



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partners Meeting

July 15th, 2022

10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Jacqueline Owens, National Able Network; Jillian Campbell, DVOP; Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Marcelo Valencia, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Maria Diana Gutierrez, South Suburban College; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Melissa Veach, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); NuDonna, Youth Job Center; Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Rene Cabrejas, IDES; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Tina Salgado, IDES; Tiara Davis, Youth Job Center; Valencia Funches, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Wendy Harris, National Able Network; Ema Mailhot-Beutel, scaleLIT; Camilla Benjamin, scaleLIT; Megan McGinty, scaleLIT; and Robert Guzman, scaleLIT.

Agenda:

- Six-month Feedback Survey Results
- Dashboard
- Onsite Survey Update
- [Quarterly Update](#)
- Partner Updates

OSO Update:

- OSO shared the results and comments from the six-month feedback survey.
 - Around 85% of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the last six months of Partner meetings. Net Promoter Score from June 2022 was 43.
- We looked briefly at the visual Dashboard for partner engagement and customer satisfaction survey data.
- Onsite Survey flyers with QR codes were created for every American Job Center in the network. Robert and Camilla, the new Facilities Project Coordinator, will help post flyers at each AJC.
- Planning for hybrid options for Monthly Partner Meetings starting August 2022.
- OSO sent out a [Quarterly Update](#) document outlining all our initiatives, tools, etc. and a Partner Directory organized by AJC.

- OSO sent out a partner directory document listing partner name, organization, and emails.
- [Click here to view the July South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State Resources Newsletter.](#)

Partner Updates:

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

- South Suburban AJC at Prairie State College reopening plan has been approved by WIOA. Scheduled to be implemented Thursday July 21st
 - Once implemented, walk-ins will be welcomed!
 - Partners have agreed to do orientations on the same day to hopefully stream line referrals between WIOA Title I & Title II programs.
 - Customer surveys will be posted on site to be completed after orientations.
 - Niasa Hollins-Watson is the new Site Director/Programs Manager for WIOA Title I in Chicago Heights 708 709-7971; nhollins-watson@nationalable.org

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

National Able Network

- CASAS testing is offered both online and in-person. On Wednesdays, testing is offered in the morning and afternoon.
- In-person orientation is held on Thursdays at 10:00 am and virtual orientation is on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.
- National Able Network will be collaborating with Partners on the following events:
 - [Click here to register for the Morton College Career Connector Event.](#)
 - [Click here to register for the Oakton Community College Career Connector Event.](#)

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- The Cook County Trade Program has expired as of June 30th. Once each state has runs of funding, the programs will end indefinitely. 18-24 months left of services able to be funded.
- Focusing on federal advocacy in D.C. to encourage congress to respond with Trade Act reauthorization. Hopeful for reauthorization by the end of FY.
- Advocacy White Paper can be shared.
- Many individuals who were eligible for TAA benefits as a result of these layoffs are Spanish-speaking.
- Contact Daniela Cueva at dcueva@nationalable.org for more information about how to support and advocate.

Veteran's Forward

- Expanding veterans programs. There will be a new ARPA funded training run jointly by Cook County and Microsoft called IT Career Lab. **This will be rolled out in October 2023.**
- Continue to refer Veterans for services to Michelle Malone, mmalone@nationalable.org

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- The YJC's This Way Onwards initiative connects youth ages 16 to 24 with job opportunities at Old Navy. To complete the application process, two-day training is required. Still space for direct placement, new flyer to come.
- Looking for new work sites for the new program year.
- For more information contact Tiara Davis at tdavis@youthjobcenter.org.

Prairie State College

- Summer classes began on May 31st. Fall registration begins in July 18
- Reading and writing classes will be offered to students who do not pass the entrance exam.
- One day per week, staff work from home. Summer hours will start in June, with the college closed on Fridays.
- The staff is planning a certificate recognition event.
- Staff is also planning a certificate fair for students to learn about the various programs offered at PSC. They also plan to share funding opportunities that students may be eligible for.
- Loaner laptops are being provided through the Librarian from PSC.
- A Veterans interview event will be held at PSC.
- The Prairie State College Office of Military Student Affairs will have a representative from Jesse Brown VA's VITAL program at the Military Student Affairs Center every second Thursday and fourth Wednesday of the month.
 - The VITAL program is there to help veterans navigate their needs and concerns and maximize their unique skill set of strengths, skills, and life experiences as they develop and translate their interests and talents into an academic setting.
 - [Click here to download the brochure.](#)
 - Reach out to Georges Sanon, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.

South Suburban College

- Registration for Fall Semester ESL Classes and GED/High School Equivalency Classes starts August 2nd.
- Prefer appointments by takes walk-ins for Adult Ed
- SSC will offer a CNA bridge program and welding ICAPS program in the fall.
- SSC may hold ESL and GED classes at the Calumet City Public Library. Information coming soon.

Moraine Valley Community College

- Moraine Valley Community College Adult Education summer session started July 11th and will be held from July 11th to September 1st.
- On June 14th, Moraine Valley Community College held a graduation for credit students. There were 30 graduates!
- Fall Session will begin September 19th.
- Citizenship classes starts next the week of July 18th, reach out to Meg Dawczak dawczakm@morainevalley.edu for more information

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Services are available by appointment only.
- Walk-in Appointments for veterans only
- Staff recommends individuals call the Call Center at (800) 244-5631 with any questions that do not require in-person support.
- Staff is seeing a large number of customers who are seeking employment.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Customers are exempt from the SNAP work requirements until June 2023. Individuals do not need to be working or enrolled in work programs to receive SNAP.
- Customers now have the option to receive texts or emails about their benefits. Customers can set up notifications through Manage My Case on the <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/> website.
 - Customers can get alerts whenever there are notices about interviews, benefits expirations, or denials.
- The State of Illinois is now offering healthcare benefits coverage, as of March 25th, to senior undocumented IL residents. Individuals who are unable to receive Medicaid and earn below the federal poverty level can apply online or at the local IDHS office.
 - Expanded to serve age ranges 42-64. Effective July 31st. Can be backdated up to three months prior.
 - [Click here to visit the ABE \(Application for Benefits Eligibility\) website.](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Field offices are still closed. Services are provided remotely.
- Partners can connect with the field offices via phone or website. They continue to accept referrals online. [Please encourage residents to visit DHS public page to learn more about DRS services and the application process.](#)
- DRS staff are participating in a Referral Pilot with Partners from the West Suburban Cook County AJC in Maywood.
- In May, the DRS Workforce Development Unit hosted a successful job fair for individuals with disabilities in collaboration with Partners from the North Suburban AJC, with over 70 participants and ten employers in attendance.
- Reach out to Biswa Phuyal at biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov and Arthur Hawkins at Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- If you have any participants who are 55+, have them call 855-994-8300 and Jackie will set up an eligibility interview. Senior Veterans are also encouraged to take advantage of job placement services.
- 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.
- Jackie Owens, jowens@nationalable.org, has been promoted to Program Outreach Manager.

- Wendy Harris, weharris@nationalable.org is the new SCSEP Career Coach and primary contact for SCSEP. Please reach out to Wendy for direct referrals, questions or other information.
- National Able SCSEP now provides services in Wisconsin.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

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

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CEDA

- All programs - dental, vision, case management, LIHEAP, trade skills, etc. - will continue until December 2022 or until funds run out.
- The Evanston office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The staff works a hybrid schedule, three days a week in the office and two days remotely.
- Contact Lohnjonice Allen, the North Regional Manager, at allen@cedaorg.net for more information.
- CEDA is looking for a Family Support Specialist for its North Region office. Send resumes to hr@cedaorg.net.

Job Corps

- Registration is open for all programs. Female and male dorms are open.
- Job Corps is looking to expand its outreach efforts with community-based organizations. The staff is excited to engage in upcoming events. To share events, contact D'Lonra Gary at gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org.
- Enrollment at Paul Simon Job Corps is currently on pause while changing contracts, applications still being processed. Brittany anticipates enrollment to resume by the end of this month.
- Reach out to Brittney Davis at davis.brittney@jobcorps.org with questions about Paul Simon Job Corps. Contact D'Lonra Gary with questions about the Joliet Job Corps Center at gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago provides free legal services and offices are open by appointment only.
- Legal Aid Chicago has legal teams specializing in a variety of areas, covering employment, immigration, education, child and family services, records relief, public benefits, and veterans.
 - The Senior Services program through DFSS and the Fair Housing program (HUD) continue to be offered to Cook County residents.
- Legal Aid Chicago will hold a Cannabis Expo at Fiesta Del Sol from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on July 30 and 31. Register for the event by clicking [here](#).
- Regina encourages all partners to use Legal Aid Chicago as a resource for clients and teams. If you are interested in having any legal teams share a presentation with your team or customers, reach out to Regina at rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org.

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 and other providers. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program.](#)
 - CAIC can support students who are completing training at any of our Adult Education Partners at this AJC (Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College) and are interested in pursuing a Manufacturing Career Pathway. Still H1B funding available.
 - [Click here to view the Approved Manufacturing Programs.](#)
 - You can also refer high school seniors who may be interested in manufacturing to the interest form on the website.
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com or Melissa Veach at melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com with any questions.
- CAIC and Prairie State College are hosting an event on July 27th and July 28th. [Click here to download the flyer.](#)

Next Steps:

- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at oso@scaletit.org.
- [Click here to view the Quarterly Update.](#)
- Click here to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter