



**South Suburban Cook County American Job Center
at Prairie State College**
Monthly Partners Meeting
July 15th, 2021
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Angela Young, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Emily Orenstein, Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Karen Tollenaar Demorest, Youth Job Center; Kevin Averyhart, Veterans Forward at National Able; Letice Johnson, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Monica Barefield, Job Corps; Reginald Whitley, IDES Veterans; Rene Cabrejas, IDES; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Tina Salgado, IDES; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, CCLC; Nidia Mejia, CCLC; Robert Guzman, CCLC.

Agenda:

- Monthly Partner Meeting Survey Results
- Project Working Group Updates
- Partner Updates

CCLC Update:

- Nidia presented the results of the Monthly Partner Meeting Survey. 70% of meeting attendees that completed the survey were *Very Satisfied*. Nidia urged people who were dissatisfied with the meetings to voice their dissatisfaction by offering feedback. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) of the OSO Monthly Partner Meetings is 39.
- Nidia provided an update on the Project Working Groups and thanked all of the volunteers. The OSO will host a pizza party for Project Working Group Volunteers on July 30th. More information will be sent to volunteers through email. To guarantee that there is enough food, RSVPs will be requested.
- OSO plans to collect Frontline Staff Contact Information from supervisors and managers across the American Job Center Network. Partners will be contacted soon with a spreadsheet and further information.

Partner Updates:

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

- National Able is still providing services by appointment only.
- They are offering CASAS testing onsite, please reach out to Rocío Montoya for more information at rmontoya@nationalable.org.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title IB)

National Able Network

- Job search assistance and webinars continue to be offered virtually. [To find the webinar schedule, click here.](#)
- [Click here to register for the Workforce Wednesday virtual event on August 4th from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.](#)

Youth Job Center

- Karen Tollenaar Demorest from Youth Job Center joined, as a new partner of National Able Network providing youth services.
- Youth Job Center was founded in Evanston and then intentionally expanded to Chicagoland. They have a strong partnership with CPS. Youth Job Center works with youth as young as 14 years old, up to 25 years old.
- Connect with Karen at kdemorest@youthjobcenter.org.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

- National Able Network provided an updated employer list. If you have participants who have been affected by layoffs from these layoffs: A Finkl and Sons; Allstate Insurance Company; Encompass Group, LLL; Capgemini American, Inc.; Follett Corporation; Mercury Plastics, Inc.; Pactiv LLC; Korn Ferry; Solo Cup Operating Corp; Mercury Plastics Inc; Castwell Products; ATI Holdings; Alight Solutions LLC; and Metal Box Int'l, they may be eligible for additional benefits through TAA.
- Timeliness is very important, so if you find any job seekers who were laid off from the aforementioned employers, refer them to TAA at National Able or Angela Lopez as soon as possible.
- Contact Angela Lopez for more information at alopez@nationalable.org. Individuals can also call 855-994-8300 or email TAA@nationalable.org.

Adult Education and Literacy Services

Prairie State College (PSC)

- Prairie State College staff are on campus. They are offering testing virtually and on campus. Registration is entirely online.
- PSC has a new College English Reading and Writing class for students who would like to prepare for English 101. For more information, contact Vicky Garcia, Career Pathways Advisor, at vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu.
- The Military Students Affairs Center at Prairie State College is working with the Warrior Scholars Project to host an Online College Success Workshop for Veterans in Community College on August 28th from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. [Click here to register.](#)

South Suburban College

- ESL and GED Registration is online.
 - [Click here to schedule an appointment to register for ESL.](#)
 - [Click here to schedule an appointment to register for GED.](#)
- They are still recruiting for ICAPs, which is an opportunity for GED students to enroll in college credit courses.
- Registration for the CNA and Welding programs is open.

Moraine Valley Community College

- Summer session 2 just started. This session is a 7-week course for ESL and HSE and is being offered online and in person.

- The fall semester starts on September 20th and runs until December 8th.
- The new Bridge to Career Pathways course for GED and HSE students is beginning on September 27th through December 8th. This course will allow students to learn about different career pathways and opportunities at MVCC.
- Follow up with Meg Dawczak at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu with questions.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- IDES staff continues to serve the public with UI benefits. They've recently seen an increase in fraudulent claims, often through phishing messages.
- State Senator Connor and Senator Cappel are hosting a Virtual Job Seeker Workshop Series. On July 20th at 10:00 am, there will be a Career Information Systems (CIS) session. On July 27th at 10:00 am, there will be an Online Interview Workshop. Attendees should be sure their resume is current and complete on Illinois Job Link. Registration can be found on [Senator Connor's website](#) and [Senator Loughran Cappel's website](#).
- Rene Cabrejas provided information about Reemployment services, as RESEA is going well and we are nearing the end of the stimulus package in September. The resources shared in these meetings will be helpful as IDES anticipates an influx of clients seeking reemployment assistance.

IDES Veterans Services

- Jillian Campbell, as the DVOP Representative for this AJC, works with veterans experiencing barriers to employment. Reginald Whitley works with veterans without barriers, providing resources from One-Stop partners.
- Senator Hastings, Victory Apostolic Church, and IDES are hosting A Taste of Victory Job Fair on Saturday, July 31st from 11:30 am - 3:30 pm. [Click here to RSVP](#).

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- IDHS began issuing Child Care P-EBT. The average amount for families is over \$100 per month. [More information can be found here](#).
- Every IDHS field office will increase its staffing by 50%. Currently, there are around 7 workers in the office and that number will increase on July 16th to around 11. This will allow staff to expedite cases and better service candidates.
- Redeterminations can be processed within 30 days of the deadline. Staff can still process a claimant's redetermination within the first 30 days. If an individual files their redetermination within 2 weeks of their deadline, they can receive prorated benefits (approximately half of their benefits) for that month.

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

Vocational Rehabilitation

- DRS staff continue to work remotely while serving their participants. Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Home Services are still available to individuals with disabilities.
- Contact Angela Young at angela.s.young@illinois.gov with any questions.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- Jackie is working on re-engagement of host agencies or looking for new placements for participants whose agencies are not transitioning back in person.
- If you know of any NPOs that are interested in hosting and training senior participants while National Able SCSEP provides the stipend, reach out to Jackie.

- Contact Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org if you have questions or if you'd like to connect.

National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Veterans Forward have begun offering orientation in person at Near West AJC in Pilsen. Staff also offer in-person meetings by appointment.
- Reach out to Kevin Averyhart with any questions at kaveryhart@nationalable.org.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- They are sending out a newsletter to share information about partner agencies and programs with HACC residents. Please provide Emily Orenstein with information that you would like to be shared with residents at eorenstein@thehacc.org.

Joliet Job Corps

- Job Corps will soon begin their virtual enrollment process, but there is no date set.
- Reach out to Monica Barefield, WBL/CTR Coordinator with Joliet Job Corps Center, with any questions at barefield.monica@jobcorps.org.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid and Cannabis Equity Illinois will be hosting a Wraparound Reentry Resource Fair on July 17th, followed by a RAP Sheet Assistance Day event on July 30th. Transportation and RAP sheet costs will be paid by Cannabis Equity Illinois and Legal Aid provides free expungement. [Individuals can sign up for the RAP Sheet Assistance Day here.](#)
- Senior Citizens are still being helped by Legal Aid Chicago and the partnership with Age Options.
- Legal Aid has its free Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and other free legal clinics and programs. They have received additional funding to assist Seniors.
- The Fair Housing project is still taking place. Testers are scheduled to go out to the field to service residents dealing with housing discrimination.

Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)

- 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.
- The target population 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 a 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
- CAIC also has several employment opportunities for its members and partners across the county, ranging from entry-level positions to higher-paying positions.
- For more information, reach out to Craig Schmidt at craig@calumetareaindustrial.com.

Next Steps:

- Partners will do the following: meeting attendees complete the 30-second feedback survey, supervisors from every Partner agency will complete the Frontline Staff Contact Information Spreadsheet, and project working group volunteers can RSVP for celebration.
- 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.](#)
- The next South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College Monthly Partner Meeting will be held on August 19th at 10:00 am.