



**South Suburban Cook County American Job Center  
at Prairie State College**  
Monthly Partners Meeting  
June 17, 2021  
10:00 am

**Meeting Attendees:**

Angela Young, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Kristi Chevali, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership; Leticia Johnson, IDHS; Loretta Coleman, IDHS; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Megan McGinty, CCLC; Nidia Mejia, CCLC; Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Rena Bryson, IDHS; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Robert Guzman, CCLC; Roselyn McGhee, IDHS.

**Agenda:**

- Poll Results
- Upcoming OSO Activities
- Monthly Partner Meeting Feedback
- Meeting Schedule Poll
- Partner Updates

**CCLC Update:**

- Megan shared poll results from our previous meetings. Our poll results show that a majority of our Monthly Partner Meeting attendees had seen the Resources Newsletter but have not used it. Megan invited participants to share their frontline staff's contact information with the OSO team to get these resources to those who can use them and identify more opportunities for improvement. Staff at different levels and agencies can [sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter here](#). Poll results from our May meetings reflect that partners across the AJC network believe they are operating at the *Collaboration* stage on the Service Integration Continuum. [The Service Integration continuum and self-assessment can be found here](#).
- Megan explained the upcoming OSO activities and the next steps. With Cross-Training, OSO held a 3-hour planning workshop on June 16th. The OSO Project Working Groups are developing Standard AJC Orientation and customer satisfaction surveys, and we are looking forward to piloting each final product. The future Dashboard for these Partner Meetings will be built out soon and partners should prepare to submit a few basic performance metrics on July 1st.
- Partners were invited to complete a [Monthly Partner Meeting Feedback Survey](#). We plan to use partner feedback to shape our future meeting to the needs of our attendees and hope to involve more frontline staff as well.
- Megan held a poll to schedule the next 6-months of Monthly Partner Meetings. For the remainder of the year, the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 am.

### ***Partner Updates:***

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

- No specific date has been set for opening the building to the public. Participants are seen by appointment.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I)

National Able Network

- Job readiness workshops and orientation continue to be offered virtually.
- For a list of upcoming events, check out National Able's website [here](#).

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP)

- CCWP and the City of Chicago will be hosting HIRE Chicago events in August. More information to come.
- There was a board meeting with the Service Delivery Committee this week. Recommendations for Title I providers were accepted. The next step will be to move through the executive committee.
- The RFP for Career Pathways and delegate agencies will come out soon. [Check the Partnership website for any updates](#).

Trade and Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

- 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.
- 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](mailto:alopez@nationalable.org). Individuals can also call 855-994-8300 or email [TAA@nationalable.org](mailto:TAA@nationalable.org).

Adult Education and Literacy Services

Prairie State College

- Registration for GED prep and ESL classes is now open. Classes will be offered online and in-person. Register [here](#).
- College Reading and Writing classes are being offered for students who are placed into ENG 099 and need more prep before ENG 000 and /or ENG 101. For more information reach out to Vickie Garcia, Career Pathways Advisor at [vgarcia2prairiestate.edu](mailto:vgarcia2prairiestate.edu).

South Suburban College

- They just wrapped up the end of the semester.
- The following are registration appointment dates for the upcoming semester.
  - August 10th and 12th
  - August 16th and 18th
  - August 24th and 26th
  - August 30th and September 1st
- Fall registration will be completed by appointment only.
- They are actively recruiting for the ICAPS program, CNA bridge, and welding program.

- For questions contact Christopher McElroy [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu) or visit South Suburban College website [here](#).

#### Moraine Valley Community College

- They just wrapped up the ESL and HSE classes. The summer session will begin on July 7th and run through early September. Classes will be offered in person and online. The conversation course is offered online and the citizenship class will be offered on a hybrid basis at the main campus and the Blue Island campus.
- On June 8th, around 20 graduates participated in the onsite graduation ceremony.
- The bridge to Healthcare course will run from July-September.
- The fall session will begin in September, more information to come next month.
- Registration and testing for the current classes are offered in person. Reach out to Meg Dawczak at [dawczakm@morainevalley.edu](mailto:dawczakm@morainevalley.edu).

#### Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- For the re-employment workshops, they continue to advise participants over the phone. Services continue to be offered remotely. Staff continues to share resources with participants.
- IDES updates their Frequently Asked Questions regularly. Information regarding taxes, COVID assistance, identity fraud, and more can be found at [https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/FAQ\\_COVID-19.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/FAQ_COVID-19.aspx).

#### National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Loretta Coleman recently joined the Veterans Forward team as the Workforce Services Coordinator.
- A Women's Veterans Networking Session will be held on June 24th from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. [Register here](#).
- On Wednesday mornings, veterans can now attend the Veterans Forward orientation in person.
- On July 12th at 10:00 am, Veterans Forward will be holding a Virtual Hiring Event. Companies in attendance will schedule interviews July 13th - 15th for qualified candidates. The registration deadline is July 8th.
  - [Click here to register for the event](#).
  - Candidates must email their resumes to [vets@nationalable.org](mailto:vets@nationalable.org) by July 8th.
  - Featured employers include Amazon, Chicago Lighthouse, CTA, Rempex, Robert Half Staffing, World Flight Services, Zurich Insurance, and more.

#### Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) SNAP and TANF

- IDHS is waiting for guidance on reopening dates and processes. Current appointment only with limited virtual appointments.
- The SNAP waiver work requirement has been extended until June 20, 2021. More information will be available in July.
- 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. There is a green button labeled *Manage My Case* on <https://abe.illinois.gov/> that will enable this feature.
- [To find the registration links to all the WIOA Wednesday Webinars for June, click here.](#)

## IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services

### Vocational Rehabilitation

- The Chicago Heights office is still working remotely, closed to the public. The local office is still accepting new customer referrals.
- Click [here](#) to learn about and apply for Vocational Rehabilitation services.
- DRS is anticipating their opening information by July. Until then, they continue to accept web referrals and assist customers by phone and video. [Complete the online referral form by clicking here.](#)

## Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

### National Able Network SCSEP

- They are in the process of enrolling participants in their new Senior Employment Program.
- Jackie is also preparing for the new program year and working on re-engagement of host agencies or looking for new placements for participants whose agencies are not transitioning back in person.
- Contact Jackie Owens at [jowens@nationalable.org](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org) if you have questions or if you'd like to connect.

## Job Corps

- They continue accepting applications. More and more students have been returning to campus. New students are required to join virtually first and then transition on campus.
- They are waiting for an official date to come to the center and begin virtual enrollment.

## Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid also has its free Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and other free legal clinics and programs. Contact Regina Rizzo, [rizzo@legalaidchicago.org](mailto:rizzo@legalaidchicago.org), for more information about Legal Aid programs and upcoming events.
- 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 and a RAP sheet event in July. Transportation and RAP sheet costs will be paid by Cannabis Equity Illinois and Legal Aid provides free expungement.

## Calumet Area Industrial Commission

- 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.
- [Find out more about CAIC's H-1B One Workforce Grant here.](#)
- CAIC will be hosting an event with Prairie State College and South Suburban College on June 29th at 10:00 am. Reach out to Craig Schmidt at [craig@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:craig@calumetareaindustrial.com) for more information.

## **Next Steps:**

- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address, [oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org](mailto: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 July 14th at 10:00 am.