



**South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College**  
Monthly Partners Meeting  
May 20th, 2021  
10:00 am

***Meeting Attendees:***

Angela Young, IDHS DRS; Carmela Ochoa, Moraine Valley Community College; Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Craig Schmidt, Calumet Area Industrial Commission; Emily Orenstein, Housing Authority of Cook County; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College Office of Military Student Affairs; Jackie Owens, National Able SCSEP; Jillian Campbell, IDHS DVOP; Kim Kunce, Prairie State College; Kindy Kruller, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Kristi Chevali, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership; Leticia Johnson, IDHS; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Reginald Whitley, IDHS DVOP; Renee McClinton, South Suburban College; Rochelle Chambers, IDHS DRS; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Roger Fisher, Job Corps; Virginia Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, CCLC; Nidia Mejia, CCLC; Robert Guzman, CCLC.

***Agenda:***

- Service Integration Discussion
- Frontline Staff Resources Discussion
- Partner Updates

***CCLC Update:***

- Nidia talked about the Service Integration Continuum and how the OSO team hopes to facilitate service integration. Partners participated in a poll to share where on the continuum they believe to operate. Additional information about the [IL WIOA Service Integration Policy can be found here](#). Nidia asked the partners to scan the April Resources Newsletter QR code. She conducted another poll to determine how partners are using the newsletter and discuss ways to make the newsletter more useful to staff. Robert shared how staff across the AJC network have been using these newsletters. We also reviewed the visual dashboard. Partners were informed that a survey will be sent out to collect feedback on the previous Monthly Partner Meetings, in addition to a Doodle to determine the date and time of our meetings for the remainder of 2021.

***Partner Updates:***

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

- Center staff is preparing to open the building to the public. They are nearly ready with a new protocol. The collaboration with Prairie State College has been critical to this reopening plan. The college has provided signage for the Resource Room, conference

- rooms, etc. There is plexiglass throughout the center.
- Staff has been going into the office at Prairie State College.
- They are providing services to clients by appointment.

#### Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I) Career Services National Able Network

- Workforce Wednesday continues to be held monthly. The next session will be on June 2nd from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. [Click here to register](#). Please refer anyone looking for employment to this event. Job seekers who attend will be contacted or connected to employers. Attendees will hear a lot of valuable information and tips directly from employers and it creates a very dynamic, interactive session.

#### Trade Adjustment Act

- National Able Network provided an updated employer list. If you have participants who have been affected by layoffs from these layoffs: The Pillow Factory; Capgemini America, Inc.; Follett Corporation; Mercury Plastics, Inc.; Pactiv LLC; Korn Ferry; Solo Cup Operating Corp; Mercury Plastics Inc; Castwell Products; ATI Holdings; Alight Solutions LLC; Metal Box Int'l; The Boeing Company; they may be eligible for additional benefits through TAA.
- On May 26th and May 27th, orientation will be held for individuals who worked at the aforementioned employers. Contact Angela Lopez for questions at [alopez@nationalable.org](mailto:alopez@nationalable.org).

#### Adult Education and Literacy Services

##### Prairie State College

- In our next meeting, we'll receive information about new ESL and GED classes for the Fall semester. Registration is slated for July 1st.
- Staff is currently working on campus Monday through Friday. Students who want to receive services in person will need to go through the main campus for a temperature check and then be walked to the appropriate office.
- Prairie State College is promoting their CNA Integrated Career and Academic Preparation (ICAPs) class. This program centers on enrollment in Adult Education classes while also completing college credit courses leading to earning a credential.
- Staff is working with AJC staff to identify resources for adult learners and plan to relaunch the partnership between the center and Adult Literacy. It is critical to gather tutors who can support adult learners as they complete the program. If anyone knows of individuals who would be interested and willing to help with CASAS testing, please reach out to Kisha Brown at [nbrown1@prairiestate.edu](mailto:nbrown1@prairiestate.edu).

##### South Suburban College

- South Suburban College is currently in the middle of their Summer semester and post-testing will be held next week.
- They hope to share August registration dates soon. Similar to Spring registration, they plan to conduct registration by appointment and have sign-up forms available online.
- A flyer for their August ICAPs programs for welding and bridge to CNA will be sent out soon.
- Staff will transition back to in-person on June 7th. Classes in the Fall will be in person and online.
- Classes will start on September 13th and finish around December 17th.

#### Moraine Valley Community College

- Moraine Valley Community College just started its summer session 1, which will end June 18th. They will begin their summer session 2 on July 7th, which will end in September.
- Staff has been on campus since last June. They have a staggered schedule, so staff is always there to assist students.
- The HSE graduation will be held on June 8th at 6:00 pm. This will be their first outdoor ceremony.

#### Illinois Department of Employment Security

- Offices remain closed to the public. They are unsure of when offices will reopen, but they are preparing to bring on more staff to help with employment services.
- Letice Johnson, working out of the Harvey IDES office, will soon work at Prairie State College. Letice can be reached at [Letice.M.Johnson@illinois.gov](mailto:Letice.M.Johnson@illinois.gov).

#### Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- [P-EBT Public Website](#) and Call Center Live (1-833-621-0737) - The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) provides benefits to children who receive free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program. P-EBT is a temporary food benefits program operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. P-EBT only provides benefits for days that students are remote learning, but without being offered a meal at school, or home for an approved COVID-related absence. View [P-EBT FAQs here](#).
- Enhanced Emergency SNAP Allotments began April 1st, 2021. All SNAP households must receive at least \$95 in emergency allotment (EA) benefits, even when the maximum monthly allotment has been reached. [View the policy memo here](#).
- The State of Illinois' Application for Benefits Eligibility (ABE) website now offers 'Manage My Case' to help manage your benefits online. It gives customers the ability to update information such as addresses, view upcoming appointments, view notices and verification requests, renew benefits, and apply for additional benefits, all online.

#### Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Staff is still working remotely and they do not have a date for reopening.
- DRS is accepting referrals online and providing services to customers.
- Visit the [IDHS DRS Website information for online referrals](#).

#### Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

##### National Able Network SCSEP

- Enrollment is ongoing. About 60% of participants have returned to work. Other participants are training from home. Some agencies are planning to have participants return onsite beginning July.
- Enrollment is by appointment only. Contact Jackie Owens at [jowens@nationalable.org](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org) to refer individuals 55 and older.

##### National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Orientation is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Enrollment is ongoing and they are accepting referrals.
- Reach out to Kevin Averyhart at [kaveryhart@nationalable.org](mailto:kaveryhart@nationalable.org) if you are interested in being involved in planning veterans-centric events or connecting with Veterans Forward in any capacity.

## Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

### Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- They have been spending the past few weeks securing summer camp opportunities for children.
- HACC received a Ross Grant from HUD, which will enable HACC to focus on workforce development for residents.
- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at [eorenstein@thehacc.org](mailto:eorenstein@thehacc.org) for more information on how to collaborate with HACC.

### Job Corps

- Joliet Job Corps are undergoing a change of contractors as of June 1st. Roger Fisher, our Joliet Job Corps representative, has been promoted and looks forward to having more responsibility working with workforce partners.
- They look forward to starting the virtual enrollment process for students. With virtual enrollment, there will be a career preparation period, where students spend 9-12 weeks remote and then transition on campus. It will be up to 12 students on a biweekly basis.

### Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid also has their free Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and other free legal clinics and programs. Contact Regina Rizzo, [rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org](mailto:rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org), for more information about Legal Aid programs and upcoming events.
- They have received additional funding to assist Seniors. For more information contact Regina Rizzo.
- On May 25th, Legal Aid Chicago in collaboration with Erie House will be hosting a live Instagram on Know Your Rights expungement. The presentation will also be hosted in Spanish on May 27th.
- The Fair Housing project is still taking place. Testers are scheduled to go out to the field to service residents dealing with housing discrimination.
- Legal Aid and Cannabis Equity Illinois will be hosting a fair on the West Side for Returning Citizens in person on Saturday, July 24th, followed by a RAP sheet event on July 30th. Transportation and RAP sheet costs will be paid by Cannabis Equity Illinois and Legal Aid provides free expungement.

### Calumet Area Industrial Commission

- Calumet Area Industrial Commission is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services focused on Industrial Advocacy, including linking companies to Economic Development Resources. They specialize in Job Placement, Manufacturing Careers, Industrial Careers, Networking, Career Development, Calumet Area, WIOA, Promise Grant, Economic Development, Industrial Retention & Expansion Issues, and B2B Networking.
- Through an H-1B One Workforce Grant 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.
- They have partnerships with several employers but are looking to expand their outreach to get more employers involved.
- CAIC is hoping for dual enrollment in WIOA programs, but it is not exclusive to WIOA participants. The target population for this grant funding is Northeast IL and Northwest IN

residents who are 17 years or older and not currently enrolled in HS. They're focusing on unemployed or underemployed individuals and underrepresented groups including minorities, women, individuals living in disadvantaged communities, new Americans, and justice-involved individuals. A portion of these funds can be used to upskill current workers.

- For participant registration, the Individual receives Participant Application and Participant Agreement from College Advisor or Training Provider CAIC or CFL will contact the individual. Visit <http://calumetareaindustrial.com/oneworkforcegrant> or refer to CAIC at 773-928-6000 x240 or CFL at 708-344-3714.
- Reach out to Craig Schmidt at [craig@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:craig@calumetareaindustrial.com) for more information about how to get involved.

***Next Steps:***

- All partners will provide updated flyers. The Resources Newsletter will be sent out soon. [To sign up to receive the newsletter, click here.](#)
- The next meeting will take place on June 17th at 10:00 am.