

South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting
February 17th, 2022
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

April Walton, National Able Network; Arthur Hawkins, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; D'Lonra Gary, Job Corps; Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jackie Owens, National Able Network; Kim Kunce, Prairie State College; Kindy Kruller, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development; Loretta Coleman, Veteran's Forward at National Able Network; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Melvin McGowan, Job Corps; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Raylynn Stokes, South Suburban College; Robert Lewis, YWCA Chicago; Rochelle Chambers, DRS; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Rosylen McGhee, IDHS; Stacey Delaney-Rhoiney, YWCA Chicago; Tiara Davis, Youth Job Center; Valencia Funches, IDHS; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC), Nidia Mejia, CCLC, and Robert Guzman CCLC.

Agenda:

- Sector Center Spotlight: Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL)
- Partner Updates

OSO Update:

- For the next three months, OSO plans on having a sector center spotlight for every monthly partner meeting. All four sector centers have been invited to these meetings. This month, we will spotlight the TDL Sector Center.
 - In March, the IT Sector Center will present.
 - In April, the Healthcare Sector will present.
- [Click here to view the February South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)

Sector Center Spotlight

TDL Sector Center Spotlight:

- The Partnership's Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Center is a preeminent bridge that connects industry employers to locally skilled talent. It serves the industry by offering a menu of training and talent acquisition services that meet both the employer's and the candidate's needs. The Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Sector Center is a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Center. Our efforts are

carried out through several methods including, engaging current and new employers to find their staffing needs, working with our TDL Youth Program to help place future cohorts, engaging community partners and building networking bridges, partnering with American Job Centers, and conducting Hiring Fairs & Educational Workshops.

- Please contact tdlsc@ywcachicago.org for referrals.
- Reach out to Robert Lewis at robert.lewis@ywcachicago.org for questions.
- If you are interested in receiving the weekly newsletter, contact Stacey.delaneyrhoiney@ywcachicago.org.
- [Click here to review the TDL Sector Center Spotlight Presentation.](#)
- The TDL sector center will be hosting a hiring event on February 25th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Click [here](#) to register for the event.

Partner Updates:

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

- The center was closed last week on Thursday and Friday due to weather conditions.
- Services through the American Job Center, including CASAS testing, continue to be offered both virtually or in-person by appointment.
 - The center is open from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm every day.
- Staff is on a hybrid schedule, working three days on-site and two days from home.
- PCs for People will be at the South Suburban AJC at Prairie State College in March for another pop-up event. PC for People helps individuals who need assistance obtaining hotspots, internet, PCs, and Chromebooks. [Click here to learn more about PCS for People](#)

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

National Able Network

- Orientation is offered virtually on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.
- All National Able Network events, including Workforce Wednesdays, are posted on the [National Able Online Calendar](#). [Click here to visit](#).
- April Walton, Director of Workforce Services, is available via email at awalton@nationalable.org.
- Questions specific to Career Services at South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College can be directed to Rocio Montoya at rmontoya@nationalable.org.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Orientation attendance has been excellent. Orientations are held on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Letters have been sent by IDES to qualifying individuals for the upcoming TAA Orientation for ACME workers.
- Reach out to Daniela Cueva, via email at dcueva@nationalable.org or encourage individuals to call 855-994-8300.

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- Services are offered virtually.
- There is a new Basic Automotive Training in partnership with Olive-Harvey College.

- Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm beginning March 14 until May 13, 2022.
- Out-of-school Youth 18 years and older can participate in Olive-Harvey College's 8-week, in-person Basic Automotive Training program and earn three industry-recognized certifications, along with a \$100 stipend per week, depending on daily attendance. The program will conclude with placement into a paid internship sponsored by YJC.
- For more information, reach out to Christopher Bowns at cbowns@youthjobcenter.org
- [Click here to view the flyer.](#)
- YJC has been presenting at the National Able Network Orientations on Tuesdays.
- Reach out to NuDonna Williams, Senior Programs Manager, at nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org.
 - YJC has Career Advisors who are onsite regularly.
 - Brittney Martin is at both Near West AJC in Pilsen and South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College. You can reach out to Brittney at bmartin@youthjobcenter.org.
 - Tiara Davis is at the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College. You can reach out to Tiara at tdavis@youthjobcenter.org.

Prairie State College (PSC)

- Late registration for ESL and GED courses will be available through February 28th. Classes are offered online and virtually.
- PSC offers an ICAPS CNA program as well as a CNA support class on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Contact Vicky Garcia at vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu for additional information about the program or other career pathway programs.
- PSC continues to look for Adult Literacy tutors. If you know of any adult learners who are interested in becoming volunteer tutors, reach out to Kisha Brown at nbrown1@prairiestate.edu.
- On February 19th, the 484th Army Band hosted a free concert at the Barnes & Noble College Auditorium.
- Registration for the CDL program is now open, and scholarship opportunities are available. Reach out to George Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu or Roger Fisher at rfisher6@prairiestate.edu for more information.
 - [Click here to learn more.](#)

South Suburban College (SSC)

- SSC provides a range of Adult Education programs. The current session's registration is now closed.
- Dates for summer enrollment will be announced soon.
- Classes are available in person and online, synchronous and asynchronous. Loaner laptops and hotspots are available upon request.
- Volunteers are needed at SSC. Feel free to contact Christopher McElroy at cmcelroy@ssc.edu if you know anyone who might be interested.

Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC)

- Spring classes are in session.
- Enrollment in the ESL class is excellent; however, due to space constraints, there is a waiting list; only 16 students are permitted to attend.

- Two summer enrollment dates will be offered.
 - The first session will take place from May 2nd to June 17th.
 - The second session will take place from July 11th through September 2nd.
- To learn more about MVCC adult programming click [here](#).
- Reach out to Meg Dawczak at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu with any questions.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- RESEA workshops continue. Staff have been interacting with participants and referring them to appropriate resources. They have also been working with veterans to connect them with assistance.
- Reach out to Tina Salgado at Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov or Rosylen McGhee at Rosylen.McGhee@illinois.gov with any questions.
- Individuals who received unemployment benefits last year can learn how to receive their 1099-G form by [clicking here](#).
- IDES is hosting a March Madness Virtual Hiring Invitational in collaboration with E&ES and DRS. On March 8th, there will be pre-employment workshops and presentations from the Partnership's Sector Centers. On March 10th, employer partners will share their open positions and answer any questions in breakout rooms.
 - [Click here to view the registration page.](#)

Veteran's Forward at National Able Network

- Veteran's Forward Orientation is offered every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.
- National Able Network provides supportive services for veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are currently homeless.
- If there are any questions, reach out to Loretta Coleman at lcoleman@nationalable.org.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- The Roseland IDHS Field Office is open with limited staff working onsite (closed on President's Day). Customers can apply for assistance or be referred to services through the field office.
- The work requirements for ABAWDs are waived until the end of June 2022. TANF customers are still required to be engaged in work or training-related activities.
- There are now 11 grocery stores that allow SNAP customers in Illinois to order food online.
- Contact Valencia Funches at valencia.funches@illinois.gov with any questions or referrals.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Field offices are still closed.
- DRS offers supportive services to individuals with disabilities. Contact Arthur Hawkins at Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov or Rochelle Chambers at rochelle.chambers-hyndman@illinois.gov for more information.
- 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.](#)

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- 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.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

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

Job Corps

- Paul Simon Job Corps Center is enrolling for residential and non-residential programs. They are bringing on new residential students twice a month and nonresidential students once a month.
- Reach out to Brittney Davis at davis.brittney@jobcorps.org with questions.

Legal Aid Chicago

- 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.
- 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. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program.](#)
 - All three Adult Education providers at this AJC (Moraine Valley Community College, South Suburban College, and Prairie State College) are partnering with CAIC on this initiative.
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com and Meredith Thetford at meredith@calumetareaindustrial.com with any questions.

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

- The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development has been tentatively approved to continue as an Apprenticeship Navigator for another round of funding. Click [here](#) to learn more. If you have any employers interested in apprenticeships, connect them to Kindy via email at kindy.kruller@cookcountyil.gov.

Next Steps:

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