



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting
November 19th, 2021
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Angela Young, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); April Walton, National Able Network; Audrea Wilder, Prairie State College; Beth Allen, Job Corps; Brittney Davis, Job Corps; Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Donita Demus, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jackie Owens, National Able Network SCSEP; Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Renee McClinton, South Suburban College; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Tiara Davis, Youth Job Center; Tina Salgado, IDES; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC); Nidia Mejia, CCLC; and Robert Guzman (CCLC).

Agenda:

- December Celebration
- 2022 Partner Meeting Dates
- Trending Topic - [Clear Language Lab](#)
- Partner Updates

OSO Update:

- OSO is looking for volunteers for our next Cross-Training Project Working Group Meeting on Wednesday, December 1st from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Partners were invited to volunteer in the chat and encourage their colleagues to volunteer.
 - On 12/1, we plan to present our prototype Cross-Training Plan, which will follow the customer flow through all One-Stop Partner programs. Project Working Group members can provide feedback on potential modules or essential steps in the customer flow. Group members will then give feedback on the questions that each participating partner will be asked in preparation for each cross-training module.
 - If you or your colleagues are interested in shaping our Cross-training plan for the AJC Network, please contact the OSO team at oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org.
- Instead of facilitating ten Monthly Partner Meetings in December, OSO is having a network-wide celebration to close out the year. On Thursday, December 9th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, we will celebrate your participation in this first year of Partner Meetings and our accomplishments as a One-Stop system.

- We plan to share a summary of accomplishments from 2021 and our goals for 2022. The six-month Partner Feedback Survey will be distributed during the celebration, as an opportunity to check in with you and your colleagues and identify what you all want to see from us next year.
- The AJC Orientation, developed by OSO, the Orientation Working Group members, and more will also be shared during the celebration.
- Partners voted to continue meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. Our future South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College meetings will be on January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th, and June 23rd. Invitations to these monthly meetings will be sent soon.
- There is a professional development opportunity coming up through Literacy Works Clear Language Labs. They have a quarterly series of training called Plain Language Foundations and the next session is Creating Accessible Content For A Neurodiverse World on 12/16/2021 from 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM.
 - [Click here to register and learn how to create content that is more accessible to all job seekers and adopt inclusive communication strategies.](#)

Partner Updates:

South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College Building Update

- Services continue to be offered virtually or in person by appointment.
- Orientation attendance has been up recently. There have been around 25-40 clients logging into each orientation session.
- CASAS testing is available by appointment only.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I-B)

National Able Network

- April Walton, the new Director of Workforce Services, joined our meeting today. You can connect with April via email at awalton@nationalable.org.
- South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College will have a pop-up shop event with PCs for People. On Tuesday, November 23rd from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Prairie State College ATOC Building (202 S Halsted St #148, Chicago Heights, IL, 60411), PCs for People will have computers and hotspots available.
 - This event is open to the public, but individuals must pre-register. [Click here to open the registration page.](#)
 - There are some eligibility requirements to receive the equipment at little to no cost.
 - There will be another pop-up shop event at Near West AJC in Pilsen on November 30th.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Individuals may be eligible for additional benefits through TAA if they have been affected by these layoffs: AT&T Services, Inc.; HERE North America, LLC; A Finkl and Sons; Allstate Insurance Company; Encompass Group, LLC; Capgemini American, Inc.; Follett Corporation; Mercury Plastics, Inc.; Pactiv LLC; Korn Ferry; Solo Cup Operating Corp; Mercury Plastics Inc; Castwell Products; ATI Holdings; and Alight Solutions LLC.

- Please refer any individuals who have been laid off from any of these employers to the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) Program Manager, Daniela Cueva, via email at dcueva@nationalable.org or encourage individuals to call 855-994-8300.

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- YJC will have three Career Pathways Informational Sessions in December. These sessions are tailored to seniors graduating from high school, high school counselors, and parents.
- This year's programming focuses on seniors transitioning out of high school. The aim is to work with students to identify personal goals, whether youth want to pursue a career, vocational licensure, or employment.
- YJC is working with Olive-Harvey College to have an automotive program available for youth transitioning out of high school.
- Tiara Davis, Career Advisor for Youth Job Center, is available at the Prairie State College site. Reach out to Tiara at tdavis@youthjobcenter.org or 312-934-4174.
- You can also reach out to Jude Laude at jlaude@youthjobcenter.org and NuDonna Williams at nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org.

Adult Education and Literacy

Prairie State College (PSC)

- Adult Education classes will wrap up soon.
- On December 1st, PSC will start open registration for Spring classes in the ESL and GED programs. They'll also offer ICAPs for CNA.
- The Military Student Affairs office has a textbook voucher program that will continue into the Spring. With any questions about Military Student Affairs, reach out to Georges Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.
- PSC continues to look for Adult Literacy tutors. If you know of any adult learners who are interested in becoming volunteer tutors, reach out to Kisha Brown at nbrown1@prairiestate.edu.
- Any questions regarding Career Pathways programs at PSC should be directed to Vicky Garcia at vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu.

South Suburban College

- [Click here for more information about South Suburban College Adult Education and see any recent updates.](#)
- Reach out to Christopher McElroy at cmcelroy@ssc.edu with any questions.

Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC)

- Fall classes will end on December 11th. Spring classes will start on January 24th.
 - Spring classes will be offered in-person, hybrid, and fully remote. Bridge classes and ICAPs programs will continue.
- They are trying to reach students who previously received information about the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and notify everyone of the open application.
- MVCC is experiencing some staff changes. They are hiring a new adult education specialist and want to find more instructors for ESL and HSE.
- Enrollment numbers improved this past semester.
- Reach out to Carmela Ochoa at ochoa@morainevalley.edu and Meg Dawczak at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu with any questions.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- There haven't been many changes with local IDES offices since our last meeting. Claimants should continue utilizing the call center phone number, 800-244-5631.

- IDES is collaborating on several job fairs and hiring events. At the time of this AJC meeting, IDES was working an in-person event at the Workforce Center in Will County. Beyond this event, IDES is working with UPs to fill their seasonal, PT, and FT positions.
- Reach out to Tina Salgado at Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov with any questions.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Several policy changes went into effect on October 1st.
 - TANF and SNAP benefits were increased and recipients should automatically receive an increase in monthly CASH assistance.
 - Customers who receive TANF who are work eligible will be required to participate in work training programs or have an exception. Employment and Training Liaisons at IDHS are referring customers to community partners at this AJC.
 - [Customers with Class X or Class 1 felony drug convictions are now eligible to receive CASH assistance.](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- DRS is still remote and continues to accept applications online or by leaving a message at the local DRS office. The online application is often processed quicker than phone calls.
- There is a new supervisor, Anita Johnson, who will join us soon.
- Reach out to Angela Young at angela.s.young@illinois.gov with any questions or to refer individuals to the local DRS office.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- SCSEP is open for enrollment. Individuals 55+ can apply to the National Able SCSEP program. Encourage potential participants to call 855.994.8300 or send their information directly to Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org.
- Jackie is also interested in identifying additional host agencies to place SCSEP participants for hands-on training. SCSEP will pay the stipend. If you would like to learn more about being a host agency, email Jackie at jowens@nationalable.org.

National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Veterans Forward orientations are offered in-person and online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am.
- Staff are interested in coming out to speak with veterans at partner sites. If you'd like to set up a site visit for Veterans Forward staff, reach out to Loretta Coleman at lolema@nationalable.org.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at eorenstein@thehacc.org with any questions.

Paul Simon Job Corps

- Job Corps has virtual enrollment right now. Students start 8 weeks of career preparation. Chromebooks and hotspots are provided by DOL. They are slowly building their onboard strength.
- Current students can return home for the holidays. The center still has restrictions for visitors.

- At the time of this meeting, Job Corps leadership was meeting with Congress in DC.
- Invitations for the last community relations meeting will go out soon.
- If you have any questions about this update or the Paul Simon Job Corps Center, reach out to Beth Allen at Allen.beth@jobcorps.org.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago provides adult and juvenile expungement services. The first step a participant must take in the expungement process is to get a copy of their RAP Sheet.
 - Once you have your RAP sheet, get it to Legal Aid Chicago staff:
 - By Email: Scan or take a clear picture of each page of your records, and email them to criminalrecords@legalaidchicago.org
 - By Phone: Call (312) 229-6071 to make arrangements with our staff
- Regina just recently got the news that the Legal Aid Chicago Veterans Clinic is statewide. All low-income veterans, current and former military service members can receive free civil legal advice. [Click here to learn about Legal Aid Clinics](#).
- Reach out to Regina Rizzo at rizzo@legalaidchicago.org if you have any questions.

Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)

- Through the One Workforce Program, CAIC can cover tuition, books, and fees for students pursuing manufacturing at 10 community colleges. The South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Title II partners (Prairie State College, South Suburban College, and Moraine Valley Community College) partner with CAIC to cover costs for manufacturing programs.
 - Olive-Harvey College is also a partner of CAIC. The automotive program partnership with Olive-Harvey and Youth Job Center can create a pathway into the Diesel Mechanic Program that is covered by CAIC's One Workforce Program.
- [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program](#).
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com and Meredith Thetford at meredith@calumetareaindustrial.com with any questions.

Next Steps:

- Partners can volunteer for the Cross Training Project Working Group meeting on December 1st from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- In place of our December Partner Meeting, OSO will be hosting an end-of-year celebration for the AJC Network. This virtual celebration will be held on December 9th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org.
- [Sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter here](#).