



America's **JobCenter**  
of California<sup>SM</sup> LA County



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### DRAFT MINUTES

JUNE 28, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting

Department of Economic Opportunity Headquarters

510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jorge Marquez called the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (LACWDB) June 28, 2024, meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

#### **Land Acknowledgement was read by LACWDB Executive Director Cheren Kochen:**

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants- past, present, and emerging- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler-colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugations, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgement demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native Peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the:

- Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians
- Kizh Nation - San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Please find the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website below at:

#### **Attachments:**

[Board Motion](#)

[Los Angeles City/County NAIC Website \(Click Here\)](#)

## ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with **11 board members** in-person attendance during roll call.

**Present (11 in-person and 1 virtual):** Lexi Adsit, Alex-Handrah Aime (Virtual), Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Jorge Marquez, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace

**Absent (7)** Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Darrel Saucedo, Delbert Whetter

***Conflict of Interest was read by LACWDB Executive Director Cheren Kochen:***

Members shall abide by conflict-of-interest requirements outlined in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Section 107(h), which states a member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not vote on a matter under consideration by the local board (1) regarding the provision of services by such member represents; or (2) that would provide a direct financial benefit to such member of the immediate family of such member.

## LACWDB'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Kochen acknowledged and thanked member Wallace for the work he did with the Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Small Business Summit at the Los Angeles Coliseum by serving as a moderator for a panel and representing the 2nd district. She also thanked Doctor Armida Ornelas for also moderating a panel and for offering Mission College as one of the sites for a small business summit. She thanked Jesse Cuevas representing the Employment Development Department (EDD) who attended the business summits and served as panelist for the panel discussions.

Executive Director Kochen continued to thank members Delbert Whetter and Lexi Adsit who participated as guest speakers with DEO's Equity Action Team's "Coffee Chats" where topics of diversity, inclusion, and equity are discussed. Member Whetter presented in August of 2023 on obstacles, challenges, and services for individuals with disabilities. Member Adsit presented in June on her work with Trans Can Work to commemorate Pride Month.

She also thanked Chair Marquez for representing the Board and DEO at the Spring WORKCON 2024 hosted by the California Workforce Association. She noted that Chair Marquez spoke on how public/private partners can come together in Los Angeles County to create innovative High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs) that enable career pathway programming for individuals from historically marginalized communities. Executive Director Kochen remarked that Chair Marquez highlighted the effort surrounding apprenticeships and the work that DEO is providing for opportunity youth. He also discussed high need sectors including healthcare, tech, and clean tech.

DEO Director Kelly LoBianco acknowledged and thanked member Cheung who also served at the Small Business Summits on behalf the Los Angeles Economic Development Collaborative (LAEDC) whom is as a partner in the departments Economic Mobility Initiative. The Initiative is an \$25 million DEO project that is supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Marquez opened his statement by thanking outgoing Board members Berenice Nunez Constant and Jeremy Diaz for their service.

He then thanked member Darrel Saucedo for his past chairmanship, which provided guidance through a time of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He acknowledged member Saucedo's accomplishments including the adoption of the LACWDB's Local Area Plan, the board's first set of guiding principles, and for his future work as he will continue to serve as a member of the LACWDB.

Chair Marquez continued his statement by saying that the vision for workforce development in LA County will continue to be shared by a wide range of voices and perspectives noting that the guiding principles are a great benchmark for the initial vision that includes several strategies.

1. Prioritize direct support and facilitate systems access for disproportionately negatively impacted workers, employers, and communities.
  2. Revitalize economic mobility through high road jobs.
  3. Invest in programs and services that lead to economic mobility for all.
  4. Elevate the profile, influence and impact of the workforce system.
  5. Expand technology to improve access and deliver quality services.
  6. Maximize efficiencies for customers through regional coordination, integrated services delivery and colocation of youth and adult programs.
  7. Utilize data to measure impact beyond WIOA performance and assess how to increase system utilization.
  8. Prepare contingency plans to implement during crisis events.
- Chair Marquez continued that his vision for the board include:

1. Drive the effective implementation of workforce systems under the direction of the modernizing the Americas Job Centers of California (AJCC), focusing on key metrics, and achieving effective job outcomes.
2. Advancing workforce development for underrepresented and underserved Angelinos by scaling programs that lead to higher paying jobs and high growth occupations across Los Angeles County.
3. Implement sector Local Economic Development (LED) strategies through the Business Advisory Committee, aligning employer needs with AJCC capabilities to prepare diverse populations for high wage and high growth roles.
4. Foster greater fiscal visibility, transparency, and accountability in funding, with improved reporting and allocation by the DEO.

He completed his comments by stating he was looking forward to working with the board.

## A. ACTION ITEMS

### I. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON MARCH 29, 2024

**Presenter:** Jorge Marquez, LACWDB Chair

**Summary:** This item presents for approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the draft minutes of the LACWDB quarterly meeting held on March 29, 2024.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion on the item. Chair Marquez asked for public comment. No public comments were made.

**It was moved by member Thompson with and seconded by member Adsit to approve the minutes of the of the March 29, 2024 LACWDB's regular board meeting.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (11):** Lexi Adsit, Alex-Handrah Aime, Stephen Cheung, Mary Hewitt, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (7):** Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Darrel Saucedo, Delbert Whetter

### II. LOS ANGELES COUNTY WIOA PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Presenter:** Cheren Kochen, Executive Director, LACWDB

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, to approve the LA County Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Proposed Budget.

**Discussion:** LACWDB Executive Director Cheren Kochen gave the presentation on behalf of DEO.

Executive Director Kochen started the presentation by reporting the funding levels for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024/25 will be estimated at approximately \$46.83 million, which includes an estimated allocation of \$36.83 million plus an estimated carryover fund from fiscal year 2023/2024 of \$10 million totaling the \$46.83 million for allocation. She continued that like previous years, the proposed budget is typically revised to reflect

actual funding levels from the EDD which traditionally occurs around August. The board will also receive on updated funds from the close out of the current fiscal year and what transfers will occur to the next fiscal year. The board will revisit the budget if necessary for its fall meeting.

There were a couple of adjustments that were needed based on the allocation from the EDD. \$480,000 of the 2024/25 funding allocation from EDD is slightly less than this current year at \$2.165 million, but it is offset by \$2.64 million from carryover dollars. There will be a revision for the fall board meeting as the carry over amounts may be updated as DEO receives all payments from the closeout of this current program here. There is also a slight increase at \$230,000 to support a service delivery, which the board will hear an update later in the meeting.

Executive Director Kochen continued that DEO's existing sole source awards with the current AJCCs will continue for six months from July 1 through December 31. Further, there is a \$250,000 increase in funding due to residual funds left from rapid response which will be made available for the AJCCs for rapid response services from July through September. DEO did receive a subgrant agreement from EDD confirming the Rapid Response funding and will be effective July 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2024.

She concluded her presentation by stating that the department does receive other funding streams that are used for dedicated projects. These funding streams include Measure H which goes to homeless services, SB 678 funds which goes to criminal justice system impacted programming. DEO also receives California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and other sources including probation dollars to serve opportunity youth. Executive Director Kochen concluded her presentation by opening discussion for questions and comments.

Member Thompson asked if there is a difference between a carry over and an accrual.

Executive Director Kochen answered that once expenditures and revenue are balanced the remainder would not include accruals because it should reflect the dollar amounts that were left unspent at that current moment in time. However, the estimated amount could include some accruals that have not been reflected yet. That could be due to services not yet invoiced from service providers. Therefore, staff will know the actual real number carry over amount once the closeout activities are finalized. This usually occurs in July when it takes approximately 30 days from the close of the fiscal year to balance the reports.

Member Thompson responded that the reason why he asked was to know if there are any restrictions on how the carryover funds can be spent or if there is a time limit when they must be spent.

Executive Director Kochen stated that typically the department will spend first funds in, first funds out to ensure that the department is maximizing dollars because there are funding streams that must be spent within a certain time frame. She used rapid response funding as an example. Rapid Response carryover amount would not have been able to be spent without an extension from the EDD, which they did grant statewide to September 30<sup>th</sup>, and not just to the Los Angeles local area. She highlighted the rapid response carryover to be spent first due to the closure of the 99 Cent stores as a high-profile situation where the funds will be spent.

Member Adsit asked why the jail-based program was losing a third of its funding.

Ms. Kochen responded that the jail-based programs are non-WIOA dollars that are expected to expire.

DEO Director Kelly LoBianco also responded that DEO sits on LA County's public safety committee and the department received an expanded allocation of AB 109 dollars, the amount is not reducing but the department is getting ready to procure for its providers in that program. She finished by stating that staff will send the board what the amounts are.

Ms. Kochen continued that there are some upcoming opportunities and once they are allocated to DEO, there should be additional funding to serve the justice system impacted community, including funding from the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) funds.

Director LoBianco also stated that AB 109 will primarily be the jail-based job center funding provider, however, DEO did receive in year two about \$2,000,000 of CFCI funds which is a net county cost not included in the LACWDB budget with an additional \$10 million for both job training and small business services. She also stated that DEO is attempting to align WIOA investments in hybrid training partnerships.

Isidro Villaneuva, Program Manager, responsible for jail-based job and career centers also said that one-third of the funding is for evaluation and revamping and that is why there is a difference between the current fiscal year and the new fiscal year. He clarified that the funding being referred is AB 109 funding, and not WIOA.

Director LoBianco also said staff will follow up with the board a write up so the board can reconcile the full Century Regional Detention Facility investments and will ensure that unanswered questions are addressed.

Chair Marquez asked Director LoBianco if the department has an interim administrative deputy.

Director LoBianco responded yes, there is a supervisor for the finance manager and there are individuals in interim positions.

Chair Marquez asked what the status is for refilling the position full time.

Director LoBianco answered that staff is working diligently to fill that position. She continued that the department has a human resource team internally overseeing the recruitment, but the department has also engaged the countywide department of Human Resources, and there is an impact team within DEO; two full time staff members that are supporting DEO's hiring and recruitment process, and several part time staff from human resources. Specifically for the administrative deputy, the department is in the process of looking at resumes and doing another recruitment effort for countywide individuals. She continued that staff would keep the board updated and that the department is in the final rounds of interviews for the Assistant Director of Workforce Development.

Chair Marquez then asked in the carryover for \$10 million, what were the variances that caused that difference in the budget that resulted in that large carryover?

Executive Director Kochen responded that primarily it was relating to spending within operations and with the service providers, particularly with the training and career pathways and wages. It was impacted because of the way the department had to start the funding because of the AJCC Request for Proposal (RFP) and the impacts of having to extend contracts three months causing variances in in spending on some long-term services, including long term training and staffing at the AJCCs. Staffing is the greatest impact to the AJCC budget. She did continue that there will be some recuperation of the cost.

Director LoBianco also answered that there is a little bit of variance due to a carryover because funding is not entirely consistent through the fiscal year with the summertime as a big spending period, particularly with youth programs. There was an increase in the past year for WIOA, which was atypical for the department and there will be a decrease in the coming year.

Chair Marquez then said that since the largest allocation is for the training career pathways and wages, and as the board and staff are moving towards sector led strategies, the board and staff should look to align employer industry needs and micro sectors with the training and development of underrepresented communities in high growth occupations. Specifically, so funding can be used to help create those training pathways, to identify new occupational areas in the Centers of Excellence (COE) needed to develop talent.

Director LoBianco responded that in the position of director, her goal is always to have enough carryover to ensure smooth operations over time because there are considerations that must be made based on past performance and to optimize to ensure the department is not leaving money unallocated to the community.

Member Wallace stated that it is good to see the different resources across the system, yet stressed the intent is to align and advance strategies or acknowledge if there is a vacuum or gap of information surrounding the budget. He acknowledged that state and federal regulations drive the transformation of the system and fuel the modernization of the agencies that impact historically marginalized communities. He also stressed that from a perspective of inclusion, there are different learning styles.

Member Wallace requested a formal presentation of the budget that allows the board to understand the relationship between resources and strategy will help him understand the work of the board and department.

Director LoBianco answered in the affirmative that staff can give board members a presentation of the budget.

Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt commented that she recalled in November of 2023, there was \$1,000,000 in the AJCC budget for training and the board carried over another \$1,000,000 that would be allocated from WIOA funding. She stated she was curious if there is a way the board can get a deeper understanding on what does that training look like and why is it not being utilized. She continued that it seems there are resources, and the training is imperative to develop the workforce for job placement and upskilling. She wants to understand if the training is online or is there human interaction, and any other details she and the board should be aware of.

Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt further stated to member Wallace's comments that it is important for the board to know that not just the narrative, but the content behind the information and numbers.

Chair Marquez answered Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt by explaining it was around the innovation project, the \$1,000,000 where the LACWDB Innovation Fund Working Group will approve those dollars. He stated that the board did not have the structure to be able to receive proposals, approve them, and distribute the funds. He continued that the board would address the Innovation Fund workgroup as well as the Committee Building workgroup to have a structure in place to assist the board's financials and steer the funds to drive programs. He stated there is a process so the board we can start to look at different programs and distribute the funding.

LACWDB Executive Director Kochen answered yes and noted that is how the board and department are strategically using those training dollars to align the sector-based approach and utilizing the COE to best train individuals into jobs associated with those sectors, ensuring the training must match the expected outcome.

Director LoBianco added that the department can review the Innovation Fund further to breakdown individual training accounts, sector-based training, cohort-based training, and

employer-based training because the ability to spend varies on the training model. Individual training accounts and individual vouchers through the AJCCs will not achieve the full draw down as fast as at the cohort level and in partnerships. She continued stating that there is an analysis that can be done to illustrate that. She would like to join the next Innovation Fund workgroup meeting to discuss funding for High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She also explained that the department is excited about some of the work that was already launched with the apprenticeship training, however, the department will further collaborate about how to best distribute dollars for H RTPs across the region and ways to align the funding to build an infrastructure for disbursement for partnership development.

Member Ornelas questioned about programs and opportunities for community colleges with DEO.

Director LoBianco answered that there are opportunities and there have been partnerships on programs including Careers for a Cause, the Assessors Training program, however, those opportunities have been specific, and program based. The department would like to think more strategically about what training partnership with the community colleges looks like.

Chair Marquez asked if ARPA and the H RTP have the same requirements as WIOA funding,

Director LoBianco answered that they do not have the same requirements as WIOA funding, however, there are still requirements that must be met. Those funds that have differing requirements could include COVID response and other funding that may have slightly different requirements.

Chair Marquez commented that the board is building the Finance Committee and believes working with the Innovation Fund workgroup to develop an overall strategy for those funds to aligning the strategy would accomplish joint goals and values.

Chair Marquez asked for a motion to approve the LACWDB Budget for FY2024-25. After a motion from member Thompson and second from member Ornelas, member Wallace asked for a point of order to request a friendly amendment.

Member Wallace made a friendly amendment to the motion requesting that the board be presented with a full budget narrative that aligns the strategy, values, and goals for the fiscal year so that the board can have higher transparency across its fiscal management and investment decision making.

Member Thompson accepted the friendly amendment.

Chair Marquez asked for public comment and motion to move the item. No public comments were made.

It was moved by member Thompson and seconded by member Ornelas to approve the LA County WDB Budget for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year with an accepted friendly amendment by member Wallace.

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (9):** Lexi Adsit, Mary Hewitt, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace

**Abstain (2):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Stephen Cheung

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (7):** Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Darrel Saucedo, Delbert Whetter

### III. APPROVE FY 2023-24 LA COUNTY WORKFORCE PROGRAMS Q3 PAYMENT STATUS REPORT THROUGH MARCH 2024

**Presenter:** Cheren Kochen, Executive Director, Los Angeles County WDB, DEO

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, approval of 2023-24 L.A. County Workforce Programs Q3 Payment Status Report through March 2024

**Discussion:** Cheren Kochen presented on behalf of the department.

Executive Director Kochen reported that payments totaled approximately \$22 million, equating to about 47% of available funding. The department spent in one stop operations about \$17.76 million of a \$39.43 million, which reflects a remaining balance of \$21.67 million.

She also reported that there are smaller balances across other line items including a little over \$1,000,000 in business services. There is a slight balance of \$280,000 in internal operations, and administration is just a little over \$1 million. Overall, expenditures are slightly lower than the expenditures of the same period in the prior year however, still close in spending proximity to what the board has allocated historically. She also reminded the board that there had been lower expenditures in the one stop operations category for the reasons specified in the budget discussion. Expenditures are also slightly lower than the expenditures of the same period in the prior year.

Last, Executive Director Kochen closed her presentation stating that staff is anticipating approximately \$14 million in additional expenditures through the close out period leaving \$10 million for carryover. She then turned the discussion to the board for questions and

comments.

Chair Marquez asked a question relating to the transition and modernization efforts stating that it appears that the new operators/awardees of the AJCCs will not be taking on the agencies until October but that the transition was supposed to occur on July 1.

Executive Director Kochen responded that is correct and that more information can be heard during the Informational Items of the board's agenda. The contracts for the sole source agreements for the current AJCC service providers are six months, the first three months is for active services in July through September and for essentially ramped down cost and services from October through December. She continued to explain that there will be a slight overlap with the new system, and that is to ensure there is a smooth transition with no gap in services once the new system is in place.

Chair Marquez asked that at times when new programs get delayed, that can cause challenges for the new organizations coming in, especially as they're planning for head count and planning for their operations. He asked if the department witnessed that yet.

Executive Director Kochen answered that staff did experience some impacts, primarily in the period from January because of the status of the procurement when the protest period was still commencing, so staff could only extend the contracts for three months at a time, which causes small disruptions to the system. However, she continued that there are now allocations securely out for this upcoming year, coupled with the fact that staff built in overlap so that there is a smooth transition to assist AJCCs to recruit staff by the new operator, there have been less disruptions recently as compared to earlier in the year.

Chair Marquez asked if there were any impacts on performance.

Executive Director Kochen responded that there were slight impacts on performance because there were lower expenditures for training. However, the system did well with enrollments. She also stated that service could increase because the process is complete, and staff does not anticipate having those same issues for this upcoming fiscal year.

Member Adist made a comment that she noticed that percentages that are allowed to be used for certain criteria, or up to a certain percentage must be used for specific allocations. She asked who sets those standards.

Executive Director Kochen answered that some are set by the United States Department of Labor (DOL), and some are set by the state. So, the percentages that can be used toward administration is set by the federal government and the percentages that that are set around training dollars are set by the state where the LACWDB required to set aside 30% of WIOA allocation for training activities and the 20% set aside for WIOA youth funds

for work experience is a federal requirement.

Chair Marquez asked for public comment and for a motion on the item. No public comments were made.

It was moved by Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt and seconded by member Thompson to approve the FY 2023-24 LA County Workforce Programs Q3 Payment Status Report.

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (11):** Lexi Adsit, Alex-Handrah Aime, Stephen Cheung, Mary Hewitt, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (7):** Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Darrel Saucedo, Delbert Whetter

#### **IV. APPROVE FY 2023-24 LA COUNTY WORKFORCE SYSTEM Q3 PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024**

LACWDB Executive Director Kochen reported on behalf of the department.

She started the report by explaining that the number of enrollments as well as the number of overall participants served through the third quarter of the fiscal year is on a similar trend to what was done last fiscal year though there is just a slight increase in the total number of new enrollments up about by 9%.

Overall, participants served is up by 11% and she explained that the difference is the new enrollments are those that are newly enrolled, whereas total served as inclusive of those that were enrolled in prior program years but remain active in service. This year enrollment about a little over 13,000 and a little over 22,000 individuals were served.

She noted that the board may notice a trend that is typical with newer enrollments where there is a surge at the beginning of the program year. Enrollment increases happened in the summer months, especially around youth programs where there are opportunities for youth to enter the programs with work experience opportunities while they are out of school. Also, typically there is a push because new infusions of funding where operators are able to have clients served right away at the beginning of the fiscal year; and then the trend will dip down middle of the year. Later in the year as the summer approaches, the activities start ramping up again. Therefore, most enrollments are from the youth program, which is 73% of enrollments for the quarter.

Executive Director Kochen continued that with trainings, approximately 2700 were trained and about 67% of those were from WIOA programs. She also explained that the majority

were trained through private training providers, which is a trend that staff is actively attempting to reverse because there is value in working with community colleges and adult schools. She stated that the programming offered by community colleges leads to better outcomes for participants leading to jobs or continued post-secondary education.

Member Ornelas commented that for profit educational institutions charge students thousands of dollars, but community colleges offer those services often for free. She continued that she is willing to facilitate a transition of services to the community colleges.

DEO Director LoBianco said that it makes sense to work with the community colleges commenting that she believes traditionally private training providers have been in demand because it fast and easy to get on the Training Provider List (TPL).

Director LoBianco continued that there is a lot of a dialogue approaching WIOA Reauthorization and that Cal Matters has reviewed the Reauthorization and DEO has had a dialogue with them. She said there is intention to engage with training providers who are delivering curriculum that is industry vetted and informed, that it is connected to wrap around supportive services including targeted outreach and engagement to communities, that those engagements yield the best outcomes. She states that the department goal is to drive WIOA investments as well as other county investments in workforce development towards trainings that yield the highest impact and looks forward to a conversation to leverage no cost tuition and align targeted outreach and supportive services.

Chair Marquez commented that he would focus on work-based learning. He continued that he has a lot of investment in apprenticeships as a member of the Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship Board, as well as being the founder of the Southern California Apprenticeship Network. He believes work-based learning gets people in immediate jobs at the same time and when partnered with community colleges and work-based learning and apprenticeships, agencies can braid other funding immediately.

Chair Marquez continued that there is statewide supplemental instruction funding that will pay for students to go to school for free where they receive a certification or credential that is portable. However, there is a challenge if someone is trained and they do not have a certificate to speak for it; they received the experience, but they have nothing to put on a resume which makes it more difficult for upward mobility. However, if a client has a certificate or credential, it enables an individual to grow in their career because it validates their skill set, especially in growing sectors like healthcare, technology, and others. He also stated that there are more skills-based learning now and work-based learning; he would like to continue as a board to work more closely with community colleges and to align work-based learning programs, especially with their sector led strategies that DEO is implementing. He stated that if you bring employers that explain what their needs are

for high demand jobs, then education can train to those skill sets, and then the funds are braided with funding through the workforce board system and other trainings that bring wrap around support services create direct career pathways that provide significant outcomes.

LACWDB Executive Director Kochen commented that soon, it is possible there will be some successes around H RTP efforts that are currently funded under ARPA that are great models for WIOA training. She said staff will be happy to share more information at upcoming board meetings, however, she did want to highlight that the LACWDB has some H RTPs already flourishing including the Preparing Los Angeles County for Employment (PLACE) Program which is assisting getting individuals into county jobs and was expanded in in this program year. She continued stating that it is a great model to follow and there have been several cohorts under that program. The 4th cohort, there are 81 enrollments, 68 have already graduated, and 60 were hired.

Director LoBianco commented that one of the department's 7 modernization strategies within the new system is the focus on training and sector-based training; that the Department is in a process of refocusing and prioritizing. She continued that it is important to review the data and see what is working and not working and make sure staff focus our new efforts moving into the fall.

Member Wallace responded that he sees the purpose is to develop, sustain, and scale partnerships between the postsecondary system and the services that DEO and the board provide. When the board reviews the data, 20% of the clients being enrolled are receiving training. He reiterated Chair Marquez's comments that the systems should be able to ensure that individuals are equipped with skills to be competitive in the labor market, especially in the emerging and high growth sectors where there is tremendous opportunity that the board needs to lead on as the second largest workforce development system in the nation. He continued his comments by stating when thinking about the population of LA County, and the millions of dollars flowing through the system, and the results that are being seen with the modernization process, the board should be recalibrating and streamlining its process. He continued that is just as important to ensure that individuals know how to operationalize this vision. He wants to better understand how the LACWDB is supporting Director LoBianco's vision and the team's leadership around how the system operates in the field, and how the resources can be used not to just serve more, but just serve with depth. He reiterated Doctor Ornela's point as that the board and staff need to leverage existing resources and partnerships to refute the false value narrative of private training.

Member Wallace asked that in preparing the board reports, how is the board and staff reinforcing strategic priorities, claiming there is a disconnect.

He continued his comments that the board is buried in paper but there are dashboards created and urged staff and the board to continue to review how to modernize board communication, to continue to educate the board and enhance board development to allow them to pinpoint issues and be able to advance policy. He completed his comments by stating that capacity building is going to be critical to actualize the modernization principles that the board set.

Director LoBianco thanked member Wallace for his comments and wanted to highlight the economic mobility initiative the department is partnering with member Cheung and the LAEDC as well as the Center for Nonprofit Management where together they are about to launch a recruitment for nonprofits and existing social enterprises to engage in capacity building operations. The goal is to optimize and grow existing social enterprises. She continued that it is part of the small business initiative support for nonprofits that might be workforce providers as well.

Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt said that about three meetings ago, the board discussed the initiation and vetting process for public relations and marketing to foster awareness about the AJCCs and their opportunities, she asked for an update on that request.

LACWDB Executive Director Kochen answered that yes, the branding and a marketing toolkit is actively being worked on to make sure that it is place for the new AJCC system. Changes will reflect the board and the department and so that it is easily recognized with a full marketing and communications toolkit. The toolkit hopes to be unveiled coming months for the summer youth efforts. It will be ready for October as the new system is unveiled.

Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt then asked if the toolkit is for the AJCC staff, the board, and if there was discussion surrounding social media. Trying to reach different populations and communities can be challenging, including getting access to community centers, social media, conversations with community leaders. She asked if any direct communication strategy is in development.

Executive Director Kochen responded that through upcoming redesign of the programs, staff will review how they can better reach youth, taking a human centered design approach focusing on what are the best ways to grab the attention of opportunity youth and get them interested and engaged in the department's programs. In addition, the department is doing a targeted effort for the 5th supervisorial district and that will be unveiled soon, and they are working very closely with the 5th district staff/deputy on that initiative. She continued that it is not enough to do just send email flyers, and while there is some value in traditional community outreach, utilizing community ambassadors and having full strength outreach teams that are embedded in the community is another tactic the department wants to use in advertising the program. She continued that it would end

up being another great model for the department to deploy across the entire county.

Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt then asked if a youth council was going to be formed to assist in getting the word out.

Ms. Kochen responded that there will be focus groups to ensure their voice and input are heard.

Chair Marquez also stated that in discussions relating to the Committee Building Working Group, he recommends a youth committee, so there would be three committees, the Finance and Funding Committee, the Business Outreach Committee and then the Youth Committee.

Director LoBianco also stated that DEO has been working closely and will continue to work closely with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that goal setting and the establishment of inter departmental infrastructure does not produce a process where they are just referring people back and forth, but that it is supported for faster youth who are interested in work based learning experiences and receive the services from DEO. She continued that the strategy is the focus for the Board of Supervisors as well, and that there have already been conversations with DCFS Director Bobby Nichols to ensure there is a real commitment with the COEs. Also, she said that the department is going to create space with Chair Marquez and DEO to review the infrastructure of what the COE will look for priority populations and high growth sectors. She is looking forward to working with the committees so they can really help DEO ideate what the COE should look like in operation and how goals are set, and to determine if it is meaningful for the community.

Director LoBianco also stated that the County has several different commissions that already exist including the County Youth Commission and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) with David Carroll as Director and is a great partner. DYD will be launching youth centers throughout the county that are open 24/7 for youth to come and receive services, so DEO is going to ensure that the COEs work with the proposed LACWDB youth committee are connected to the DYD efforts.

Member Cheung also discussed the community colleges from a perspective of timing. He said the community colleges within the LA region will be hosting their CEO retreat soon stating it would be a positive for the department to connect with the colleges as they are planning their agenda. Adding the LACWDB to their agenda could produce synergy and increased opportunities for partnership.

Vice Chair Hutchins-Nunez also stated she wanted to review looking at the dual enrollment processes ensuring that the board can really work with community colleges and the schools to engage so that transition process is smooth and seamless for

participants.

Member Ornelas asked questions relating to demographics. She asked why the numbers for the Northeast San Fernando Valley are low.

Executive Director Kochen responded that the San Fernando AJCC is co funded with the City of Los Angeles (LA). LA covers the cost for the City of San Fernando on behalf of DEO but there are some small pockets of areas that are county-unincorporated under the jurisdiction of the County.

Member Ornelas acknowledged that there is a larger number that is served at the San Fernando AJCC outside what the County provides.

Member Ornelas then stated there was difficulty reconciling the race and ethnicity statistics as the numbers did not appear to add correctly.

Executive Director Kochen responded that the data is structured and pulled from the CalJOBS system. It is aligned with how the US Census counts those categories, which can be problematic, but it is how the system itself is structured. As an example, she stated when a user sees the system, White, African American, Asian, Multi-Race Native American, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. The system is modeled after the US Census. There are changes coming to the US Census, and they should be capturing some of the racial demographics differently. Therefore, the system should be following those changes. She also noted that it is a state-run system, and the state must make those technical changes.

Member Ornelas also asked that since the department has reported approximately 113,000 thousand Latino participants, does that mean approximately half of the participants are Latinos.

Executive Director Kochen responded in the affirmative and even if the information appears hidden, when you look at the percentages where it appears there are 43.3% white, the majority of that of those percentages, particularly with white and multiracial and American Indian, are of Latino ethnicity. She finished her response by saying staff could report that information differently to gather a full narrative.

She continued her report by discussing age ranges stating that the system is performing well serving youth from 14 all the way to 24 but is lagging for older adults. She made a point to highlight comments made earlier by DEO Director LoBianco's about various county departments and various commissions who share space with DEO at the Vermont headquarters including the Aging and Disabilities Commission. She also stated that DEO partners with the City of Los Angeles to take a deeper dive on how both entities are serving older adults.

Chair Marquez thanks staff for working with the City of Los Angeles. Executive Director Kochen stated that they are a great partner and make for a stronger relationship at the state.

Executive Director Kochen then presented on sexual orientation, gender identification and expression data (SOGIE) and explained that the system is fairly split between those that identify as female versus male. Traditionally, there are more females within the system, but it seems to have evened out in the last year. She acknowledged that there are still missing some data on populations where customers may express their gender differently and stated that the department is working to find a better way to capture that data appropriately so that staff and the board can make informed decisions on serving a wider swath of populations.

She then went to discuss the WIOA accountability measures. She highlighted that adult and dislocated worker programs were doing well through the third quarter and in all measures except for measurable skills' gains. She noted that the previous conversation that discussed working more with the community colleges may help produce positive results in that category as well as credential attainment, which is also showing lower attainment numbers. She acknowledged that both measurable skills gain, and credential attainment are connected statistics.

Executive Director Kochen then highlighted individual AJCC performances. She noted that the Pomona Valley AJCC, the Antelope Valley AJCC, and the Southeast LA AJCC are the highest performers. She wanted to highlight them noting that staff is hoping to model best practices from those high performers and then pair them with some of the lower performing AJCCs to assist in boosting the performance of those lower performing AJCCs.

Member Thompson asked a clarifying question in that by performance, is performance based on participants.

Executive Director Kochen answered yes, those struggling with participant enrollments are also struggling with other performance goals.

Member McIntyre asked how the AJCCs on the community colleges are performing.

Executive Director Kochen answered that there is only one AJCC that will be coming online soon at Mission College. Staff is excited about that partnership and while primarily city driven, the County has a heavy interest in that AJCC. She also noted that a partnership with Southwest College will have a positive impact on the Southwest AJCC which has struggled, she believes moving them to the college campus will make a significant difference. She also stated the more DEO and the LACWDB better partner with education, the more positive results should be reflected in those areas.

Member Thompson asked about the awareness of marketing levels relating to the underperforming AJCCs in terms of participants.

Executive Director Kochen noted from previous meetings where there were some concerns from the Rancho Dominguez AJCC and the provider issues that occurred there. That left the AJCC with catching up to do with their performance, but it has stabilized, and a new team has put in good work at the location so the numbers should see some growth in their performance to close out the year.

Director LoBianco added that in future meetings, staff will present a barometer with the goals. She believes that it is important to know what the goal post are because the board may be viewing the statistics and not aware that the AJCC goals were different or maybe their funding was different, which can all have an impact on performance.

Member Thompson commended DEO by acknowledging that the board has asked for information broken out by supervisorial district, and it was done and presented. He also highlighted the dashboard for high performance growth categories and the non/low growth categories. He continued that it was important to him because the next quarter is about to close, it will be the first time the impacts from the minimum wage increase taking affect April 1<sup>st</sup> will be reported. He continued that the reason the board has been asking about strategy and alignment, and verticalization, is to determine what endpoints the board might begin to see. Will there be fluctuations in service level and what types of service. He continued that all have seen reports or know people that are getting laid off because employers now must pay them more due to the minimum wage increases and the employers are moving towards technology. He would like the board and staff to be aware and thinking about that dynamic in the next quarter.

Member Thompson continued that himself, Chair Marquez, member Wallace, and others have been talking from an industry alignment perspective, that entry level positions in hospitality, food, work, have been impacted by Artificial Intelligence (AI). He acknowledged that this is the board's first meeting since Sony Pictures announced they are using AI in their movies now, and so that was a week and a half ago. Also, Toys-R-Us, announced 2 days ago that they are starting to use AI for their commercials which used to be filmed in LA. He states that these issues are the tip of the spear, and the Board and DEO needs to start thinking about what is coming next.

Executive Director Kochen responded that staff always want to continuously improve not only the data the board has access to, but that it makes sense, to assist the board in making decisions, to provide a clearer picture to and work with the workforce development system to achieve those goals the board has set rather than playing catch up.

Executive Director Kochen then presented on the Rapid Response Performance Data by stating that there were not many large impacts, although there were some impacted

businesses primarily in the health sector where Gilead Sciences and Kite Pharma had the largest layoffs during this quarter occurring primarily in the third supervisorial district. The rest of the county was mostly stable but at the next quarterly meeting, there will be discussion of the closure of the .99 Cent stores and there will be a full report on those activities.

Member Adsit said that she saw a note in the narrative that there was an issue around the way that grants were administered in this past year for the AJCCs. She was wondering if there were going to be changes to better enhance that experience for them or if it was going to remain the status quo.

Executive Director Kochen responded that staff had to split the contracts because it was during an active Request for Proposal (RFP) period but going forward with the new system should smooth the issues over. She added any procurement and transition period is disruptive by nature and due to the protests period, staff did have to adjust because that period just closed within the last few weeks. However, the department is looking forward to not having those uncertainties in the contracting timelines.

Chair Marquez acknowledged that a lot of people are impacted by the procurement, and it looks like negotiations are going to be further postponed, noting it maybe the next year before many of those people can go to work but maybe suffering in the interim. He asked what staff are is doing to assist knowing that there could be another six months or more before some people can go back to work.

Director LoBianco explained that the department has integrated some feedback already but wants to make it clear what the operational impacts are to performance and what that sort of an economic context is to performance. She wants to discuss how staff can modify some of the reporting. She also wants to have a conversation between the board and the work done in the entertainment sector noting that the LA County Film Office is located within DEO. Staff can circulate to the board how production occurs within the DEO setting because the department oversees the permitting process. The entertainment industry has not bounced back even though everyone knew the strikes were coming and so there were lags in the industry's rebound with uncertainty as reported by the Los Angeles Times. However, there some positives from a department perspective as DEO did assist with funding for over 300 small businesses with about \$4 million for prop houses, florists, dry cleaners, etc.

Chair Marquez asked for public comment and there was one public comment that was a question. The question was if there is a plan for students currently on an AJCC case load wait list to roll over any new providers? Is there a plan to avoid interruption in services or disengagement?

Executive Director Kochen stated yes, there is a plan but there is no wait list, and anybody

can come in and be served by the current system. However, the plan is for a smooth transition and handoff from the current system to the new system come October. There will be some overlap to assist a smooth transition including the hand off caseloads. In that three-month transition period, the current system or the older system will be taking an active role in those activities around ramping down their piece and then ramping up of the new system. With those transitions of client caseloads there should not be any waitlist and they can be served at any time through our centers.

Chair Marquez asked for public comment. No public comments were made.

**It was moved by member McIntyre and seconded from Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt to approve the FY 2023-24 LA County Workforce System Q3 Performance Reports through March 31, 2024**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (11):** Lexi Adsit, Alex-Handrah Aime, Stephen Cheung, Mary Hewitt, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (7):** Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Darrel Saucedo, Delbert Whetter

## F. INFORMATION ITEMS

### I. AMERICA'S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA (AJCC) MODERNIZATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) UPDATE

**Presenter: Cheren Kochen, Executive Director, LACWDB**

**Summary:** This item presents information the most recent updates on the AJCC Modernization RFP.

LACWDB Executive Director Cheren Kochen reported that there was approval from the Board of Supervisors to extend the current sub awards to the current operators to continue operations from July through September and ramp down October through December with the new system online October 1<sup>st</sup>. The reason for the approval was that protest from the procurement process have been resolved for two of the AJCCs and they must go back to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

### II. LACWDB COMMITTEE BUILDING AND INNOVATION FUND WORKGROUP UPDATE

**Presenter: Cheren Kochen, Executive Director, LACWDB**

**Summary:** This item presents for information on the LACWDB Committee Building and Innovation Fund Workgroups

Executive Director Kochen presented on behalf of the LACWDB. Staff has been actively meeting with a group of the board members here who had volunteered to serve on the ad hoc work groups around the standing up of the committee as well as the Innovation Fund workgroup. There have been a couple of sessions already and staff heard from those members. She thanked the members who were actively participating around how to define the subcommittees' structure, membership, including outside membership from the LACWDB and what those qualifications should be.

Chair Marquez commented that there are three committees that he mentioned earlier that are priority committees including the Funding and Finance Committee, the second being the Business Engagement Committee, and the third committee being the Youth Committee. He also stated that there is a recommendation to dissolve the Career Pathways Committee.

He also made recommendations on who should Chair the committees including member Saucedo to Chair the Business Engagement Committee, member Aime to Chair the Funding and Finance Committee, and member Wallace to Chair the newly discussed Youth Committee.

Member Wallace shared his vision for the proposed Youth Committee by stating that there are nearly 150,000 opportunity youth across LA County and that number has grown 25% over the last three to four years and the committees focus will be WIOA funding on disconnected youth directly. He wants to ensure that the board and committee partner with the LACWDB staff and DEO to have a committee that is comprised of young people themselves that represent the various target populations from the LGBTQ population, previously incarcerated young people, men of color, and transition age youth to directly assist with tasks like distributing and creating outreach materials, program design, as well as partner with cross sectors including industry philanthropy. He hopes to have other representation like the community colleges on the committee to serve that population.

Chair Marquez then asked Executive Director Kochen for an update on vacancies on the board.

Executive Director Kochen responded that there are two additional vacancies on the board and that staff is working with the Board of Supervisors to fill those vacancies but welcomed recommendations from current board members to fill them. She also explained to the board that she can share the statement of qualifications, so members are aware of the qualifications and criteria.

Director LoBianco also commented that there should be process and guidance about

selection ensuring transparency.

### **III. SAVE-THE-DATE: UPCOMING LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETINGS, CONFERENCES/EVENTS**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, September 27th, 2024**

**Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: DEO Headquarters; 510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, 90020**

**Terrace Level Conference Room**

**Hybrid Virtual & In-Person**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: TBD**

**Hybrid Virtual & In-Person**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, March 14, 2025**

**Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: TBD**

**Hybrid Virtual & In-Person**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, June 13, 2025**

**Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: TBD**

**Hybrid Virtual & In-Person**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, September 14, 2025**

**Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: TBD**

**Hybrid Virtual & In-Person**

#### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday, December 12, 2025**

**Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Location: TBD**

## Hybrid Virtual & In-Person

### CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

**California Workforce Association (CWA)**

**Meeting of the Minds**

**September 3-5, 2024**

**Location: Monterey Marriott, Monterey, CA**

### G. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one comment submitted asking if a list of awardees from the AJCC procurement will be listed.

Director LoBianco answered once the Board of Supervisors has announced the award's, the department can share that announcement. She continued that the department does have a modernization RFP page on the DEO website that has resources. Staff can put the most recent board letter on the page because that will indicate to the public that DEO have delegated authority to enter contracts with the proposed providers.

### H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marquez closed the June 28, 2024, meeting of the LACWDB at 12:11 pm.