



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting
September 16, 2021
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Aundrea Wilder, Prairie State College; Craig Schmidt, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Daniela Cueva, National Able Network; Debbie Newman, CAIC; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jillian Campbell, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Loretta Coleman, National Able Network; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Reggie Greenwood, Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation; Reginald Whitley, IDES; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Roselyn McGhee, IDES; Savannah High, National Able Network; Tina Salgado, IDES; Valencia Funches, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC); Nidia Mejia, CCLC, Robert Guzman, CCLC.

Agenda:

- Pending Tasks
- Upcoming Partner Meeting Plans
- Trending Topics
- Partner Updates

OSO Update:

- Megan reviewed the most recent tasks the One-Stop Operator team introduced in these Monthly Partner Meetings. We thanked all our partners who have provided this help to us.
 - For the past few months, OSO has collected frontline staff contact information from partners at each American Job Center. 60% of the South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College Partners completed the frontline staff contact information spreadsheet. If you would like your staff to receive helpful information and materials and have the opportunity to provide feedback to and collaborate with the OSO team, please share your staff contact information with oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org.
 - Last month, we introduced the OSO Calendar of Events Project. A questionnaire was developed to understand each partner organization's calendar process and timeline. 6 South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Partners

provided that information to OSO. From our results thus far, we've seen a variety of systems and processes used by different partner organizations. If you received this questionnaire and would like to share information about your calendar of events, please complete this Google Form. If you would like to work with us to build an efficient, centralized calendar system, please reach out to oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org

- Megan shared information about our future South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Partner Meetings. Our October meeting will be on Thursday, October 21st at 10:00 am. Our November meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, November 18th at 10:00 am. For December, we want to have a network-wide virtual event in place of our typical monthly partner meetings.
- On September 22nd at 10:00 am, Chicago Jobs Council (CJC) is hosting a webinar to summarize the results, takeaways, and policy recommendations from their "Supportive Services: Lessons Learned From the Field" Report. They'll also discuss how to think differently about supportive services moving forward. All registered attendees will be sent an advanced copy of the report before the event. [Click here to register for the event.](#)

Partner Updates:

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

- Beginning September 20th, all staff will be required to return to the office. Staff is currently working 2 days a week from home.

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

National Able Network

- Virtual services continue to be offered by appointment. Training workshops and orientation are offered virtually. For questions regarding orientation contact Sandri Davis, Office Administrator, at sdavis@nationalable.org. All participants joining orientation are encouraged to be on time. Late attendees will not be permitted to join the session.
- National Able Network is also offering CASAS testing.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Daniela Cueva, the new TAA Program Manager, joined the meeting.
- The next TAA orientation is scheduled for September 28th from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. This session will primarily focus on individuals affected by the recent AT&T layoff. Letters were sent out to approximately 131 people. They anticipate around 10 customers coming in from their most recent orientation.
- National Able Network provided an updated employer list. 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.

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center

- On October 18th, the Youth Job Center is having a Virtual Job Fair from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. This event is catered to youth 16 years and older who are currently attending Chicago Public Schools.
 - [Students can sign up for Work-Readiness Trainings by clicking here](#). These workshops will help students to prepare to interact with employers at the virtual job fair.
- Youth Job Center staff try to find paid job training for students paying \$15 per hour. Reach out to Karen Demorest at kdemorest@youthjobcenter.org with any questions.
- Youth Job Center's work readiness training program has ongoing enrollment.

Prairie State College (PSC)

- Prairie State College started its Fall courses, both virtual and in-person. Late registration will close on the 24th of September.
- A college reading and writing course will be offered by PCS. Students will submit an essay at the end of the semester that will be used to decide their admittance into English 101. They will also be offering a CNA ICAPS certificate program starting in October.
- To learn more about how PCS is providing additional support to Veterans who no longer get VA benefits, contact George Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.

South Suburban College

- The Fall classes are in full swing, both virtual and in-person.
- The workforce development department has moved to the office center at 16333 S Kilbourn Ave.

Moraine Valley Community College

- ESL classes will begin the week of September 20th.
- Moraine Valley offers a bridge to career pathways course that introduces students to many career opportunities. They also offer a healthcare bridge program as well as a CNA ICAPS program that will begin in the fall.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Limited in-person services are available. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Scheduling Hotline at (217) 558-0401.
- Questions about Unemployment Insurance call (800) 244-563.
- Beginning August 1st, all new claimants are required to register at IllinoisJobLink.com.
- On September 23rd from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, CMS and IDES will be hosting a Job Palooza. Click [here](#) to register.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- SNAP customers are exempt from employment and training requirements until July 2022.
- IDHS issued \$250 in cash to TANF customers and SNAP households with children under 18 with no income. Benefits were issued last week and continue this week.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- DRS is currently working on a hybrid model. Participants need an appointment to go onsite and meet with a counselor, so staff encourages scheduling virtual appointments.

- DRS is hosting its first virtual hiring event in October for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. They are currently inviting employers who are passionate about disability employment.
 - This is a two-part event. Tuesday, October 19th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm will be employment workshops, hosted by DRS counselors and staff. Wednesday, October 20th, and Thursday, October 21st from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm will be employer presentations.
 - [Job Seekers can register here. Share this link with your colleagues and participants.](#)
 - [Employers can register here. Share this link with your employer partners who may be interested.](#)
- Referrals can be submitted online and by calling the field offices and leaving a message.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) National Able SCSEP

- National Able Network is going to have a social media campaign to celebrate National Employ Older Workers Week. Jackie Owens shared [this website to learn more about National Employ Older Workers Week](#).
 - For this week, National Able will share the success stories and achievements of SCSEP participants. Jackie encourages partners to share these stories with their participants.
- Reach out to Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org with questions.

Veterans Forward at National Able

- Orientation is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Enrollment is ongoing and they are accepting referrals. Most participants can be co-enrolled.
- Staff is in the planning process for a future 3-4 day event for Veterans Day. This will be a statewide event.
- Contact Loretta Coleman at coleman@nationalable.org, if you know of any veterans looking for work as a general operator, material handler, or forklift operator.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

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

Additional Partners

Legal Aid Chicago

- The School to Prison Pipeline project offers services to students with 504 plans, IEPs, and/or discipline issues. Legal Aid Chicago can provide support to students and families that speak any language, beyond just English and Spanish.
- Reach out to Regina Rizzo at rizzo@legalaidchicago.org with any questions.
- Legal Aid Chicago is participating in several events coming up:
 - RAP Sheet Assistance Day is on September 24th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Transportation is provided to CPD headquarters and the record clearing process can begin with Legal Aid staff. Registration closed on September 20th.
 - The Trauma-Informed Symposium is on October 4th - 7th. This will be a virtual 4-day series that will examine a different topic each day. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

- Day 1: Monday, October 4th - Introduction to Trauma
- Day 2: Tuesday, October 5th - Trauma-informed Care: Moving from Philosophy to Practice
- Day 3: Wednesday, October 6th - The impact of Gun violence and effects on the community
- Day 4: Thursday, October 7th - Community Panel "How can we break the cycle as a community?"

Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)

- Through an H-1B One Workforce program from the US Department of Labor (USDOL), CAIC can partner with employers and community colleges to fund, develop, and provide opportunities for individuals to enter an advanced manufacturing career. [Find out more about CAIC's H-1B One Workforce Program here.](#)
- They are heavily recruiting for the Spring semester. Several of our Title II partners in attendance partner with CAIC.
- CAIC is starting to work with its employer partners to identify more opportunities for incumbent training.
- Staff is contacting colleges and high schools to market the manufacturing program and apprenticeship week, which runs from November 8th to 14th.
- Meredith Thetford was recently hired as a recruiter for CAIC. She will start to attend our partner meetings. Partners can connect with Meredith at meredith@calumetareaindustrial.com, as well as Debbie Newman, Debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com, and Craig Schmidt, craig@calumetareaindustrial.com, who have attended our meetings in the past.

Next Steps:

- After this meeting, partners can send their completed Frontline Staff Contact Information Spreadsheet and/or Calendar of Events Questionnaire to the OSO team if they have not already.
- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address, oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org.
- [Sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter here.](#)
- The next South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Monthly Partner Meeting will be held on October 21st at 10:00 am.