

CEO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday – September 9, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.
Illinois workNet Center, 1300 S. 9th St., Springfield, IL 62703

Attendance

CEOs: Linda Curtin, Troy Cummings, Ramona Douglass, Tom Madonia Jr.

CEOs Not in Attendance: James Glenn

Staff & Guests: Mark Sprehe (WIB Chair), Michelle Griebler, Michelle Brookens, Diane Jones, Christina Sugars, Anna Myszka, Melisa Jallas

Meeting Called to Order: 2:30 p.m.

Welcome/Attendance/Roll Call: Mark Sprehe accepted the sign in sheet in lieu of the roll call. Mark Sprehe then asked the CEOs if there were any objections, CEOs replied there were no objections to accepting the sign in sheet as roll call.

Michelle Griebler introduced Anna Myszka the new career planner, liaison to Christian County and Melisa Jallas new program assistant,

Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve June 2026 CEO Minutes: Motion made by Tom Madonia, seconded by Troy Cummings. **Motion Carried.**

Program Information:

1. County Liaison Reports

Michelle Griebler reported DCEO has launched IWDS 2.0 and they are currently working to improve several reporting functions; thus, some reporting metrics are not available.

Cass County

Christina Sugars reported center report access is pending regarding number of customers receiving services and total number of Career and Training Services provided to job seekers and participants. There are currently 4 enrolled in active participants enrolled in follow up services and 13 participants who have completed training programs, but who have not yet been exited.

Christian County

Michelle Griebler reported center report access is pending regarding number of customers receiving services and total number of Career and Training Services provided to job seekers and participants. There are currently 7 enrolled in active participants enrolled in follow up services and 4 participants who have completed training programs, but who have not yet been exited.

Logan County

Michelle Brookens reported center report access is pending regarding number of customers receiving services and total number of Career and Training Services provided

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to job seekers and participants. There are currently 7 enrolled in active participants enrolled in follow up services and 14 participants who have completed training programs, but who have not yet been exited.

Menard County

Christina Sugars reported center access is pending regarding number of customers receiving services and total number of Career and Training Services provided to job seekers and participants. There are currently 5 enrolled in active participants and 4 enrolled in follow up services and 1 participant who have completed training programs, but who have not yet been exited.

Sangamon County

Michelle Brookens reported center report access is pending regarding number of customers receiving services and total number of Career and Training Services provided to job seekers and participants. There have been 12,255 Career and Training Services provided to 7,254 job seekers and participants. There are currently 158 enrolled in occupational training and 147 in follow-up services.

Michelle asked if there were any questions regarding the County Reports, there were no questions.

Full County Liaison reports were provided in the meeting packet.

2. Business Services

Michelle Brookens reported on Business Services. She reported several restaurants are closing along with LA Fitness. The US Air Force is eliminating the long-standing jet engine repair mission at the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Wing at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, 150 or more positions will be affected. Layoffs and relocations are anticipated to be completed by March 2027. Michelle reported several restaurants are opening openings are reported as follows, and in Springfield a new indoor golf venue Top Golf Swing is also slated to have opened in August. A Direct primary care clinic has opened in August as well. In downtown Springfield the following businesses have opened Vault 66 pinball, Arrowroot Coffee & Schlee's Gourmet Bakery and Bottle Shop Creole Smoke along with The Bus Stop. We now have five apprentices enrolled along with three participants enrolled in On-the Job-Training. Across these eight businesses they have the opportunity to realize a total of \$104,154 in wage reimbursements. Regarding Job Fairs/Hiring Events/Employment Workshops/Business Meetings, September 24th LLCC Career Expo is being held at Lincoln Land Community College. LWIA

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20 will be participating and has also participated in the CMS job fair in Christian county and the Sams Club hiring event in Springfield. Michelle Griebler added the Sams Club hiring event was held at the workNet Center and Michelle Brookens added 12 people were hired. Michelle Brookens reported that Michelle Griebler In August, attended the NAWDP Business Services Academy held in Las Vegas. Michelle presented on the project and outcomes closing out the conference during the final plenary session. Michelle Griebler may be invited to attend next year's event which could be held in New Orleans.

Michelle Brookens asked if anyone had questions, there were no questions.

The full Business Services report was included in the packet.

3. Special Grant Projects — SSG, AS, 1E, Youth

Michelle Brookens reported that the second PY' 26 State Supplemental Grant wrapped up on June 30, 2026. As with the previous year's grant, there will be three projects associated with the new grant: Incumbent Worker Training, Youth Job Fair and occupational skills training focusing this year on low-income individuals touched by the justice system wanting to enter the workforce as CNAs.

Regarding the On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Work based learning Apprenticeships There were 6 employers involved with 11 different projects involved in Incumbent Worker Training: Solomon Colors, Drake-Scruggs, Richardson Manufacturing, Simplex, Mel-O-Cream, and Eaton Corporation. There were 10 individuals enrolled in CDL training with 7 having completed the training to date. 110 employees across 11 projects were completed and 6 employers were reimbursed a total of \$99,029.20. Michelle reported the Springfield Chamber Youth Job Fair had 275 students attend. The new PY SSG grant has been conditionally approved with an additional focus on rural areas. The grant will have three projects an Incumbent Worker Training, Youth Job Fair, Occupational Skills Training, focusing this year on low-income individuals touched by the justice system wanting to enter the workforce as CNAs. The incumbent worker funding has increased by \$40,000.00 and will have a focus on rural areas with a big project in the works with Eaton and Richardson's manufacturing.

Michelle reported the 1E Manufacturing Grant activities and goals to-date. This grant has provided outreach to 153 individuals through RESA referrals. While having attended 5 hiring events and 18 outreach events, assisted 26 manufacturing businesses and has met with IMEC and LLCC. The 1E grant ends September 30, 2026 with a possible extension.

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The Apprenticeship Specialist grant was reviewed having five apprenticeships at this time one which completed the OJT portion (employer wage reimbursement) 7/24/26. Last year's grant ran from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. We have been approved for a new grant starting July 1, 2026, and it will run for two years, ending June 30, 2028, targeting manufacturing and healthcare sectors.

Michelle also provided updates on the current Youth provider programs. There are 50 total planned Contractual Enrollments across all providers, and there are currently 21 enrolled. Four are currently enrolled in WBL/OJT opportunities. Capital Area Career Center had 25 planned enrollments and 11 year to date enrollments in the program. Fishes & Loaves had 25 planned enrollments and 10 year to date current enrollments in the program.

Michelle Brookens asked if anyone had questions, there were no questions.

4. Enrollment/Performance Reports

Michelle Griebler reported that 106 applicants have been processed since 7/1/26. July and August annually are always high-volume months as programs begin August. This resulted in 95 new participants. Performance outcomes for PY 25 which ended 6/30/26 were included in the packet. Program year 26 began 7/1/26, changes within the new state wide system, IWDS 2.0, which launched in July have resulted in not having reports available as DCEO is currently working to improve several reporting functions. Michelle stated she is hopeful more performance metrics will be reported at the November WIB meeting along with the annual report. Michelle added the staff have been working very hard, and she is proud of them. PY25' performance outcomes show that 11 out of the 15 performance measures were exceeded, while meeting in the remaining four. All performance measures were exceeded for Dislocated Workers. Every two years performance goals are negotiated. Michelle informed the Board 9/4/26 the proposal for performance goals were sent to DCEO. 9/23/26 there is a meeting scheduled for LWIA 20 to negotiate the performance goals for PY'26 and PY'27. Mark Sprehe WIB 20 board chair will be sitting in on this meeting. Michelle welcomed all CEOs to join this meeting.

Michelle asked if there were questions on any of the presented program reports and there were none.

Copies of all Program, Business, Enrollment, and Performance reports were included in the meeting packet.

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Motion to Approve Standing Program Reports: Motion made by Linda Curtin seconded by Ramona Douglass. **Motion Carried.**

Fiscal Information Review:

1. Expenditure and Grant Reports

Diane Jones reviewed and summarized all active grants. Detailed grant information broken down by each county was also reviewed, and the expenditures roughly correspond to the populations of each county.

The PY' 24 formula grant ended 06/30/26 and was 100% expended.

The PY' 25 grant ends 06/30/27, and is currently 76.7% spent and 100% obligated.

The PY' 26 grant opened 7/1/26 is 67% obligated and 1.1% spent.

The 1 E Grant which ends 9/30/26 is 93.2% expended and 100% obligated.

The PY' 25 operating budget is 71% spent as of 05/31/26.

PY'25 and 26 Formula funding allocations were reviewed in line-item breakdowns. The PY 25 grant ending 6/30/27 is 100% obligated and the PY 26 grant ending is obligated at 67%. These grants are on target regarding expenditures and having to have no remaining funds remaining at the end of the grant. The operating budgets for PY 25 and PY 26 were reviewed by line item. The PY' 26 operating budget was also presented and reviewed.

The operating budgets for PY 25 and PY 26 were reviewed by line item.

The full grant reports and budgets were included in the meeting packet.

Motion to approve Expenditure and Grant Reports: Motion made by Ramona Douglass, seconded by Tom Madonia.
Motion Carried.

2. Monitoring of Contractual Youth Service Providers

Diane Jones reported fiscal monitoring for CACC resulted in no findings. At this time Diane reported it is likely that Fishes and Loaves will have one finding. In the event there is a finding even if it has been rectified the finding still has to be listed. Diane is still finishing the final reports at this time. Michelle Brookens completed programmatic monitoring for CACC there were no findings. Fishes and Loaves is scheduled to undergo programmatic monitoring in the near future as a new career planner will be hired freeing up program staff to complete monitoring of contractual youth service providers.

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Motion to approve Monitoring of Contractual Youth Service Providers:

Motion made by Troy Cummings, seconded by Linda Curtin. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Supplemental State Grant (\$240,196)

Diane Jones reported having approval from the state for the Supplemental State Grant in the amount of \$240,196. Grant scope, services, goals, and budget were reviewed.

Diane asked if the anyone had any questions, no questions were asked.

Motion for Approval of Supplemental State Grant (\$240,196): Motion made by Tom Madonia seconded by Ramona Douglass. **Motion Carried.**

Administrative Information:

1. Remaining Action Items for Approval

- **WIB Reappointments**

Michelle Griebler reported the WIB members terms are staggered and there are 19 members that have terms expiring September 30, 2026. All but three have signed a reappointment form agreeing to another term on the board. The updated directory was included in the meeting packet. Michelle requested approval for the 19 members who have terms expiring to be approved for another WIB board term. Mathew Yard, Gloria Brummer and David Fowler have resigned for various personal reasons and replacements are being sought. The Urban League selected Jonathan Barnett to replace Atlene Washington. Curt Oldfield the new president of Lincoln Land Community College will be replacing Jason Dokter who was up for reappointment. The board certification is not due until next year. Michelle is asking that the 16 reappointments be allowed to stand and while resignations leave a few vacancies there is time to fill those in the upcoming months and the board certification is not due until September 30, 2027.

- **Regional/Local Plan Revisions**

Included in the meeting packet were pages of letter from WIOA Interagency Technical Assistance Team outlining required revisions to the modified regional and local plans. These were received and also emailed in June. Michelle explained the current plan is from 2024 to 2028 at the midpoint changes and updates are required. The changes were completed and submitted to the state. Plan revisions were approved contingent on minor revisions. Three additional graphs were needed updated for the regional plan and for the local plan revisions were needing changing the wording workforce equity to workforce empowerment. Also, additional details were needed on the regional and local

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plan budget modification procedures. The revisions were submitted to DCEO July 30, 2026, and to be approved at the next CEO and WIB meetings. The WIB approval letter is to be sent to DCEO within five days of the CEO and WIB approval.

- **PY' 26 MOU Revisions**

The MOU with all partners is updated every three years and is modified on an annual basis. An RFP was released earlier this year for a neutral negotiator. The MOU and the budget were submitted by the end of May 2026. On August 26, 2026 the letter of conditional approval was received. The letter included as a handout at today's meeting. This letter outlined the required minor revisions specifically, CACC and National Able needed minor narrative adjustment to the service description, and additional detail in the note sections of our budget worksheet is needed. A copy of the One Stop Operator Agreement in addition to the completed revisions if approved by CEO and WIB will be submitted prior to the September 30, 2026 deadline. The negotiator Jeff Marcella from Marcella Consulting will be completing this process.

- **New ETPL Training Programs (MTI and NLMC)**

Midwest Technical Institute (MTI) and Next Level Mastery Center (NLMC) are two providers that are seeking to have their programs added to the eligible training provider list. Midwest Technical Institute (MTI) is requesting approval for their Industrial Commercial and Residential Electrician Diploma Program to be on the approved program list. Michelle stated once they are approved at this level then they go on to be approved at the state level for final approval. The program is accelerated lasting 30 weeks and The electrical program is for students to gain entry level employment as an entry level Electrician, Electricians Helper or Electrical Apprentice. Upon completion the student is entitled to an Industrial, Commercial, and Residential Electrician Diploma and can work as an electrician or an electrical apprentice. The total cost for this program is \$18,297.00. Next Level Mastery Center is asking for approval for their Nail Technology (Licensed Nail Technician) program to be added. Upon completion of this program completers can then apply to for Illinois licensure with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation as a nail technician. This program costs \$ 4,295.00. Michelle Griebler asked if there were any questions, Tom Madonia asked where Next Level Mastery Center is located. Michelle replied it is located in White Oaks Mall.

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- **Approval to Hire Career Planner**

Michell Griebler requested approval to fill a new career planner position (position was previously held by Carleen Benoit) with an annual salary of \$ 44, 800.00.

Motion for Approval of Remaining Action Items: Motion made by Tom Madonia seconded by Tom Madonia. **Motion Carried**

Michelle Griebler reported the office move to the Sangamon County Community Center a new location which is currently the Sangamon County Department of Public Health building located on South Grand is proceeding as planned and the estimated completion time is December 2027.

Executive Session:

None.

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

1. IWA Fall Conference- 10/6/2026 & 10/7/2026
2. Next CEO Meeting – 11/12/26 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3. Next WIB Meeting – 9/14/26 at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Troy Cummings seconded by Tom Madonia.
Motion Carried.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.