge programs providing wrap-around services and braided funding for participants.

Second, DCEO and IDES plan to submit for the recently announced U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant. This grant is designed to help states develop longitudinal workforce data systems and to integrate them with longitudinal education data. Illinois submitted for a grant last year, but was not funded. Since then, DCEO and IDES have led an interagency team to continue planning for the next grant submission. Key topics explored

by the team included a central I.D. management solution as well as interagency privacy and security standards for federated data integration. With this additional work complete the interagency team believes that Illinois has a highly competitive application.

Lastly, Illinois recently hosted a multi-state National Governor's Association (NGA) policy academy on manufacturing in Chicago as part of its ongoing participation in a policy academy. Illinois is developing a series of recommendations to improve the manufacturing sector that cut across workforce development, international trade, and enhancing the business climate. These recommendations will be made available to the IWIB later this year.

IWIB Membership Update

Therese McMahan, Deputy Director of DCEO's Office of Employment and Training, provided an update on the IWIB membership. She welcomed new members and expressed her enthusiasm to have so many present. Each new member was asked to briefly introduce themselves and state their interest in serving on the IWIB. She also thanked everyone for their patience with the vetting process. Currently the IWIB has 39 members with additional members awaiting confirmation. Co-Chairs Ribley and Rico thanked the newly confirmed members for their patience with the vetting process and encouraged them to become active in all areas of the IWIB.

Update on WIA Re-Authorization

Next, Ms. McMahan provided an overview of recent development with reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). By not having WIA reauthorized the IWIB's ability to continue to take a leadership role in workforce development will be hindered. Ms. McMahan briefly addressed the importance of ongoing efforts to work with Illinois' Congressional delegation and staff as well as the continued efforts of the local workforce boards to help inform them of the reauthorization process. She briefly discussed current legislation that has been introduced; however, according to Congressional staff and constituents, it is believed that Congress will not act upon any legislation regarding WIA re-authorization until December of 2012. She emphasized Illinois' key stakeholders must continue to educate the Congressional staff of the importance of WIA funding which is the reason the Board approved the Legislative Task Force at the December 2011 meeting.

Task Force Updates

Entrepreneurship Task Force

Mark Harris provided an update on the Entrepreneurship Task Force. He stated the Task Force currently has 28 members with a great cross-section of business sector participation. The first meeting was held in February 2012 and meetings are scheduled every other month. One of their first exercises the Task Force has engaged in was developing consensus around the definition of entrepreneurship and the role of different institutions and communities in supporting it. Mr. Harris noted the Task Force members have viewed the scope of their work to include introducing entrepreneurship skills through the K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce continuum as well as supporting a business climate that is conducive to supporting and growing entrepreneurial ventures throughout the state. Mr. Harris invited interested members who may not already be engaged in the Task Force to join their next meeting to learn more.

Legislative Task Force

Mayor Tom Ashby provided an update on the recently launched Legislative Task Force. He noted the goal of the Task Force is to have a uniform platform for key stakeholders when addressing WIA reauthorization and other related legislative issues. During their kickoff meeting the Task Force identified several themes to be highlighted while interacting with elected officials, including 1) why continued funding is necessary, 2) Illinois' concerns about the future direction of the program, and 3) Illinois' many success stories. Mayor Ashby emphasized that the Task Force was not created to introduce or make policies on behalf of the IWIB, but is instead focused on providing a basic platform of information to educate Congressional members and their staff to secure critical training funds for Illinois. The Task Force intends to meet monthly. Mayor Ashby extended an open invitation to anyone wishing to become involved in their efforts. A brief discussion followed regarding the importance of the creation and success of this Task Force for Illinois.

City/County Workforce Development Collaboration Plan - Action Item

Co-Chair Ribley stated several major changes have occurred within the local workforce investment areas in Cook County including the newly elected Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Since their election, both President Preckwinkle and Mayor Emanuel have been working in collaboration with Governor Quinn's office to reconfigure the local workforce investment areas in Chicago and Cook County, comprised of LWIA 7, 8, and 9. As part of this effort Governor Quinn has requested that the IWIB provide a recommendation regarding the reconfiguration proposal. To assist with that effort Karin Norington-Reaves, Director of Cook County Works, was in attendance to present on the Reconfiguration Proposal and requested that the IWIB vote to endorse the process and plan going forward. Ms. Norington-Reaves highlighted that central to the reconfiguration effort is to vastly improve coordination across the region and eliminate duplication of services in order to reduce overall operating expenses. Ms. Norington-Reaves made use of a presentation that was provided to the IWIB members where she reviewed the objectives, strategies, and the timeline in achieving the reconfiguration.

Sandy Moldovan inquired if a hiring plan had been developed for the reconfiguration, and, if so, how would it be implemented? Ms. Norington-Reaves responded that all job descriptions were reviewed and will be posted for current staff to apply for. Gary Swango had a follow-up question with respect to the level of staffing and if a reduction in workforce was going to be an outcome. Ms. Norington-Reaves responded that staffing levels are envisioned to reduce costs and duplication of services, so there will likely be reduced staffing levels.

Mayor Ashby inquired about what role LWIA 8 played in the process. Ms. McMahon replied that the Governor and DCEO are currently responsible for LWIA 8 and have been fully engaged and supportive of the reconfiguration efforts to date.

While appreciating the urgency in moving quickly, Juan Salgado expressed concern over the expedited timeline in implementing the reconfiguration. Ms. Norington-Reaves responded that while the timeline was in fact short, all parties involved in the negotiations believe it is feasible and necessary.

Finally, Jeff Pritts inquired about youth programs currently supported by the LWIAs impacted and if they will be continued. Ms. Norington-Reaves replied that the youth programs will absolutely be continued, but more information will be forthcoming on how they are administered henceforth.

Following discussion, Mayor Ashby made a motion to approve the Reconfiguration Proposal as presented. Sandeep Nain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Illinois Pathways Update

Mr. Tyszko provided an update on Illinois Pathways. He briefly explained how Illinois Pathways was funded through an approximate \$43 million Round 3 Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. The effort is supported by an interagency team of economic development and education agencies working collaboratively to support coordination between the state systems. Illinois Pathways is a new and innovative state of Illinois-led Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiative designed to support college and career readiness for all students and improve transitions to employment. Efforts to date have been to improve talent pipelines across the P-20/workforce systems that align with Illinois' economic development sectors and areas of competitive growth. A key component of the initiative is the launch of new statewide STEM Learning Exchanges designed to improve coordination and investment of public-private partners within a sector and better aggregate and distribute resources and partnerships to networks of education and workforce training partners. Many of the sectors targeted, including information technology, manufacturing, and health sciences, have been supported by previous IWIB task forces and this effort is consistent with their many education and workforce-related recommendations.

The launch of Illinois Pathways was announced by Governor Quinn on February 9, 2012 in Bloomington and was followed by a Request for Information designed to help the interagency team prioritize STEM sectors for implementation of public-private Learning Exchanges. Co-Chair Ribley emphasized how pleased he was to see the energy and effort from the private sector in endorsing and working with the educational entities and economic development agencies to meet the needs of Illinois' workforce. The next step will be for the interagency team to release the STEM Learning Exchange Request for Sealed Proposals this summer. In conclusion, Mr. Tyszko invited the IWIB members to visit www.illinoisworknet.com/ilpathways to learn more about the initiative and to review the resources available.

Public Comment, Closing Comments and Adjournment

In closing, Co-Chair Ribley mentioned the importance of recognizing the great working relationship among the IWIB members, local workforce investment areas, and educational entities as well as the renewed partnership with IDES and the Illinois Department of Labor. He stated with continued efforts Illinois will make great strides in training individuals and in meeting employers' skill set expectations.

Co-Chair Ribley noted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently denied Illinois' application for assistance in Southern Illinois following the devastating tornados. While the State works through an appeals process, all state agencies are currently working together to provide assistance. For example, DCEO's Office of Employment and Training was able to

secure grant funds to help pay salaries to dislocated workers for the initial cleanup phase. Additionally, he stated any IWIB members' organizations and/or companies that can assist in the rebuilding effort would be welcomed and appreciated.

Co-Chair John Rico and Mark Harris thanked Co-Chair Ribley for his years of service to the IWIB and both are looking forward to continued work with the members. Mayor Ashby made a motion to prepare a resolution for the next meeting in recognition of Co-Chair Ribley's years of service to the IWIB. Will County Executive Larry Walsh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Co-Chair Ribley recognized Grover Webb of Tanglefoot Ranch in southern Illinois and asked for him to provide his business background to the IWIB members. Grover provided a handout detailing Illinois' potential crop opportunity of miscanthus giganteus. He briefly mentioned that it is a high-yield warm season biofuel grass with capabilities to be made into animal bedding, used as an absorbent material to control oil spills, provide wildlife cover, grown as sound barriers in urban areas, and used as a hydroponic plant growing medium. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to share his information.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Co-Chair Ribley announced the next IWIB meeting will be held June 14, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Chicago. Mayor Ashby made a motion to adjourn. Larry Walsh seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.