



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partners Meeting

January 19th, 2023

10:00 am

In-Person Meeting Attendees:

Melissa Veach, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Rosylen McGhee, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); and Camilla Benjamin, scaleLIT.

Virtual Meeting Attendees:

Anna Slater, IDES; April Walton, National Able Network; Bradley Schmidt, Prairie State College; Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Francesa Snow, Youth Job Center (YJC); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jillian Campbell, IDES; Kim Kunce, Prairie State College; Maria-Diana Gutierrez, South Suburban College; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Mo Anderson, YJC; Raylynn Stokes, South Suburban College; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Taryn Giddings, South Suburban College; Valencia Funches, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Ema Mailhot-Beutel, scaleLIT; Megan McGinty, scaleLIT; and Robert Guzman, scaleLIT.

Agenda:

- Partner Meeting Calendar
- Spanish Surveys
- AJC Manual Draft Review
- 6-Month Survey Results
- On-Site Staff & Lobby Schedule for Q1
- Partner Updates
- Networking Topic: Share your ideas

OSO Update:

- OSO shared the new [2023 partner meeting schedule](#), which includes Quarterly Systemwide meetings in March, June, September, and December instead of 10 separate partner meetings in the last month of each quarter.
- OSO announced that job seekers can now complete the Onsite (customer satisfaction) Surveys and Workshop surveys in Spanish. Survey data will still be visualized in English on shared data reports.

- OSO invited partners to provide feedback on the AJC Manual Draft by the end of January. [Click here for the feedback form.](#)
- Camilla Benjamin shared the Schedule for On-Site Partners who provide direct services and Lobby Time for staff. Camilla requested that partners review and provide feedback on the information.
- OSO encouraged partners to share their networking topic ideas for 2023.
- [Click here to view the January 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 to walk-ins Monday through Friday. Adult Education staff are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Face masks are optional in the ATOC Building for the Spring semester.
- The campus continues to welcome students for in-person classes.

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

National Able Network

- National Able hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.
- They are close to their 1A (Adult) Enrollment Goal, but National Able has not yet started putting adults on the waitlist.
- In-person orientation is held on Thursdays at 10:00 am and virtual orientation is on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. 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.
- Reach out to April Walton at awalton@nationalable.org and Niasa Hollins-Watson at nhollins-watson@nationalable.org with any questions.

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.
 - [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

- For any veteran-specific services, referrals, etc. contact Michelle Malone via email at mmalone@nationalable.org or phone at (312) 994-4297.

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- The Old Navy Work Program enrollment period is still open for youth 18-24 who are out of school and looking for work opportunities. [Click here for the Old Navy Work Program flyer with a QR code.](#)

- There is an upcoming cohort beginning for the Healthcare Training Program. [Click here for more information about Health Care Training Program.](#)
- [Click here for more information about the IT training program.](#) This program is in partnership with National Able Network.
- Contact Mo Anderson at manderson@youthjobcenter.org, Francesca Snow at fsnow@youthjobcenter.org, or NuDonna Williams at nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org with questions or to refer youth aged 16-24 for these programs.

Prairie State College

- Spring classes will begin on January 30th. They will continue accepting applications for ESL and GED classes until around January 24th. Late registration classes will start after registration closes.
- Prairie State College is looking for volunteer tutors in math and reading. You can send referrals to Kim Kunce at kkunce@prairiestate.edu and Kisha Brown at nbrown1@prairiestate.edu.
- Prairie State has a calendar posted for in-person/hybrid advisor hours.
- Georges, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, is in the office every day and is available to meet with partners or veterans throughout the week. The office stays open until 7:00 pm on Wednesdays and closes at 5:00 pm on all other days.
 - Georges can help students and families who are trying to certify and receive military benefits.
- 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

- Spring registration has closed and classes just started. Late start classes at the Oak Forest campus will begin on January 30th. Reach out to Christopher McElroy at cmcelroy@ssc.edu with questions.
- South Suburban College is also looking for Adult Literacy tutors. If you know anyone interested in participating, reach out to David Stephens at dstephens@ssc.edu.
- Ken Cohen (kcohn@ssc.edu) is the new Director of Workforce Development.
- The Extension Services and Workforce Development program has established several new partnerships.
 - SSC just held an event with Pace, connecting 59 people with the organization.
 - They are planning a hiring event with USDA, which is looking for food inspectors for the new local office opening in South Holland.
 - Reach out to Matthew Beasland at mbeasland@ssc.edu if you have any questions.

Moraine Valley Community College

- It is a busy time at Moraine Valley - ESL and HSE classes start on January 28th. ESL enrollment is up significantly. Students can still register for Saturday ESL classes and classes at other campuses.

- The new Bridge to Data Entry class was approved by ICCB and will begin on February 6th. This program will be geared toward advanced HSE and ESL students.
- Moraine Valley is collaborating with ICCB and IDHS to provide ESL classes to Venezuelan Asylees at two off-site locations. They are also collaborating with IDHS and District 109 to provide ESL classes to Yemenee women in the area, which will be led by a female, Arabic-speaking instructor at Bridgeview Library.
 - Contact Meg at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu if you have any questions about these special ESL classes.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Crystal Catlett is the IDES representative at Prairie State College's South Suburban Cook County AJC. Connect with her via email at crystal.catlett@illinois.gov.
- 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 Program (IDES):

- Jillian briefly shared information regarding upcoming IDES events:
 - The Illinois Department of Revenue Recruiting Call on January 24th at 3:00 pm.
 - Government and Municipal Hiring Event on January 26th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
 - CTA Hiring Event on January 28th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at CTA Headquarters (567 W Lake Street).
 - Please review the Resource Newsletter to download event flyers or connect with Jillian Campbell via email at jillian.campbell@illinois.gov for more information.

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)

- A new Family Planning Program provides services to individuals of any age or gender who are not pregnant, including medical and diagnostic services, family planning, etc. This is a stand-alone program that individuals can apply to separately or opt-in if already receiving DHS services.
- Beginning March 2023, all SNAP households will see their benefits decrease. The additional SNAP benefits initiated back in April 2020 will cease. [Click here to learn more and share with your participants who may be affected.](#)
- 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.
- Reach out to Valencia Funches at valencia.funches@illinois.gov with questions.

- [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)

- Next month, DRS field offices will open to the public on a limited basis - by appointment for existing customers only. New customers will continue to receive virtual or telecommunication services.
- If you have individuals who are not currently DRS customers but would like to access in-person appointments, please contact Biswa Phuyal at Biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov or at 773-550-8148.
- DRS is planning a job fair for individuals with disabilities in the North Suburban Cook County area. Many employers from the City of Chicago will be invited. DRS is hoping to have a similar event to host an in-person event closer to this area.
- 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.
- Click [here](#) for a direct Referral Link for DRS services.
- There is a new Disability Benefits 101 Website. [Click here for the direct link.](#)
- Hosting November Hiring events with partner employers for DRS customers only.
- Contact Biswa Phuyal at biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov with any 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 Lisa Baugh, Regional Manager, at Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net for more information.

Job Corps

- The center 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 has legal teams specializing in employment, immigration, education, child and family services, records relief, public benefits, and veterans. Legal Aid Chicago

is hosting their in-person Veterans Clinic. The Fair Housing program continues for Cook County residents.

- Regina and Eric have been sharing information about [free tax preparation resources from Ladder Up](#). Legal Aid Chicago has a low-income tax clinic for individuals who experience issues, like fraud, after preparing their taxes.
- 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. Funding will end in Fall 2024. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program](#).
 - CAIC can support students who are going to any of the three Adult Education providers at this AJC - Moraine Valley Community College, South Suburban College, or Prairie State College - and are interested in pursuing a Manufacturing Career Pathway.
 - CAIC can work with other providers, like Jane Addams Resources Corporation (JARC), to cover the cost of any Manufacturing programs.
 - You can also refer high school seniors interested in manufacturing to the interest form on the website.
- Melissa will be representing CAIC at the IDES Resource Fair on January 24th.
- Email Debbie Newman at debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com or Melissa Veach at melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com with any questions.

Next Steps:

- Submit updated flyers to the OSO email address at oso@scalelit.org.