

**Lake County Workforce Development Board**  
**Employer Connections Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM**  
**Job Center of Lake County, 1 N. Genesee Street, Waukegan, IL**

**Present:** Chairwomen Karen Stoneman, Kevin Considine, Emily Garrity, Demar Harris, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer, Sylvia Johnson Jones, Eric Kurtz, Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino

**Absent:** John Bradarich, Arlene Santos-George

**I. Call to Order** ..... Karen Stoneman, Committee Chair  
*Chairwoman Stoneman called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. A quorum was present.*

**II. Consent Agenda**

Attachment A

- Committee Meeting Minutes:
  - October 15, 2018
  - January 15, 2019
  - March 19, 2019
  - May 21, 2019

**Action:** A motion was made by Member Kischer, seconded by Member Kessler, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried.

**III. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**IV. Chairwoman's Report** ..... Karen Stoneman

*Chairwoman Stoneman welcomed the committee back after the new year.*

**V. Old**

**Business**

*There was no old business to report.*

**VI. New Business**

**1. Integrated Regional Business Services Team – Presentation**

*Chairwoman Stoneman welcomed Jeff Hubert, Lake County Workforce Development Employment Specialist and member of the Regional Business Services Team to the meeting. Jeff presented on the focus and goals of the integrated business service team. Jeff introduced the Business Services Team staff from*

each local workforce area. He shared how the team addresses the needs of regional businesses, how they have integrated core partner agencies, along with the team discussing challenges and identifying solutions. Staff from every local area in the region are meeting regularly at different locations throughout the region to collaborate on these endeavors.

## 2. Lake County Workforce Development Board's Local Plan

Member Serino reviewed Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2019-03 with the committee in relation to the local and regional planning efforts. Much discussion was around the board's response and the direction the board will take going forward to better align workforce resources to serve disenfranchised populations in communities throughout Lake County. Member Serino reviewed the Lake County Service Integration Action Plan and the committee discussed promising practices in relation to program access, technology, social media and website functionality, adult & dislocated worker Strategies, and priority of service. Some responses from the committee focused on the following:

- The board need to narrow the focus and concentrate on two specific sectors.
- Create a career pathway strategy.
- Educate the employers on how to utilize career pathways as a retention tool.
- Marketing and communication increased.
- Improve and increase engagement with post-secondary and secondary education.

Member Harris shared to the new manufacturing program with North Chicago Community High School targeting high school seniors. The objective is to create career pathways for high school students, while addressing the local need of manufacturing talent, and providing internships to young adults to skill them up.

## VII. Employer Connections Committee Strategic Plan

### 1. Lake County Workforce Development Ecosystem Update

- Lake County Partners

Member Considine's proxy, Bethany Williams gave the Lake County Partners update. She reviewed the LCP 2019 year in review and gave an update on the Metra More Strategy. Bethany announced that the Big Event for 2020 will be held on May 1st at the Marriott Lincolnshire. The theme will be, Pathways to Success.

- Workforce Development Department

- Workforce Development: 2nd Quarter Business Services Outcomes
- September 2019 Workforce Brief: Employer Led

[Attachment B](#)

[Attachment C](#)

Member Harris reviewed the 2nd Quarter Business Services Outcomes Report and shared some highlights from the September Workforce Brief that was employer led.

- College of Lake County

*Member Kurtz announced they just hired 2 New Talent Development Consultants.*

*Member Kurtz also shared a new grant the college received, Transform Lake County. This is a program that provides full-tuition grants in short-term programs. Additional scholarships are available to cover costs such as transportation, textbooks childcare and more. The goal is to create more equity in the Lake County workforce by offering an education with no cost to the student. Through the leadership of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, this grant is funded by the State of Illinois through the Illinois Community College Board.*

*Member Johnson Jones informed the committee that the College of lake Cunty will launch a new apprenticeship program in August 2020. She requested to present to the committee at the next meeting.*

### **VIII. Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings**

1. Workforce Development Board Meeting – February 27,2020  
Employer Connections Committee Meeting – March TBD

*Member Stoneman announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for February 27 at the Lake County Federation of Teachers, 248 Ambrogio Drive, Gurnee.*

*Chairwoman proceeded to facilitate a conversation to find a standing meeting time for the next year. It was decided to keep the meetings on the third Tuesday of the month going forward.*

### **IX. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by member Kessler and seconded by member Johnson Jones that the meeting be adjourned.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.*