

W.I.B.

(WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD) of LWIA #15

Serving the counties of: Fulton, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford

MINUTES

WIB **ZOOM** Board Meeting

TUESDAY, February 11th, 2025

*Moved to TUESDAY,
due to Career Link offices closed for (W) 02-12-2025 (Lincoln's Birthday)*

12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm (approx.)

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/96023763357?pwd=jR3POozMOsZcnSS8lrg3nB5JMNYZ4a.1>

Meeting ID: 960 2376 3357 Passcode: 231077 1-309-205-3325

I. Roll Call and Introductions of NEW Board Members – WIB President, Sam Lewis

Chairman, Sam Lewis opened the meeting at 12:03 pm with roll call. He introduced three newest WIB Board members; Rebecca Brennan with Lifelong Access, David Maroon (Plumbers Local 63) and Arnitria Shaw (ICC).

Board Members Present:

Zach Bell (ALCAST Company), Rebecca Brennan (Lifelong Access), Mark DeKeersgieter (CIRBN), Brian Ford (Facet Tech), Jeffrey Inman (GPEDC), Lori Johnson (Peoria Goodwill), **WIB Chair**, Sam Lewis (Pridestaff), John Lutostanski (Zentech), David Maroon (Plumbers Local 63), Curt Oldfield (SRC), Steve Stewart (Morton Industries), **WIB Vice-Chair**, Steve Timmermann (Bank of Pontiac), Jody Wanless (IDES), John Whalen (Midwest Region Laborers) LEDC (Laborers' Economic Development Corporation) and David White (Connect-Transit).

Board Members Absent:

Tami Foley (MCCA), Luke Gruden (Mahoney Crouch & Mahoney Ins.), John Hubert (CAT), Bill Lawrence (PLR Insurance), Todd Mundorf (NRG, Pekin, IL), Karol Nova (IDHS/Dept. of Rehab. Services), Rick Pearce (Heartland C.C.), Brian Plath (Wayfinder LLC), Arnitria Shaw (ICC), Kim Stewart (Carle Care), and Mike Shrier (Excalibur Seasoning).

Career Link Staff:

Steve Martin (Executive Director), Dena Weth (Assistant Director), LeeAnn Norris (Fiscal Director), David Vaughn (Technical Specialist/Planner/EO officer), Kelly Schapmire (Program Manager), David Taylor (Systems Manager/Performance Manager), Shelly Purchis (McLean Co. Business Service Rep) and Michael Burress (Peoria Co. Business Service Rep).

Guests:

Warren Cheatham (One Stop Center Manager), Terry Bitner (IDES), Kathy Schubert (MCCA), Shayne Miller (DRS), Charlie Moore (McLean Co. Chamber of Commerce), Tracy Polson (YouthBuild McLean Co), Khrystyna Sanborn (HCC), Johanna Wagner (Goodwill) and Janet Hood.

II. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of (W) November 13, 2024 ZOOM WIB Meeting Minute

A motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and seconded by Steve Timmermann to approve the (W) November 13, 2024 ZOOM WIB Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

III. Participant Spotlight – Presented by Performance Manager, David Taylor

David Taylor stated that as the Career Link Performance Manager, he doesn't usually work with clients anymore, but he was a Career Planner for 30 years, and last year he helped the Career Link staff by taking a couple of clients. He began in sharing the success story of Natalia Orozco-Wenzel. She came to Career Link when she was 21, single, with a one-year old son. She was living with her child's father, but he had recently been laid off from his job and their family was struggling to make ends meet. They qualified for food stamps

(SNAP). Natalia was working as a Certified Nursing Aide with a job that paid \$15/hour, however, she was only working part-time as she juggled caring for their infant and also attending classes at Illinois Central College. She was working to earn a degree to become a registered nurse. She told me, she was following in the footsteps of her mother, who is also a nurse. Surprisingly she shared that her mom was a former client of Career Link. Career Link had helped her mother over 20 years earlier, which made David Taylor feel a little bit older, since now he is serving another generation.

Since Natalia was living in a low-income household, was under age 24, and was attending college, Career Link enrolled her as an In-school Youth (ISY) to help fund her nursing training. This help allowed her to work less hours and to focus on her studies, but the stress at home was growing. Her son's father was a good dad, but was not as supportive of her career goals as he could have been. (David Taylor encouraged her as best as that he could.)

Childcare is often a challenge for parents in training. Natalia was fortunate to have the help of her child's father and his mother (the baby's grandmother), but nursing school requires a lot of study-time outside of class. Many days Natalia was doing her best, but on minimal sleep. She excelled in her nursing classes, but had some trouble with a biology course, which she had to repeat in the summer.

Not long thereafter, she separated from her baby's father and moved back home with her mother. This was also not an ideal situation, she explored subsidizing housing, but ended up back living with her child's father. After a few weeks, an apartment became available and she moved again and was able to secure a daycare spot. Despite these and some personal health challenges, Natalia excelled in school. She was selected by OSF for a paid-internship and she took that, knowing a job with the hospital would enable her to get additional assistance to ultimately earn a bachelor's degree.

Natalia graduated with her Associate degree in May of 2024 and passed her nursing boards on the first attempt in July. She received her license in August and transitioned from her internship job to that of a FT nurse at the hospital on the cardiothoracic floor. She reports that she loves her job as a nurse, but it is hard work and can be stressful at times. She shared that she recently lost her first patient. (I encouraged her to make good use of the in-house support services that OSF has for its nursing staff.) She thanked Career Link for our assistance and our on-going encouragement. She has just finished her first full-quarter of follow-up (Oct – Dec), during which time she grossed \$20,000. She is on track to earn about \$85,000. With her new income, she was recently approved for a home loan and hopes to purchase a new home for her and her son later this year. David Taylor asked her to keep her eyes open for students working at the hospital who might need workforce development funding. She promised to refer others, so they could explore if they could get help from Career Link.

IV. Comments regarding current situation with funding WIOA program – Executive Director, Steve Martin

There is some uncertainty concerning federal funding under the new administration regarding WIOA funding. Two weeks ago an Executive Order was released by the Trump administration to pause all federal funding. The next day it was rescinded. Basically because it was illegal due to the funds have already been appropriated by congress. It created instant chaos with all agencies across the country who were left in limbo as to how programs, participants, tuition, staff payroll, healthcare, and the agency in its entirety was going to be funded. DCEO immediately responded by increasing the amount of money that could be drawn down. We remain wary of what funding this administration will be wanting to cut out of the budget. In previous years we have been faced with budget cuts, this time we do not have a grasp as to what may happen. With that said we are moving forward and continuing to do the work, business as usual.

One very large selling point regarding our program: WIOA has evidence based outcomes (performance measures) dictated by DOL and DCEO. I know of no other programs that have the stringent measures LWIA'S have to achieve in order to remain funded. Furthermore, the program oversight and scrutiny we operate under WIOA law far exceeds many other workforce programs. It is for these reasons I believe we will continue to be funded under this administration.

I know some of you are worried about continued funding- I truly believe funding will be maintained and restored moving forward.

V. Updates by Four Core Partners – One Stop Operator Manager, Warren Cheatham

VI. Enrollment Numbers – Assistant Director, Dena Weth

Enrollment Numbers by Counties
(Registrants-thru February 7, 2025)

Counties	Adults	DW	Youth	Work Experience	
Fulton	6	1	8		
Marshall	4	1	-		
Mason	3	-	43	8	
McLean	30	4	58	5	
Peoria	77	6	17	3	
Stark	11	1	17	9	
Tazewell	16	4	2		
Woodford	6	-	-		
GRF (WE)					
Total	153	17	145	25	
					LWIA Total: 315

Youth- Includes youth programs (Drop-out Prevention and GED Recovery) in addition to Post-secondary students.

DW-Dislocated workers-Eligibility based on unemployment status

Adults-Income based or Basic Skills Deficient eligibility, higher percentage of participants are recipients of SNAP.

Work Experience- A structured Work-based component that provides participants with the opportunity to engage in hands-on employment opportunities.

General Revenue Funds (GRF) Work Experience- Selected participants engage in a structured WE opportunity to build both soft and technical skills.

VII. JTED Home Illinois Grant – Planner, David Vaughn

This program year, in partnership with Phoenix Community Development Services and the Home for All Continuum of Care, Career Link received Job Training and Economic Development grant funds through the State's Home Illinois Workforce Pilot program. We were awarded \$840,000. Career Link role is as grant recipient and fiscal agent, and we're also responsible for all grant reporting to the State. Phoenix Community and Home for All are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the program. Our pilot program will focus on equipping homeless individuals in the Greater Peoria area with the necessary resources and assistance to help them secure immediate and long-term housing and sustainable employment opportunities. Last month, we transitioned from a preliminary planning phase into the 18-month implementation phase. Phoenix Community Development Services has recruited five (5) customers from the local homeless shelters.

Our goal is to serve up to 60 clients, offering fully customized services tailored to each individual’s needs. Services include career counseling, job placement assistance, and access to essential support services such as housing assistance, mental health resources, barrier reduction services, training programs, and work-related supplies, all personalized based on initial assessments and ongoing evaluations throughout the individual’s participation in the program. I’d be happy to take any questions you have.

VIII. Overview of General Revenue funded programs – Planner, David Vaughn

For the past two years, the State of Illinois General Assembly has allocated General Revenue Funds as Supplemental Workforce Funds to all local workforce areas. Our allocation for this program year is \$232,069. Our work plan that was submitted to DCEO in July was approved on December 3, 2024. The approved work plan includes two projects.

First, we are contributing about \$3,000 to the costs of the 2024 Discover Manufacturing event that was held on October 23 & 24, 2024. This annual career expo connects high school students with rewarding careers in the manufacturing sector through firsthand tours of local companies.

Our second project is an Employability Skills program for adult students of the Peoria Park District’s Moonlight Coalition GED program. The Employability Skills program will provide 80 participants with tailored job readiness workshops, one-on-one job search assistance, and barrier reduction services. These services include monetary incentives for attendance, transportation assistance, onsite childcare, and food baskets to meet participants’ basic needs. As part of the program, up to 24 candidates will be selected for Work Experience opportunities, allowing them to gain valuable skills in real work environments at local businesses. Moonlight has successfully established partnerships with several local businesses, including the Peoria Civic Center, Peoria Park District, and Friendship House, to provide Work Experience opportunities for our Work Experience participants. These partnerships will allow our students to gain valuable skills in real-world settings. We are very pleased with Moonlight’s progress to date, and we are confident we will see good results from this project. I’d be happy to take any questions you have.

IX. Peoria Public Schools Teacher Apprenticeship – Planner-Technical Specialist, David Vaughn

In October 2024, Peoria Public Schools (PPS) sought assistance from Career Link to facilitate the enrollment of incumbent workers in bachelor’s degree Education training programs at Lake Erie College. In collaboration with BloomBoard, a talent development provider, the District has created a Registered Apprenticeship Program designed to upskill incumbent paraprofessionals into teachers.

Participants may choose between two (2) Bachelor of Arts programs: the Elementary Education program and the Special Education program, requiring an associate degree for admission and taking two years to complete. Graduates who meet the program criteria and pass the necessary certification assessments will qualify for standard Illinois teacher certification.

Nine (9) paraprofessionals with Peoria Public Schools began their Elementary Education program on February 3, 2025. The District plans to add another five (5) apprentices in August 2025.

Through our Incumbent Worker Training program, we are reimbursing Peoria Public Schools 50% of these training costs. Currently, we’ve received funds from the State to reimburse 50% of the Spring 2025, Summer 2025, and Fall 2025 semesters training costs. This summer we will request further funding for this and other Incumbent Worker Training projects. I’d be happy to take any questions you have.

Budget Recap – Fiscal Director, LeeAnn Norris CURRENT FUNDS AVAILABLE				
Carry In - PY23PY24 Funds		Total Funds After Transfer		80% of PY23
Maximum Carry-In				
Adult	\$1,069,384.57	\$2,556,312.00	\$3,775,696.57	\$2,165,049.60
\$541,262.40				
Additional Transfer \$- \$150,000.00				
DW	\$134,619.07	\$640,960.00	\$625,579.07	\$392,768.00
\$98,192.00				
Additional Transfer \$- \$(150,000.00)				
OSY	\$318,068.42	\$962,544.00	\$1,280,612.42	\$1,540,070.40
\$385,017.60				
Additional Transfer \$-				
ISY	\$460,151.57	\$962,544.00	\$1,422,695.57	
Additional Transfer \$-				

ADMIN	\$459,623.97	\$569,149.00	\$1,028,772.97		
Total	\$2,441,847.60	\$5,691,509.00	\$8,133,356.60	Total	\$1,138,301.80

EXPENDITURES

Adult Expenditures	Total
Overhead Exp 12/31/24	\$601,669.82
OH Estimate 12/31/24	\$729,292.04
Participant Exp 1/30/25	\$779,421.30
Current Vouchers 1/30/25	\$566,719.86
Projections	\$294,772.91
Contracts	\$-
IWT Funds	\$12,287.25
	\$2,984,163.18

FUNDS REMAINING

Funds Available	\$3,775,696.57
Exp & Obl	\$2,984,163.18
Unobligated	\$791,533.39
% Exp & Obl	71%

DW Expenditures

Overhead Exp 12/31/24	\$124,557.23
OH Estimate 12/31/24	\$140,776.17
Participant Exp 1/30/25	\$66,476.14
Current Vouchers 1/30/25	\$140,749.75
Projections	\$24,500.00
Contracts	
IWT Funds	\$-
	\$497,059.29

Funds Available	\$625,579.07
Exp & Obl	\$497,059.29
Unobligated	\$128,519.78
% Exp & Obl	74%

ISY Expenditures

Overhead Exp 12/31/24	\$223,753.77
OH Estimate 12/31/24	\$252,437.27
Participant Exp 1/30/25	\$166,262.18
Current Vouchers 1/30/25	\$131,874.62
Projections	\$2,833.00
WE Projections	\$72,030.43
Remaining Contracts	\$119,612.34
	\$968,803.61

Funds Available	\$1,422,695.57
Exp & Obl	\$968,803.61
Unobligated	\$453,891.96
% Exp & Obl	53%

OSY Expenditures

Overhead Exp 12/31/24	\$140,330.11
OH Estimate 12/31/24	\$157,890.28
Participant Exp 1/30/25	\$314,664.44
Current Vouchers 1/30/25	\$48,882.26
Projections	\$9,447.00
WE Projections	\$37,874.37
Remaining Contracts	\$338,205.99
	\$1,047,294.45
% Exp & Obl	70%

Funds Available	\$1,280,612.42
Exp & Obl	\$1,047,294.45
Unobligated	\$233,317.97
% Exp & Obl	76%
Youth Available	\$2,703,307.99
Youth Exp & Obl	\$2,126,002.86
Youth Unob	\$577,305.13

Admin Expenditures

Overhead Exp 12/31/24	\$264,237.19
OH Estimate 12/31/24	\$243,761.23
% Exp & Obl	63%

Grant Available	\$8,133,356.60
Grant Exp & Obl	\$6,005,318.95
Grant Unob	\$2,128,037.65

WORK EXPERIENCE

20% PY23 Youth Funds	\$339,975.60
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MIN. TRAINING EXP %

Adult Training Exp	\$1,653,201.32
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Expenditures 1/2/25	\$102,835.56	DW Training Exp	\$231,725.89
WE Vouchers	\$125,946.43	Total Adult Exp	\$2,984,163.18
WE Projections	\$109,904.80	Total DW Exp	\$497,059.29
OH Projections 12/31/24	\$39,852.45	Training %	54%
Need to spend	\$(38,563.64)		

X. Audit Report – Fiscal Director, LeeAnn Norris

XI. Performance Report – Performance Manager, David Taylor

Performance Report – February 2025

Update on Clients Served and Exited between 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

ADULTS

117 low-income adults were exited

86% earned a credential - goal was **76%**

Credentials included **32** Associate Degrees, **25** Bachelor Degrees,
Occupational highlights: **61** nurses (39 RN's and 22 LPN's)

91% were working in the 2nd quarter of follow-up – goal was **82%**

\$1,331,096 - combined earning in that 2nd Qtr

\$12,815 -Median 2nd Qtr earnings – goal was **\$8600**

89% working in 4th Qtr [1/1/23 – 12/30/23] – **goal 81%**

Top wage earners, of the 63 that have completed follow-up, included **5** nurses who each earned over **\$80,000**

DISLOCATED WORKERS

11 Dislocated Workers were exited

91% earned an industry-recognized credential – goal was **79%**

Highlights include: 3 Bachelor Degrees, 3 Associate Degrees & 2 CDL's

91% were working in the 2nd Quarter of follow-up – goal was **83%**

\$11,801 - Median 2nd Qtr earnings – goal was **\$9,200**

96% working in 4th Qtr [PY '23: 1/1/23 – 12/30/23] – **goal 81%**

Top wage earner of the those that have completed follow-up:

A McLean County woman, who earned an AAS degree in **Industrial Tech** from **HCC** and grossed **\$60,000** in her first year of work

YOUTH

136 Youth (age 16 -24) were exited

Concern: As previously shared, we have been frustrated with the number of youth who have quit their GED program

77% earned a credential – goal was **72%**

Youth clients, however, have to work or attend post-secondary for their credential to count

At this time, **73%** have a countable credential. We could pick-up a couple more.

Credential highlights – **40** GEDs, **58** HS Diplomas,

13 Post-secondary credentials

86% were working or in college in the 2nd Qtr of follow-up – goal was **76%**

\$516,315 - cumulative earnings in the 2nd Qtr

\$4,927 - Median earnings and our goal was **\$3500**

90% working in the 4th Qtr [PY '23: 1/1/23 – 12/30/23] – **goal 72.5%**

The top youth wage earner, of the 54 who have completed follow-up, was a Stark County youth, who was 19 when we enrolled her. She earned a BSN from Methodist College and grossed **\$61,000** in her first year of work

Summary: Our clients have succeeded all of our performance goals.

XII. Business Services Rep. Reports {OJTs, IWTs, etc.} – Business Service Rep., Shelly Purchis (McLean, Marshall, Stark and Woodford Co. Business Service Rep., Michael Burruss (Peoria, Mason, Fulton and Tazewell Co.)

IWT Projects – 2/11/25 update

Apprenticeships: (All at Heartland)

- Carle BroMenn –Facilities Maintenance
- Bridgestone – Industrial Maintenance
- Westminster Village –2 C.NA students in Fall and 2 new ones for Spring 2025.
- Hoerr – Diesel Technology

Huge delay in billing at HCC due to staff turnover in business office so we are still working on processing paperwork for Fall 2024 and getting the proof of payments.

Completed IWT projects:

- Watershed Foods – Advanced Refrigeration safety

Current IWT Projects:

- City of Wyoming –Wastewater Distribution – cancelled previous project and enrolled in different trainings with different dates.
- Watershed Foods – Emerging Leadership – on current program and adding a second program for new employees
- McLean County Museum of History – Leadership
- YWCA – Leadership
- Eastside Educational Center - Leadership
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Working on IWT projects:

- ABC Counseling – Leadership
- SMF – Value Stream Mapping
- SMF – Training within Job Industry Instruction
- Multiple additional companies still in conversations with

Networking/Other

- Zoom meeting this morning with multiple LWIA's regarding working with Birkey's for IWT, apprenticeships & Work experience
- Yesterday met with Mark Barra from Watershed – new Recruitment & Workforce Development Coordinator
- Last week – met with Chamber and BNEDC to talk about calendar year goals and changes
- McLean County Chamber Gala over the weekend – 125th anniversary of the Chamber so bit focus on the history of the Chamber and key businesses in McLean county.
- Meeting and multiple emails with Rivian over last few weeks. New potential for IWT projects in future. Steve and I also have a virtual meeting with them in March to talk about apprenticeship pipeline development for several counties.
- Meeting with Midwest Urban Strategies & Heartland Childcare – talking about apprenticeship for childcare that has been developed.
- Apprenticeship ramp up with the state – just keep adding more trainings and more reporting in their system. Becoming a bit like Case Management with requiring more and more details to be added to their computer system for every meeting with employers or partners.

XIII. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

XIV. *ACTION ITEM: Adjournment

A motion was made by Steve Timmermann and seconded by Zach Bell to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjournment time: 1:33PM

Respectfully submitted,

WIB Recording Secretary, Theresa Kotte, Executive Assistant
LWIA #15

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