



## Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

**Bruce Rauner, Governor**

**John Rico, Co-Chair**  
**Sean McCarthy, Co-Chair**

**Illinois Old State Capitol  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
6<sup>th</sup> & Adams Streets  
Springfield, IL 62701**

**March 16, 2017 (Amended)**

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Co-Chair Sean McCarthy, Co-Chair John Rico, Elba Aranda-Suh, Tom Ashby, Mike Conley, Julie Courtney, Elizabeth Dickson, Daniele Ferrari, Jennifer Foster, David Friedman, Kirk Gadberry, Thomas Hacker, Grailing Jones, Angela Mason, Michael Massie, Marlon McClinton, Sandeep Nain, Terri Payne, Michael Perry, Margie Schiemann, Aaron Tennant, Quinetta Wade, Senator Chuck Weaver, Grover Webb, Thomas Wendorf, Sylvia Wetzel, Michael Williams

**Present by Proxy:** Victor Dickson (Arthur Bishop), Dr. John Donahue (Maurice King), Barbara Oilschlager (Michael Monaghan), Andrew Warrington (Jennifer Serino Stasch)

**Absent:** Henry Beards, Senator Melinda Bush, C.D. Davidsmeyer, Debra Day, Pat Fabijanski, Joe Forbes, Representative Norine Hammond, Jeffrey Mays, Eloy Salazar, Juan Salgado, John Sigsbury, Larry Walsh, Terry Wilkerson

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Brian Durham, Tony Smith (Brian Houser), Nina Tagman

### **Approval of December 6, 2016 Minutes**

Co-Chair John Rico requested the board members to review the December 6, 2016 minutes as provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Tom Ashby made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Sandeep Nain seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

### **Opening Remarks**

Co-Chair John Rico welcomed the board members and thanked the board members for attending the extended meeting schedule which allowed Maher & Maher consultants to present and to discuss the Board's strategic plan. He thanked and introduced Mr. Ryan Prehn, the Deputy Director for the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency, for graciously hosting the board meeting in such a historic venue.

Deputy Director Prehn provided a brief overview of the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency's various sites throughout Illinois and highlighted several of the artifacts located through the Chamber in which the meeting

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was held. He stated that the agency's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and communicate the diverse heritage of Illinois to educate the public by providing access to historic resources in the state. Deputy Director Prehn shared that historic sites in Springfield have teamed up to provide jobs for students and teach the youth personal and professional skills. The program, "Spirit of Lincoln Youth Leadership Academy," has been a joint project of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and Visit Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau; the summer program has provided history jobs for youth at the Lincoln Home, Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Tomb. The goal has been to help students learn history but also to show them how to interact with visitors, develop confidence and fulfill a job's daily requirements. In his final comments, he stated that the agency has been looking to expand the program to be a year-around program.

Co-Chair Sean McCarthy thanked Mr. Prehn and his agency for assisting in hosting the board meeting. Co-Chair McCarthy stated he was excited to learn about the work of the IWIB Strategic Planning Task Force just as the Department of Commerce has gone through a strategic planning process of its own. He stated that both of these efforts will go to great ends in strengthening the workforce, education, and economic development systems within Illinois.

Co-Chair McCarthy announced that the Illinois Department of Corrections launched a new program to work with youth that will aid them through the creation of Illinois' first "Life Skills Re-Entry Center" at the Kewanee facility. The program goal will be to assist in keeping the youth from returning to prison once released.

Co-Chair McCarthy stated that since January Senator Chuck Weaver has been working closely with IWIB business members and educational partners as well as members from the Department of Commerce and the Local Workforce Innovation Area 13, which serves Rock Island, Mercer and Henry counties. He welcomed Senator Weaver to address the members. Senator Weaver thanked the Co-Chairs for the opportunity to address the board members and emphasized what he believes needs to be accomplished within the state of Illinois, which were: 1) improve the tax system, 2) understand the requirements of the WIOA regulations, 3) have access to credit, 4) have access to the market, and 5) to have access to the workforce. He stated he looks forward to continuing working with the board members to improve the business climate within Illinois.

Co-Chair McCarthy stated that Senator Weaver and Mike Massie have been working with the Director John Baldwin with the Illinois Department of Corrections with a partnership to provide career pathway opportunities that lead to successful lives for our returning citizens. He welcomed Director Baldwin to address the members. Director Baldwin stated that Illinois has one of the highest recidivism rates in the nation just below Alabama and Mississippi. He emphasized that the Life Skills Reentry Center in Kewanee will serve offenders who are nearing the end of their sentences to learn skills that are critical to their success in the community. The Kewanee Center will be one of three Life Skills Reentry Centers slated to open in Illinois, as part of Governor Rauner's plan to safely reduce the prison population and restructure the state's criminal justice system. He thanked the members for the opportunity to share this information and the partnership that has been formed with the Department of Commerce and the Board.

Co-Chair McCarthy announced that Governor Rauner issued an order proclaiming April as Information Technology Month due to the efforts of Gretchen Koch with CompTIA and other industry leaders in the IT sector including John Rico; the ability to showcase the many IT businesses with a footprint in Illinois is exciting. In conjunction with the IT Month, events will be held at the James R Thompson Center in Chicago.

In conclusion, Co-Chair McCarthy stated that Governor Rauner continues to be excited about the efforts around the Apprenticeship Programs in Illinois including those spearheaded by the IWIB apprenticeship Standing Committee. The Apprenticeship Plus model that was born by the IWIB remains a high priority the he has continued to highlight at many public meetings.

Co-Chair Rico announced that he has received a resignation letter from Ms. Elizabeth Dickson effective at the end of the month, March 2017 and thanked her for her service to the Board. Ms. Dickson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as a board member and the various committees and task forces during her tenure; she stated she looks forward to see the progress Illinois will be making in the future within the workforce development initiatives.

Co-Chair Rico announced that Deputy Director Julio Rodriguez, himself and others attended the National Governors Association meetings recently in Washing, D.C. He emphasized his confidence with Illinois' progress with the WIOA implementation when he meets with other state's representatives; however, the State has more it needs to accomplish.

Co-Chair Rico stated that due to time committed to the Strategic Planning discussion, individual reports would not be presented; however, he encouraged everyone to review the written reports which were included in the meeting packets.

### **WIOA Updates**

Deputy Director Rodriguez provided a brief review with regard to the continuation of the WIOA implementation process, specifically the certification of one-stop centers and the Memorandum of Understandings. Additionally, he emphasized the continuation of the Board's Strategic Planning process and stated that Illinois was one of the few states who have undertaken the task and believed this will give Illinois an advantage. Deputy Director Rodriguez mentioned that with a new federal administration, the focus has been shifted to apprenticeships and results based programming and emphasized the importance of moving forward with Illinois' apprenticeships initiatives. In conclusion, he mentioned that smaller teams will be sent to attend the National Governor's Association conference which will be held in three cities (Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; and Sand Diego, California).

### **Title IB Minimum Training Expenditure Analysis**

Mr. Brian Richard, the Assistant Director for the Center for governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University proved a brief overview of the meeting document entitled, "Training Expenditure Return on Investment: Research Plan." He stated that understanding the benefits provided by WIOA formula fund supported training would help guide the decision on minimum training expenditure levels. With the results of the first phase of analysis outlined in the referenced meeting document, in conjunction with the other research conducted by the IWIB Evaluation and Accountability Committee would provide initial evidence to support ta decision on LWIA minimum training expenditures for PY 2018.

Mr. Richard stated that return on investment studies of workforce development programs have been conducted in several states including California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Virginia. In some of these states the analysis is required by state law and the approach outlined in the reference meeting document employed the best practices from these states and would provide near term feedback to support training expenditures as well as develop a more sophisticated return on investment model to evaluate programs through the workforce development system.

Mr. Richard stated that California has a 50% minimum training expenditure requirement with the ability to have waivers and Virginia has a 40% training expenditure requirement, which both states include additional allowable costs. Several of the states researched have a 25% to 30% training expenditure requirement. He stated that with the current research that there was no hard evidence that increasing the minimum training expenditure levels would impact the measurable earnings gained from pre-participation to post-participation as the populations are difficult to track. In conclusion, Mr. Richard stated that the Workgroup would reconvene in the

next few weeks to determine the next steps. Mr. Richard asked if any board members had questions or concerns; no discussion was held by the board members.

#### **Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Strategic Plan**

*Strategic Planning Task Force* – Ms. Sylvia Wetzel, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee provided an update on the Committee’s work since the previous board meeting as outlined in the Committee report included in the meeting packet, as well as an overview of the objectives of the meeting’s PowerPoint presentation (referencing the “Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Retreat, March 16, 2017, presented by Maher & Maher”).

Ms. Lisa Jones, Department of Commerce staff, provided a brief overview of the Illinois Workforce Development System with regard to the federal mandated responsibilities, impact of state/regional/local plans, and federal required core partners/programs, as outlined in the meeting presentation materials. A brief discussion was held among Board member with regard to the information provided by Ms. Jones.

*Technical Assistance – Strategic Plan* – Ms. Beth Brinley, Workforce Innovations Vice President and Ms. Terri Lonowski, Senior Consultant of Maher & Maher facilitated the remaining subject topics as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation meeting document covering topics of the Illinois Strategic Planning Process, overview of the WIOA priorities, Board roles and responsibility, and board members participating in an “Illinois High-Impact Workforce Board Exercise” and an “Exploring the Customer Experience Exercise” with the opportunity for the board members to brainstorming and discussing solutions and best practices needed within the various scenarios. The Maher & Maher facilitators stated that the outcomes of the exercises would be compiled and shared with all board members and staff.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Mark Burgess announced that the most up-to-date 2017 quarterly board meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Grover Webb, owner/operator of Tanglefoot Farms, shared his growing concern regarding county road infrastructure in the southern Illinois region with regard to the farmers’ ability to deliver their products to market without additional trucking regulations.

#### **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Rico stated that the next meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2017 beginning at 1:00 p.m. will be hosted by Lakeland Community College in Mattoon. He asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kirk Gadberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jennifer Foster. With no further discussion, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.