



Illinois Workforce Investment Board

Pat Quinn, Governor

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

Career Link workNet Center
207 East Hamilton Road
Bloomington, Illinois
September 22, 2011

IWIB Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Warren Ribley, John Rico, Tom Ashby, Joseph Costigan, John Coliton, Donald DeDobbelaere, Elizabeth Dickson, Mark Harris, Janet Payne, Terri Payne, Michael Perry, Shelly Stern, David Stoecklin, Mike Williams.

Present by Proxy: Michael Gelder (Jennifer Morrell), Dr. Chris Koch (Mark Williams), Geoffrey Obrzut (Lavon Nelson), Barbara Oilschlager (Kim Villaneuva), Dr. George Reid (Ocheng Jany), Eloy Salazar (Donna Fantozzi), Kristine Smith (Paula Ferguson), Larry Walsh (Nick Palmer), Diane Williams (Constantine Bitsas).

Absent: Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Sandy Moldovan, Honorable Sandy Pihos, Tom Prinske, Jay Rowell, Michelle Saddler.

Approval of June 23, 2011 Minutes - Action Item

The board members were asked to review the June 23, 2011 minutes as provided in the meeting's handouts. Co-Chair John Rico requested a motion to pass the June 23, 2011 minutes. Donald DeDobbelaere made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and David Stoecklin seconded and the motion passed.

Opening Remarks

Co-chair Warren Ribley welcomed the IWIB members and guests to the meeting and extended a thank you to Gary Cicciu, Executive Director of Career Link, and his staff for hosting the meeting.

Membership Update

Director Ribley stated it was announced at the June meeting that Joseph Costigan replaced Catherine Shannon as Director of the Department of Labor. Director Costigan served as the Secretary-Treasurer of Workers United, an affiliate of SIEU. He is also a past Vice-President of the Illinois AFL-CIO. He introduced Director Costigan and welcomed him to his first IWIB meeting.

Director Ribley also announced Michael Gelder was appointed as Acting Director for the Department on Aging who replaced the recently retired Charles Johnson. Acting Director Gelder previously served as Governor Quinn's Chief Health Policy Advisor where he led the Governor's Nursing Home Safety Task Force. Director Gelder was unable to attend; however, Jennifer Morrell was in attendance to represent the agency.

Director Ribley stated Dr. Rob Kilbury recently stepped down as Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Kristine Smith was appointed Interim Director. Kristine previously served as the Interim Director and Associate Director of DRS. She most recently served as DRS' Administrator of the Community Reintegration Program and also as Administrator of the Vocational Rehabilitation Support Unit. Ms. Smith was represented by Paula Ferguson who was attending on her behalf.

Director Ribley recognized the leadership and dedication of long-time member Rosiland Bruce. He announced Ms. Bruce's recent retirement from Lincoln Land Community College and stated she will no longer serve on the Board. He praised her as a long-standing member and supporter of the IWIB and believes the Board was fortunate to have her guidance and partnership throughout the years. Rosiland was unable to attend but he hopes to be able to thank her in person at a future meeting.

Director Ribley also recognized Ronn Morehead of the AFL-CIO as another member departing the IWIB. He stated Ronn's leadership and commitment has been a great asset, including his recent participation on the State Energy Sector Partnership. Director Ribley read a proclamation honoring Mr. Morehead and requested a motion to approve. Tom Ashby motioned to approve the proclamation as read; Terri Payne seconded and the motion passed. Director Ribley asked everyone to join him in recognizing Ronn's service as he presented the proclamation. Mr. Morehead said he has had the privilege of serving under Governor's Thompson, Edgar, Ryan, Blagojevich, and Quinn. He stated he began his representation on the Board as an education partner working within the training and education system which allowed him to understand the need for serving customers. He told members that the IWIB is an ideal venue to impact the current and future workforce of Illinois and the decisions they make will have an impact on all citizens. He reminded the board members that they have the opportunity and the ability to step out on a limb and to explore and implement new ideas for the future of Illinois' workforce. His final thoughts applauded board members currently serving and encouraged them to continue to

build upon their great efforts and accomplishments as other states look to Illinois as a leader in improving workforce development.

Finally, Ribley recognized Mark Harris, the Deputy Chief of Staff from the Governor's Office. He noted Mr. Harris has a workforce background and works closely with DCEO.

IWIB Orientation

Director Ribley stated DCEO staff will host an orientation for new members one hour preceding the December meeting. The orientation is being designed to familiarize new members with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) legislation and Illinois' WIA system, program offerings, and services.

Update on Grant Opportunities

Director Ribley requested for Jason Tysko to provide an update on the following grant opportunities:

NGA Policy Academy - Manufacturing: DCEO recently participated in an application filed with the NGA to join a policy academy titled, "Making our Future: Encouraging Growth Opportunities in Manufacturing through Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Investment." Illinois has one of the largest and most diverse manufacturing bases in the country, and our ability to maintain and grow our position as a major center of global manufacturing requires continued strategic thinking. This policy academy provides a unique opportunity for us to reconvene public and private partners to review existing strategies and develop new approaches to address the global competitive challenges facing Illinois manufacturers.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative: DCEO and IDES plan to apply for the next round of Workforce Data Quality Initiative funding. This funding would be used to support the matching of education and workforce records in addition to social service records. An interagency working group has been meeting to build consensus and advance the work in anticipation of this initiative. Partners include DCEO, IDES, DHS, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC), and the University of Illinois. Project activities thus far have included developing a common identifier; identifying quality and security standards; and outlining a P-20 talent pipeline analysis for the healthcare sector.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (C3T): The U.S. Department of Labor will announce the C3T Grant award recipients. Colleges were encouraged to participate by the Governor so Illinois can build capacity around nationally-portable, STEM certificate programs. The \$500 million grant funds will be shared among individual community college applicants as well as community college consortia applicants. Awards will be announced for state-based consortium as well as for applications that were part of national STEM consortium.

State Plan Update

Director Ribley reported the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) conducted a comprehensive review of workforce programs in Illinois. As part of that review, DOL requested adjustments to the Training Provider Eligibility/Certification Policy and requested that language describing the

policy be included in the State Plan. DCEO staff will take action and develop the language and submit to DOL in the near future. He stated no formal action is required of the IWIB; however, Julio Rodriguez and Mike Baker of DCEO's Office of Employment and Training were available to address any questions or concerns. Mike Baker stated DCEO is responding to DOL's request and crafting the language that will result in a technical change to the State Plan's language. Mark Harris explained that agencies are working toward integration of the various customer systems which will allow them to better serve customer needs. There were no questions or concerns expressed by Board members.

IWIB Membership Update

On behalf of Deputy Director Therese McMahon, Kathy Schwab reported the second proposed candidate slate was approved by Director Ribley and forwarded to the Governor's office for approval and to begin the vetting process. Twenty potential candidates were identified and have accepted the invitation to serve on the Board and eleven renewals were requested for members currently serving. Kathy stated if the slate is approved and all requested candidates are confirmed, membership will total 51. Of that total, 28 are business members which will put the Board in compliance with set regulations and the 51 percent business membership requirement.

Update on WIA Re-Authorization

With respect to WIA Re-Authorization, Director Ribley noted that until the federal Super Committee makes decisions regarding debt ceiling issues and further reductions that need to be made at the federal funding levels, the state will not know the outcome and impact it will have on the WIA and Trade Adjustment Assistance programs. He emphasized his concern regarding the continued action to reduce the 15 percent state set-aside to 5 percent. He stated that the House introduced a continuing resolution earlier in the week that included a reduction of Illinois' state WIA funding for the remainder of this program year instead of what was originally enacted as part of the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, which provided that the provision be applied to the first quarter of the current program year. Although this specific resolution was defeated for reasons unrelated to the reduction of the state discretionary funding, DCEO is continuing to educate the Illinois Delegation with regard to the value of state WIA funds. He stated if the reduction was enacted, funding will be redirected to DOL and as a state we would have the opportunity to compete for a portion of those dollars based upon the policy direction from DOL. He encouraged members to reach out to Illinois' congressional members and emphasize the importance of this funding and how the WIA partners rely on the flexibility of the state-level WIA funding to support jobs programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

Task Force Updates

- **Ag Task Force** - On behalf of the Co-Chairs, Larry Walsh and Dr. Christopher Merrett, Mike Baker provided an update on the activities of the Ag Task Force. He provided a brief overview of the Task Force activities and press release regarding the 2011 Ag Career Challenge. He highlighted the activities of the Task Force's major areas of interest including P-20 Pipeline, Career Awareness Project Challenge, community college local foods projects, and Illinois Innovation Talent Program. He emphasized the success of the 2011 Ag Career Challenge which called upon Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters statewide to create multimedia communication programs promoting modern careers in

agriculture. He noted the Illinois Farm Bureau and the FFA have agreed to conduct the competition next year.

- **Veterans Task Force** –Jason Tyszko began by noting the finalized Task Force Report is available on the Illinois workNet website. He stated a key recommendation from the report is for DCEO, IDES, and IDVA to finalize a proposal for the Governor's Office to establish a Statewide Veterans Transition Team that will be responsible for implementing all of the Task Force's recommendations. Proposed agency responsibilities included the following: 1) DCEO - Support and staff transition team, and continue to develop Illinois workNet veterans portal; 2) IDVA - Connect veterans service officers with local and regional networks of service providers; 3) IDES - Continue to build out, house, and analyze the veterans' database created through data sharing agreements as part of the Task Force as well as support IDVA veterans service officers in connecting with provider networks. Jason referred to the research report provided in the meeting materials entitled *The Transition of Illinois Veterans from Military Discharge to Stable Civilian Employment*. The report is a comprehensive study of recent Illinois discharges based on data provided by IDVA for veterans discharged from 2001 through the summer of 2010. Andy Fox, Deputy Director of Programs of IDES, provided an overview of the Report and thanked the IWIB for giving IDES the charge for cumulating the data and the opportunity to share the findings. He briefly highlighted several data findings and stated IDES is looking forward to working through the next steps in this process.

Several questions and comments were noted. Ocheng Jany raised his concern that we did not have the ability to track all veterans pursuing higher education. Jason responded stating that the data used was the latest and best available, but unfortunately not complete since veterans must self-identify their status in higher education programs. Shelly Stern mentioned during President Obama's recent announcement for a specialized plan for veterans, Microsoft Corporation offered a revised version of the Elevate America Program with certifications specifically for veterans. She offered to research the corporate program and act as a bridge between Microsoft's corporate office and the IWIB to obtain access of the certifications for Illinois veterans.

Jason continued with the update on the Task Force's next steps which included working with the Governor's Office to prepare a proposal for a Statewide Veterans Transition Team with a list of recommended team members, both public and private, as well as the appointment of a Chair and Co-Chair. The Team will work to schedule press events highlighting the work of the Task Force and the creation of the Statewide Transition Team; and, per the recommendation of the Task Force, the Team will establish a private sector advisory group from human resource departments to provide education on veteran employment issues to include sharing best practices. Jason concluded by noting that the Task Force will report on the development of the Statewide Veterans Transition Team at the December meeting.

State Energy Sector Partnership

Jason Tyszko provided an update for the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP). He stated local project activities, as part of the DOL grant, include seven local projects which

continue to enroll, train and place participants in programs. To date, 256 individuals are enrolled in training, case management and/or job search assistance. The statewide activities of the project include DCEO and local project staff attending a regional DOL conference for SESP, as well as DCEO staff attending a national DOL conference. Illinois continues to receive technical assistance particularly with employer outreach. Jason mentioned that recent conversations focused on increasing capacity of local projects by emphasizing the upgrading of skills for incumbent workers.

Therese McMahon noted that while the SESP projects are going well, DCEO is reviewing and coordinating with local projects to assess their ability to focus more on incumbent worker training, which will require revisions of their scope of work. Jason emphasized identifying problem areas quickly, seeking technical assistance, and having good communication with all partners allows the State to adapt in order to spend funds in the most efficient and effective way. Jason reported DCEO has selected a project operator for the Energy Efficiency statewide collaborative project with a final grant agreement awaiting execution. The project operator will assist the five energy efficiency projects with outreach coordination; training and placement activities; sharing information and best practices; and assist with technical assistance and evaluating projects in the state.

Jason noted the SESP has focused its efforts advancing the state's STEM education strategy by defining an energy career cluster and related P-20 Program of Study. The P-20 Program of Study model will provide the foundation for launching a statewide Energy Learning Exchange. According to the model, students begin with a cross-cluster technology orientation level experience in the ninth and tenth grades followed by pathway-specific courses in the eleventh and twelfth grades. Pathways unique to the energy sector include Energy Management; Energy Engineering; and Energy System Fabrication, Installation, and Maintenance (note: additional pathways in TDL, MFG and R&D). Those pathways are then articulated into postsecondary education and training programs with corresponding certificates and industry-recognized credentials.

STEM Initiatives Update

Jason Tyszkowski reported Illinois continues to advance the Illinois Pathways Initiative, which supports the development and implementation of programs that include the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in nine application areas consistent with the IWIB sector-based strategies and task forces.

As part of the program of studies effort, public-private working groups have been working to establish statewide P-20 Program of Study reports in each sector. A report consists of: 1) Labor market information (demand side); 2) Baseline analysis (supply side); 3) P-20 course sequences; and 4) inventory of support resources. Each model helps provide guidance to local partners to develop career pathways that enable students to explore their academic and career interests with clear articulation into postsecondary programs and employment. The final reports will be used to support a network of public-private partners under sector-based STEM Learning Exchanges. The working group reports will be completed by Fall 2011.

In addition, the four education agencies and two economic development agencies have been working together on the establishment of a governance model to manage the solicitation and support of public-private, sector-based Learning Exchanges. The governance model is a new and important means of providing state recognition to the public-private partnerships. Thus far ISBE, DCEO, ISAC and IDES have executed the agreement. A presentation was made to ICCB's board the previous week and their endorsement was received. A presentation was provided to the Council of Presidents and a presentation to the IBHE is scheduled to secure their participation in the inter-governmental agreement.

Once the inter-governmental agreement is signed by all partners the next step is to launch the STEM Learning Exchanges. Jason stated Illinois was awarded a Round 3 \$28M Race to the Top grant of which half of the award will be managed by the State and the remaining half to be allocated to participating K-12 school districts. As part of the award states are to prioritize STEM initiatives based on their Round 2 proposals. Illinois Round 2 application focused on: 1) scaling-up Programs of Study in nine STEM application areas, and 2) launching statewide, sector-based Learning Exchanges. Upon execution of the inter-governmental agreement, the state will launch a committee to layout a solicitation strategy for the near future.

Finally, Jason mentioned that building off the work of Illinois workNet and the P-20 Council's recommendations, DCEO participated in the latest Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers meeting in Washington, D.C. to help ensure workforce readiness and employability skills are built into national assessments mapped to the Common Core State Standards. Julio Rodriguez mentioned a handout was included in the meeting packet highlighting several major skill areas that need to be addressed when referring to employability.

Shelly Stern acknowledged all the great work of the state with focusing on STEM and twenty-first century projects; however, she expressed concern regarding the lack of entrepreneurship training. She believes entrepreneurial opportunities will be the trend to better the workforce environment for Illinois. Mark Harris supported Shelly's comments and called for the IWIB to consider pursuing a project in the entrepreneurship space. Following a brief discussion regarding current efforts and how the state may pursue avenues to expand into the entrepreneurial area, Director Ribley suggested a small workgroup be formed to develop the structure of a task force focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation that connects to existing statewide initiatives.

Illinois JobLink

Director Ribley introduced Andy Fox and Don Ryan from IDES to provide an overview of Illinois JobLink (IJL). Mr. Fox began the presentation by stating that IJL will be replacing Illinois SkillsMatch. He stated that training has been scheduled throughout the state and if anyone wishes to participate in training to notify him. The official launch date is scheduled for late October.

Mr. Ryan thanked the members for the opportunity to explain the IJL system. He provided a brief overview of the handout provided in the meeting packet. He explained IJL is a labor exchange and case management system which supports the job seeker and employers and provides all related federal reports. Additionally, he described how the stakeholders (job seekers, employers, and WIA partners) will be supported throughout the system. He mentioned

the benefits for IDES through the new software and dedicated hardware, support and maintenance, and improved business process and compliance. He also explained the benefits for IDES's customers who include employers, job seekers, and partners. He also emphasized improvements in system and reviewed the IJL sub-teams and their functions.

Several board members raised questions and concerns regarding the implementation of the IJL system which included: 1) will the UI data will be available through the IJL system; 2) will the integration include data within IWDS; and 3) will labor market information by geographic areas be available? Mr. Ryan responded that the UI data will be available and a workgroup is exploring the interface between the IJL and IWDS.

Career Awareness Video - TDL Sector

Director Ribley welcomed Pam Furlan, Executive Director of Best Employment Skills Team, Inc. (Local Workforce Investment Area 12). Pam Furlan thanked Director Ribley for allowing her the opportunity to share a local career awareness initiative. She informed the board members that it was the responsibility of the local workforce board to foster the potential growth in the logistics industry. Various local chambers of commerce and economic development entities as well as logistic-related companies created the North Central Illinois Logistics Council, which shares best practices, and concerns and challenges within the industry. She showed a short video and stated it was a direct result from the Council's meetings.

Illinois workNet Update

Julio Rodriguez provided a brief update on Illinois workNet. He referenced the meeting package handout entitled, *12 Key Skills to Employment Success*, and stated a demonstration of the Illinois workNet website and the newly, updated website content including assessment tools will be provided at the next meeting.

Shifting Gears Initiative Update

Lavon Nelson provided a brief update on the Shifting Gears initiative. She explained the purpose of the Bridge Programs which have been funded through the 15 percent state set-aside funds mentioned earlier in the meeting. She also referenced the meeting material handout, *The Early Impact of Bridge Programs in Illinois*, which outlines some of the success stories of the Bridge Programs.

Public Comment, Closing Comments and Adjournment

Director Ribley invited public comment. There being none, he announced the next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Chicago. David Stoecklin made a motion to adjourn; Tom Ashby seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.