



## South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting  
April 21st, 2022  
10:00 am

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Anita Johnson, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); April Walton, National Able Network; Arthur Hawkins, IDHS DRS; Briana Wells, South Suburban College; Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Christian Torres, Moraine Valley Community College; D'Lonra Gary, Job Corps; Debbie Newman, CAIC; Jillian Campbell, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Joy Phillips, Equus Workforce Solutions; Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Kristi Chevali, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership; Lina (Rosita) Montoya, Equus Workforce Solutions; Maurice Jordan, Equus Workforce Solutions; Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Reginald Whitley, IDES; Roger Fisher, Prairie State College; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Theodore Duckett, IDES; Valencia Funches, IDHS; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC), Nidia Mejia, CCLC, and Robert Guzman CCLC.

### **Agenda:**

- [AJC Orientation and Informational Materials Evaluation Survey](#)
- Sector Center Spotlight: Healthcare
- Partner Updates

### **OSO Update:**

- In December 2021, OSO released the new AJC Orientation on YouTube and customized Informational Materials for each AJC (all materials are saved on ZenDesk). As part of our commitment to continuous evaluation and improvement, we are checking back in to see how these new tools are working out for our partners.
  - [Click here to open the form.](#)
  - Please complete this survey by April 29th.
- OSO featured the fourth and final Sector Center Spotlight presentation for the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College. We heard from the Healthcare Sector Center.
- [Click here to view the April South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)

### **Healthcare Sector Center Spotlight:**

- The Healthcare Sector Center, operated by Equus Workforce Solutions, offers business workforce services to healthcare employers and employment placement services to individuals. Joy Phillips, Business Solutions Consultant, shared a brief presentation.

- [Click here to review the Healthcare Sector Center Spotlight presentation.](#)
- Here are a few ways to connect with the Healthcare Sector for employment opportunities:
  - Have your customer complete a brief profile - via [tinyurl.com/PROFILE910](http://tinyurl.com/PROFILE910)
  - Send your customer referral and resume to Raquel Murillo via [raquel.murillo@equusworks.com](mailto:raquel.murillo@equusworks.com), (to be tracked and assigned to a business team member)
  - Connect with Business Team directly: [maria.romero@equusworks.com](mailto:maria.romero@equusworks.com), [joy.phillips@equusworks.com](mailto:joy.phillips@equusworks.com), and [Maurice.Jordan@equusworks.com](mailto:Maurice.Jordan@equusworks.com)
  - Learn more about open positions with Advocate Health Care by clicking [here](#).
  - Questions about anything healthcare - Email: [michelle.mcfarland@equusworks.com](mailto:michelle.mcfarland@equusworks.com) and/or [maria.romero@equusworks.com](mailto:maria.romero@equusworks.com), Healthcare Sector office phone # 312 690 4655

### **Partner Updates:**

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

- The AJC has new business hours and will be open 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. They are welcoming walk-ins and staff are committed to making the transition into in-person services as smooth as possible.
  - Services through the American Job Center, including CASAS testing, continue to be offered both virtually or in person by appointment.

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

##### National Able Network

- National Able continues to recruit adult and dislocated workers.
- National Able recently started in-person orientation on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, limited to 15 individuals per session. Orientation is offered virtually on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.
  - National Able Network recently added information about CHA/HCV to their weekly orientation.
- 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 for National Able Network, is available via email at [awalton@nationalable.org](mailto: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](mailto:rmontoya@nationalable.org).
- Careers De Mayo will be held on May 24th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the National Museum of Mexican Art. There is space available for 20 employers and some partners. Contact Gabriel Bell at [gbell@nationalable.org](mailto:gbell@nationalable.org) if you want to participate in the event or provide flyers for the event.
  - [Click here for event information](#).

#### Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

##### National Able Network

- Orientation will be held on April 28th and 29th. Notices have been sent out to individuals laid off from several employers.
- Staff will be doing outreach to recruit individuals who have been affected by the layoffs.
- Reach out to Daniela Cueva, via email at [dcueva@nationalable.org](mailto:dcueva@nationalable.org) or encourage individuals to call 855-994-8300.

## WIOA Title I-Y

### Youth Job Center (YJC)

- YJC is collaborating with Old Navy to place 35 direct hires in stores in the Chicago area. They also hope to place 95 youth in internships with the possibility of direct hire. After recruitment, they complete job readiness training. The internship starts on June 6th.
- YJC has WIOA funding and can offer paid work experience opportunities to youth.
- For questions, contact Jude Laude at [jlaude@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:jlaude@youthjobcenter.org).

### Prairie State College (PSC)

- PSC is registering for summer courses. The CNA ICAPs program is ending in May, with six students completing the program.
- On July 1st, registration for the Fall semester opens. This is one month earlier than the norm.
  - Questions regarding Adult Education and Literacy can be directed to Vicky Garcia at [vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu](mailto:vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu).
- The 160 Truck Driving Academy is moving into its third month. A lot of women signed up for this CDL academy.
- On April 22nd, PCS had their Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Minority Summit, with a panel discussion moderated by Roger Fisher. [Click here to learn more about WEI at Prairie State College](#).
  - Reach out to Roger Fisher at [rfisher6@prairiestate.edu](mailto:rfisher6@prairiestate.edu) for more information.
- 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](mailto:nbrown1@prairiestate.edu).
- PSC now has Mobile Training Centers. [Click here for more information](#).

### South Suburban College (SSC)

- SSC just started the last semester of the fiscal year. Registration will open in August for the Fall semester.
  - SSC is open to expanding its reach by hosting ESL classes at offsites. They want to stay within their APC but would like to offer classes beyond their South Holland and Oak Forest campuses.
    - Feel free to contact Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu) if you know anyone who might be interested.
- SSC is holding WIOA Orientation on the second week of each month. The next orientation is on May 12th.
- SSC is looking for ESL instructors (pay rate of \$22/hour) and an ESL student specialist (pay rate of \$15/hour). If you know someone interested in applying for these positions, please reach out to Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu).
- SSC is having a Career Drop-In Meet the Employer event with Advocate Aurora Health on Friday, April 29th.
  - If you have any questions, reach out to Briana Wells at [BWells@ssc.edu](mailto:BWells@ssc.edu).

### Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC)

- Spring classes are in session. They are running two summer sessions, one from May 2nd to June 7th and another from July to September.
  - To learn more about MVCC adult programming, click [here](#).
- MVCC is offering its Bridge to Healthcare. 12 students completed the Caregiver Course.
- Enrollment has been steadily increasing and staff is happy to begin filling up classes again.

- Reach out to Meg Dawczak at [dawczakm@morainevalley.edu](mailto: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.
- Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Scheduling Hotline at (217) 558-0401.
- IDES can assist employers in avoiding layoffs through the Illinois Workshop program.
- IDES offices are open by appointment only. Staff recommends individuals call the Call Center at (800) 244-5631 with any questions that do not require in-person support.
- Individuals are encouraged to visit the [IDES website](#) for self-service.
- Reach out to Tina Salgado at [Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov](mailto:Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov) or Rosylen McGhee at [Rosylen.McGhee@illinois.gov](mailto:Rosylen.McGhee@illinois.gov) with any questions.

#### IDES Veterans Services

- There are not many upcoming IDES/Veterans events in the Chicago Heights area, but there are several in the City of Chicago and surrounding areas.
- Jillian Campbell, DVOP for Harvey and PSC, is now back in person at the Harvey IDES office. Reach out to Jillian at [jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov](mailto:jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov).

#### Veteran's Forward at National Able Network

- If there are any questions, reach out to Loretta Coleman at [lcoleman@nationalable.org](mailto:lcoleman@nationalable.org).

#### Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Effective April 1st, customers that apply for initial benefits (medical, cash, and/or SNAP) must complete an interview with IDHS staff. Previously, this interview requirement was waived, but new customers must now complete interviews in-person or via telephone to begin receiving benefits.
- Effective March 25th, the State of Illinois is now offering healthcare benefits coverage to seniors who are 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.
  - [Click here to visit the ABE \(Application for Benefits Eligibility\) website.](#)
- Contact Valencia Funches at [valencia.funches@illinois.gov](mailto:valencia.funches@illinois.gov) with any questions or referrals.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

##### IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Field offices are still closed and services are provided remotely. The central office for DRS is relocating. More information to come.
- Anita Johnson, the supervisor at the Chicago Heights Local Office, has invited partners to attend bi-monthly meetings with vocational rehabilitation counselors to speak about services in the AJC network for individuals with disabilities.
  - Meetings are on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Send requests directly to Anita at [anita.johnson@illinois.gov](mailto:anita.johnson@illinois.gov).
- 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.](#)

- The DRS Workforce Development Unit is planning a job fair for individuals with disabilities in the North Cook County area. The fair will be held on May 24th at the Harper College Learning and Career Center (1375 South Wolf Road Prospect Heights, IL 60070), located across the street from the North Suburban Cook County AJC in Wheeling.
  - [Individuals with disabilities can fill out this form to register for the May 24th Job Fair.](#)
  - Reach out to Biswa Phuyal at [biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov](mailto:biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov) and Arthur Hawkins at [Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov](mailto:Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov) with any questions.

#### 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.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:eorenstein@thehacc.org) with any questions.

#### Job Corps

- Paul Simon Job Corps Center has all its residential students on campus. Job Corps changed the mask policy and students can be unmasked while maintaining social distancing.
- Joliet Job Corps Center's program is virtual for the first 60 days. Students are now arriving on campus after completing the virtual portion.
  - The centers are accepting applications for youth 16-24-year-olds who are interested in finishing their education and/or getting trade certifications.
- Reach out to Brittney Davis at [davis.brittney@jobcorps.org](mailto:davis.brittney@jobcorps.org) with questions about Paul Simon Job Corps. For questions about the Joliet Job Corps Center, reach out to D'Lonra Gary at [gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org](mailto:gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org).
- They are looking to fill the Career Transition Specialist position at the Joliet Center. Please send any potential candidates to D'Lonra at [gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org](mailto:gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org).

#### CEDA

- Contact Lisa Baugh with any questions regarding the Family Support and Community Engagement (FsACE) program or other CEDA programs at [Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net](mailto:Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net).

#### 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](mailto: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.
    - [Click here to view the Moraine Valley Community College One Workforce Program flyer.](#)
    - [Click here to view the South Suburban College One Workforce Program flyer.](#)
    - [Click here to view the Prairie State College One Workforce Program flyer.](#)
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at [debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com) and Melissa Veach at [Melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:Melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com) with any questions.

#### **Next Steps:**

- [Complete the AJC Orientation and Informational Materials Survey Evaluation](#) by April 29th.
- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at [oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org](mailto:oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org).
- [Click here to sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)