



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partners Meeting

November 17h, 2022

10:00 am

In-Person Meeting Attendees:

Kim Kunce, Prairie State College; Camilla Benjamin, scaleLIT and Robert Guzman, scaleLIT.

Virtual Meeting Attendees:

Briana Wells, South Suburban College; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczakm, Moraine Valley Community College; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Selena Hillard, IDES; Taryn Giddings, South Suburban College; Ema Mailhot-Beutel, scaleLIT; Megan McGinty, scaleLIT; and Nidia Mejia, scaleLIT.

Agenda:

- On-Site Signage and New Survey Flyers
- Engagement and Customer Satisfaction Dashboards
- Customer Survey Data
- December System Wide Meeting and 6-month Survey
- Partner Updates
- Networking Topic: Gathering Major Successes and Stories of Partner Collaboration

OSO Update:

- Camila Benjamin shared an update regarding on-site signage and survey flyers.
- OSO shared the dashboard engagement rate for South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College and on-site survey data.
- We also discussed Customer Service Data and the upcoming December System Wide Meeting, which will be held virtually on December 15th from 10 am to 12 pm. Zoom invites will be sent out shortly.
- OSO encouraged partners to share major successes and stories of partner collaboration for the December System Wide Meeting.
- [Click here to view the November South Suburban Cook County AJC in Prairie State Resources Newsletter.](#)

Partner Updates:

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

- The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and accepts walk-ins.
- Face masks are required in the hallways.
- The campus continues to welcome students for in-person classes.

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

National Able Network

- In-person orientation is held on Thursdays at 10:00 am and virtual orientation is on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.
- Hosting in-person Career Events every other Wednesday at the Center.
- Recruitment for all programs is ongoing, but heavily recruiting for Dislocated workers and the ConstructionWorks program.
- Orientations have been well attended.
- Robert announced that there will soon be a scaleLIT Navigator at Prairie State and Harvey as well as other Suburban Centers.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Cook County Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) Program expired on June 30th. Once each state has run out of funds, the programs will end indefinitely. There are 18-24 months left of services able to be funded.
- Staff is focused on federal advocacy in D.C. to encourage Congress to respond with Trade Act reauthorization. They are hopeful of reauthorization by the end of October.
 - [Click here to download the TAA Advocacy Document](#) shared by Matt Weis.
- Contact Daniela Cueva at dcueva@nationalable.org for more information about how to support and advocate.

Veteran's Forward

- National Able has a CSBG Transitional Job Program for Veterans, for any veterans who could benefit from support in managing barriers to employment.
- The last scheduled Veteran's Forward orientation was May 25th, 2022. All subsequent orientations have been postponed until further notice.
 - For any veteran-specific services, referrals, etc. after next week, the contact will be Michelle Malone. She can be reached via email at mmalone@nationalable.org or via phone at (312) 994-4297.

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- For information contact Tiara Davis at tdavis@youthjobcenter.org or Francesca Snow at fsnow@youthjobcenter.org or NuDonna Williams at nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org.

Prairie State College

- The college has launched a new initiative to collect winter clothing for Venezuelan asylum seekers. [Please see the flyer for more details and contact information.](#)

- Spring registration will open on December 1st, with classes beginning on January 30th.
- The college is looking for volunteer tutors in math and reading. You can send referrals to Kim Kunce at kkunce@prairiestate.edu.
- Over 200 Asylum adults have expressed interest in ESL classes.
- A hallway at the college is dedicated to displaying art for Veterans.
- Toys for Tots donations are being accepted at the college. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)
- 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.
 - Reach out to Georges Sanon, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.
 - [Click here to download the brochure.](#)

South Suburban College

- Students can begin registering for the next GED and ESL classes on December 5th, 7th, 13th, and 15th.
- Local authors will present at family reading night from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the event will include food, face painting, and other activities. More information to come.
- Ken Cohen is the new Director of Workforce Development.

Moraine Valley Community College

- Spring registration is currently underway, with classes beginning on January 30th.
- Once approved by ICCB, the College plans to offer a new bridge program.
- Moraine Valley is collaborating with ICCB and IDHS to provide ESL classes to Venezuelan Asylees at two off-site locations.
- Moraine Valley Community College Adult Education is offering free Adult Education classes. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Reach out to Meg Dawczak at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu for more information.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Crystal Catalyst is the new IDES representative at Prairie State College's South Suburban Cook County AJC.
- Individuals can call the 1-800-244-5631 number if they are experiencing difficulties with UI claims and can schedule an in-person appointment through the self-service benefits portal.
- IDES is meeting with claimants by appointment only. IDES and National Able Network staff can help walk-ins set up appointments to work through any issues or answer questions.
- IL Job Link holds a workshop every day at 3:30 p.m.

Veterans Forward

- If you have any questions or veteran customers who need employment services please reach out to Michelle Malone at mmalone@nationalable.org with any questions.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- IDHS has launched a new text messaging campaign. Individuals receive a text message two days before their appointment with a link to reschedule their appointment if necessary.
- [Click here to visit the ABE \(Application for Benefits Eligibility\) website.](#)
- [Click here for information about the upcoming Virtual Recruitment Presentations](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Partners can connect with the field offices via phone or website. They continue to accept referrals online. Services are being offered remotely. [Please encourage residents to visit DHS public page to learn more about DRS services and the application process.](#)
- There is a new Disability Benefits 101 Website. [Click here to visit the website.](#)
- The field office is still closed to the public, providing services remotely.
- Reach out to Biswa Phuyal at biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov for questions.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- Wendy Harris, weharris@nationalable.org, SCSEP Career Coach and primary contact for SCSEP. Please reach out to Wendy for direct referrals, questions, or other information.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- Reach out to Kevan Casson at KCasson@thehacc.org with any questions.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CEDA

- Contact Lohnjonice Allen, the North Regional Manager, at lallen@cedaorg.net for more information.

Job Corps

- The center has resumed traditional enrollment.
- Reach out to Justin Greer at Greer.Justin@jobcorps.org with questions about Paul Simon Job Corps.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago 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. All services are completely FREE.
 - The Senior Services program through DFSS and the Fair Housing program continue for Cook County residents.
 - Legal Aid Chicago also has a new program for LGBTQ survivors of domestic/sexual/dating violence, stalking, and harassment.

- 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. The initiative will continue until the end of 2024. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program.](#)
 - CAIC can support students who are going to Daley College and are interested in pursuing a Manufacturing Career Pathway.
 - Programs include CNC Machining, Manufacturing Technology, Factory Automation, Welding Technology, Quality Assurance, and CAD Technology.
 - CAIC can also work with Jane Addams Resources Corporation (JARC) to cover the cost of any 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.

Next Steps:

- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at oso@scaletit.org.