



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### DRAFT MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 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) December 13, 2024, meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

### ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with **12 board members** in-person attendance during roll call.

**Present: 13 (12 in-person and 1 virtual):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung (Virtual), Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Jorge Marquez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

Virtual presence of Member Cheung was approved due to just cause in accordance with AB 2449.

**Absent: 6** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

**Land Acknowledgement was read by LACWDB staff:** 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:

- Fernandño 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 \(Click Here\)](#)

***Conflict of Interest was read by LACWDB staff:***

Members shall abide by conflict-of-interest requirements outlined in WIOA Section 107(h) which states a member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not-

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i. vote on a matter under consideration by the local board--

ii. regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents); or

iii. that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Marquez opened his statement by welcoming everyone to the December quarterly meeting of the LACWDB. He stated that the first meeting of the Business Engagement Committee occurred and thanked former LACWDB chair, member Saucedo, for leading that effort with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) team. The committee met at DEO Headquarters, and he thanked all for making the drive to participate.

Member Saucedo shared the results of the Business Engagement meeting and mentioned that the committees outside experts were appointed; Dr. Michelle Yanez and Larry Taylor. Member Saucedo finished his statement by saying he is honored to be selected to be the chair of the Business Engagement Committee and hopes to do a great job.

Chair Marquez thanked member Saucedo for his service. In addition, he appreciated the diligence of the Innovation Fund Working Group for the development of the Innovation Fund, as well as DEO for coming together to work through a strong solution, find

innovative ways to place talent into high growth sectors, and create opportunities for people that offer sustainable wages with upward mobility and long-term sustainability. He congratulated Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt and Member McIntyre who were reappointed to the board and stated that he was reappointed as well by Supervisor Barger. He is looking forward to furthering the goals of the board. He thanked and welcomed Toni Newman to the LACWDB as appointed by Supervisor Horvath for the third district.

Chair Marquez stated he is looking forward to working with DEO on a variety of items, such as the incorporation of the modernization efforts, updates to the local and regional plans, and the establishment of the Youth Working Group. He would like to incorporate board growth opportunities, such as the annual Washington D.C. trip with the National Association Workforce Boards (NAWB) taking place in late March of 2025.

Member Aimé motioned to add an item to the agenda on strengthening the board, requesting that they receive an update on the currently proposed new members. She also set up goals for additional members for 2025, and for DEO to provide an update on these efforts and explain the process of how the LACWDB team will move board recommendations further.

Lawrence Green, County Counsel, stated that the item could not be a motion as it is not an action item yet. However, since Member Aimé was only requesting information relating to board operations, the board did not need to make a motion for that action.

Chair Marquez asked if they could add member Aimé's request as an Item for today's agenda.

County Counsel responded that it would have to be on the next agenda.

Chair Marquez asked if it can be added as a discussion item.

County Counsel responded it can be added as an informational discussion item.

## **A. ACTION ITEMS**

### **I. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 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 September 27, 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 McIntyre and seconded by member Thompson to**

approve the minutes of the of the September 27, 2024, LACWDB's board meeting.

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

## LACWDB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMTS

DEO Chief Deputy Jessica Kim presented on behalf of the executive director. She congratulated Chair Marquez on his new position as Chief Impact Officer at Goodwill Southern California.

Chair Marquez was thankful and shared that he wishes to ensure a level of trust and credibility which includes maintaining independence and will recuse himself from any discussion pertaining to Goodwill.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim reminded the board that the Chair does not vote. She also shared that DEO has hired on a departmental finance manager, Narine Grigoryan, who joined the department at the day of the board meeting.

## II. APPROVE FY 2024-2025 L.A. COUNTY WORKFORCE SYSTEM REVISED BUDGET

**Presenter:** Jessica Kim, Chief Deputy, DEO

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the FY 2024-25 L.A. County Workforce System Revised Budget.

**Discussion:** DEO Chief Deputy Jessica Kim gave the presentation on behalf of DEO.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim stated that the revised budget report presented is an update to the board approved FY 2024/2025 budget. Projections are based on past funds received in the departments' final allocations. She explained the unspent funds for the last fiscal year were absorbed into the department's budgets under WIOA Adult and Dislocated Workers (DW). In addition, the Rapid Response and WIOA budgets were not far from projections made when the board adopted the original budget and therefore there were no changes.

Member Aime asked if Chief Deputy Jessica Kim could walk through the changes from the last fiscal year to this year and if there are other material changes that she wanted to flag.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there was an increase of about \$3.3 million from the America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs) Operations. In terms of their training dollars there is an increase of \$396,000. There is a net reduction for Rapid Response at about half a million, \$593,000, that came to the AJCCs because there was a reduction in funding at the State level.

Member Aime asked how much can be attributed to carry over from the previous fiscal year and what accounted for the changes.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there was no carry over and that the state will give DEO the final allocation of funding. DEO will then do a projection looking forward and set a budget based on past fund as the State releases its' final allocation to the region.

Member Aime asked if less money was allocated on business services of about \$600,000.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that it was correct.

Member Aime commented that there are two major changes that she sees. The first is an increase on the AJCC budget, which is almost 10% higher. She stated that it would be helpful to show percentages because absolute numbers alone are difficult to understand. She asked for clarification if there is a \$3.3 million incremental allocation to the AJCC one stop operations. She then asked why the state allocated approximately 10% more in their allocation.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there is a state funding formula for how funds are allocated from the United States Department of Labor (DOL). It is based on a percentage allocated to each of the workforce development areas in California, based on unemployment rates.

Member Aime questioned how the DOL allocations compare to the previous year. She also asked if DEO has a sense of those trends.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there is less of an allocation in Rapid Response. She explained there are additional funds the region can apply for should there be an increase in layoffs. In terms of training, they are receiving additional funds for the region to be served. They typically see a decrease as a region versus an increase, so there is a larger budget-based allocation this year than in the previous year.

Member Aime asked if going forward, the board can see a three- or five-year trendline to better understand how these changes are evolving. She also asked what is behind the trends, if it is a positive or negative trend, and whether the AJCCs are receiving more

money if they are serving more individuals who are unemployed. She asked if that was fair from an equity perspective.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded in comparison to other regions, when another region does have a higher unemployment rate, more funding is allocated to that region. She confirmed that the funding is directly reflected for a region as a portion of a total amount shared across the State.

Member Aime is interested in how this money is also ultimately allocated at a supervisory district level and how that corresponds to unemployment statistics. She requested a three-to-five-year trendline and if the board can receive percentages of allocations distributed by supervisory district level.

Chair Marquez and member Saucedo added that they would like to understand the state funding program formula, particularly with possible funding changes to WIOA and how that would work with the AJCCs.

Member Wallace also highlighted that at the last board meeting he requested a more strategic overview of the budget. He pointed that the board must remain disciplined and focused on discussions related to important matters. Further, he suggested that a strategic plan review take place at the next regular board meeting. Member Aime agreed with his statement.

Chair Marquez shared that the board is currently developing the strategic plan and believes that the Funding and Finance Committee should review how the funding is integrated into the Strategic Plan.

Member Cheung added that the LAEDC has a lot of data that can help give context, and they are willing to share it with DEO. He stated that in February, the LAEDC will be doing their annual economic forecast which will provide analyses of the projected unemployment rate.

Member Thompson shared that he feels this discussion is a repeat from previous meetings adding that the committee should meet before the board meeting to have some questions answered and ready for the board.

**It was moved by member Thompson and seconded by member Aime to approve FY 2024-2025 L.A. County Workforce System Revised Budget**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (11):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (1):** Stephen Cheung

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

### **III. APPROVE FY 2024-2025 L.A. COUNTY WORKFORCE PROGRAMS Q1 WIOA PAYMENT STATUS REPORT – JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**Presenter:** Jessica Kim, Chief Deputy, DEO

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the FY 2024-25 L.A. County Workforce Programs Q1 Payment Status Report through September 30, 2024

**Discussion:** DEO Chief Deputy Jessica Kim presented on behalf of DEO. She began her presentation with a summary of payments and commitments made against the adopted budget. The board had allocated the same amount this current first quarter as was spent the previous year's first quarter adding that DEO typically see fewer expenditures come through the first quarter. There was also a larger base budget this fiscal year due to carryover from the previous fiscal year. DEO anticipates that in the second quarter there will be an increase in expenditures. She continued that in the current year funding, about 13% of current allocations were spent when viewed across WIOA Adult and DW. She highlighted why some allocations are low, stating that a few centers have not submitted their final invoices for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The AJCCs have also indicated that some of the worksite commitments had a shorter than average length for the participant work experience. Also, some of the training dollars were reduced. She highlighted that L.A. Mission College opened their job center co-funded by the City and County of Los Angeles. This includes new outreach and new engagement being co-located at Mission College. However, the transition also led to a temporary decrease in training activities. Chief Deputy Jessica Kim hopes to see expenditures increase as the center begins operation.

Member Wallace asked if DEO could explain if there is a difference between one stop AJCCs and their Centers of Excellence (COE). Chief Deputy Jessica Kim answered that they are somewhat interchangeable. AJCCs historically were called one stop centers, and in the City of Los Angeles (L.A.) they are referenced as WorkSource Centers, though the City of L.A. said that they are considering taking on AJCCs as a name for their centers, noting they are interchangeable. She explained the COE is a strategy under the County AJCCs. It is the function by which they are dedicating resources to increase how they better serve individuals with barriers to employment and their priority populations as well

as priority sectors. There will be new performance measures, new tools, new training, and capacity building opportunities that will be a part of the COEs.

Member Wallace asked if the COEs are funded through the County's specific resources and layered on top of WIOA resources that fund the core operations of AJCCs.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that it is a part of the core of the AJCCs and said that DEO made a request and secured an additional 1.2 million dollars in funding to support the launch of the COEs. DEO will present more information as the onboarding takes place.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim announced that the new departmental finance manager will lead efforts in improved financial reporting to the board. She thanked all for the patience support and added that it is great that DEO is building internal capacity.

Member Garcia pointed to the 27% or 25% underspending on LACWDB's report, questioning if that is a cause of concern, or is its normal operations for the first quarter.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that it is normal operations. She does anticipate that they will hit 100% of the spending. She also reminded the board has jurisdiction to move funds around to ensure they are spending and exhausting all the training funds.

Member Wallace commented that he would like to see an overhaul of the board member orientation and increase professional development of the board.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim shared that DEO hired a new Assistant Director of the Workforce Development Branch that will be joining them at their next meeting.

Chair Marquez continued member Wallace's comments relating to continuing professional development and education. Marquez would like to recommend that they all get access to the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and California Workforce Association (CWA) trainings mentioning that they could be beneficial for board members.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that possible trainings can be forwarded.

Chair Marquez announced that there were public comments on the item.

Kimberly Harvey - Good afternoon, I am interested in speaking with an official government representative to discuss some concerns about the policy and navigation system coupled with how I can move forward in a more efficient manner to ensure success in my career and business development. For example, I signed up, completed the training, reached out to several city/county entities and still I'm not sure how to proceed. I'm interested in partnership and collaboration with the WorkSource Development and becoming a community leader in projects that help strengthen our communities.

Second public comment was from Patrick Boxall representing KRA corporation – Patrick would like to introduce KRA corporation as AJCC operator for Rancho Dominguez sub region.

Chair Marquez asked if there are any further comments. There were no other comments and asked if they had a motion to approve.

**It was moved by member Wallace and seconded by member Arida to approve the FY 2024-2025 L.A. County Workforce Programs Q1 WIOA Payment Status Report for July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

#### **IV. APPROVE FY 2024-2025 L.A. COUNTY WORKFORCE PROGRAMS Q1 WIOA PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**Presenter:** Jessica Kim, Chief Deputy LACWDB

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the FY 2024-25 L.A. County Workforce Programs Quarter 1 (Q1) Performance Report through September 30, 2024.

Chair Marquez introduced for approval the FY 2024-2025 L.A. County workforce programs Q1 WIOA performance report through September 30, 2024.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim indicated an increase in the number of WIOA participants served during this year's first quarter compared to the first quarter of the last fiscal year. The concern relating to youth numbers is being addressed through marketing strategies and outreach investments to increase the number of youth being served. Another undertaking is a Youth@Work evaluation and a re-design of the Youth@Work program. She explained the Youth@Work team is onboarding a consultant who will be leading their efforts where they will be soliciting the input of LACWDB, as well as of the community, youth, employer, and providers, while reviewing best practices. The board will receive email invitations from the LACWDB staff relating to DEO community engagement events, such as resource fairs, recruitments, and forums, that they may be interested in attending or to be aware of. She added that board members are welcome to forward events and engagement information. She said that Y@W is an over 30-million-dollar investment by the County braided into WIOA funding to maximize opportunities for youth. DEO staff will also review activities at the federal level, specific to WIOA youth funding.

DEO Director LoBianco added that they are at the stage of identifying a consultant partner for the re-design process. There are two items to account for; first that it is a great opportunity for the LACWDB to think about how DEO connects their youth programming, major events and funding in the region with major events and projects including L.A. 2028 that could connect well to youth employment as well as the County's Parks and Recreation Department.

Chair Marquez recommended that the board work collaboratively as a region with City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and the Los Angeles City Mayor's office in preparation for L.A. 2028.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim agreed with Chair Marquez and stated that it is a topic that can be discussed in the Youth Working Group.

Member Wallace added that specifically with Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot (LAP3) will generate workforce outcomes. He stated that LAP3 did a great job of merging the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with the YouthSource centers at the city.

Chair Marquez added he would like to place emphasis on foster youth skills building at the COE in the Antelope Valley.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim added that foster youth are important for DEO to serve. She stated the department is going to build skillsets and train across job centers. The vision is that the COEs individually will specialize in one priority population and industry sector, sharing information and best practices to the other AJCCs resulting in increased capacities systemwide.

Director Kelly LoBianco shared that DEO is doing a targeted push for community partners in the Antelope Valley to increase their Youth@Work numbers. DEO will send out a notice to over two hundred community organizations in the Antelope Valley. She says that DEO will welcome the partnership with the board to build those connections. She mentioned there will be an event in the Antelope Valley to highlight the investments.

Member Cheung alerted the board to be mindful of the participants that could be impacted by new federal policies from the new federal administration, as they may affect priority populations. He lauded DEO for its efforts in increasing partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) noting it is important to build trust in the immigrant community. He believes that individuals will not want to register with governmental programs this year, stressing that foundations and private philanthropies will play a key role as additional resources will be necessary.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim shared that there is a decrease with DW and youth training enrollments, attributing those numbers to a couple of factors. First, there is a one stop operator in transition, which could be impacting services. Also, DEO prioritized spending

for American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funded trainings for on-the-job training and paid work experience for youth. DEO spent down funds during the current quarter that went from July to September, issuing contracts effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. DW training enrollments have been historically low for AJCCs. She explained that the Rapid Response team responds to businesses that are laying off workers when the department receives Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) notices to assist impacted workers. In addition, the centers have increased their regional engagement and did see an increase in services. There was also staffing turnover in some of the centers that may have impacted numbers. She explained that DEO understood that most ARPA funds have come to an end and anticipates they will see an increase in the training spending.

Member Aime asked why the number of trained participants in youth programs increased while the number of trained participants in DW programs has decreased.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim stated she will relay the information to the Youth@Work Team.

Member Aime asked how the modernization efforts impacted the lower numbers.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there was an increase in the number of individuals being served, but there was a decrease in the number of individuals being trained. She explained that DEO is leveraging ARPA training dollars because there is an increase of numbers of individuals served, but a decrease in training because it is not WIOA, but ARPA funded training. Member Aime underscored that she wanted greater clarity with the youth numbers, asking for a deeper dive on serving youth populations, including youth served, trained, and how the funding mechanisms work. She also asked how DEO approaches youth populations.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim said that it would be appropriate for the new youth workgroup to review and offer insights. She explained that although youth achieve their educational goals, measurable skills gains are below target because there is a misalignment between youth credential attainment and reporting by the AJCCs in CalJOBS. DEO is engaging with the AJCCs to address that issue. She anticipates that the board should see higher marks on measurable skills gains in the next report.

Member Wallace noted measurable skills gains and credential attainments aligned with the high-growth sectors. He is interested seeing if after credentials are attained, if those skills aligned with the skills in demand by employers. He would also like to discuss in the Youth Working Group how to further leverage the community college system.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim then explained that in terms of youth 18 to 24, there is a higher number of individuals being served when compared to the other priority populations such as justice involved individuals or individuals experience homelessness. As the COEs come online and begin to serve clients, the hope is to see an increase in the number of individuals from their priority population served. She explained that the numbers being

reported with the demographics, including race and ethnicity, are from the state system.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim explained that in Rapid Response summary, DEO has received more WARN notices and continues to outreach with those businesses and meet with the workers to ensure they have the resources available. DEO also collaborates with labor partners when WARN notices are received.

Member Aime thanked Chief Deputy Jessica Kim and asked the difference between the “reentry” category, a term used in 2023-2024, and “system impacted”, now used in 2024-2025.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that system-impacted is the preferred, alternative term over reentry by DEO and LA County. DEO continues to invest in other programs, including the Fair Chance Hiring Campaign, to assist system impacted individuals.

Program Manager Isidro Villanueva added that with Fair Chance, individuals self-identifying as system-impacted may increase. He explained that using this broader terminology (which recognizes that people can be impacted by the justice system in different ways) may hopefully allow for more people to be open to identifying themselves in that category.

Member Aime asked if at the federal or state level, DEO will continue to be able to use these demographic categories to track data. She noticed that a significant percentage of the population being served did not choose to answer the question around race noting 48% of the population did not answer the question.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim stated that they will continue asking the question at the AJCCs, but they cannot require an answer to receive access to the services. She stated that the AJCCs are strategically positioned where they are to meet the highest needs. She noted it is important that accessibility of services be measured. She also discussed the creation of a virtual AJCC that will create broader accessibility.

Chair Marquez asked if DEO has regional pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeship strategies.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded yes in that they have invested in apprenticeships as a part of their ARPA funding. DEO has partnered with multiple groups and the building trades for those apprenticeship.

Chair Marquez then asked how youth apprenticeships fit into the system.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim shared the only restrictions are that on some programs, the participant must be eighteen or older due to safety requirements.

Member Ornelas asked if there is a linkage with the community colleges and apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded yes; the community colleges have a partnership initiative called the California Apprenticeship Initiative. She noted leaders like West LA College have a thriving apprenticeship pathway and secure significant funding for their partner at East L.A. College and others. She explained that DEO recently had a conversation with the regional collaborative of community colleges to see how DEO can better align and support the apprenticeships that the community colleges are administering to leverage both resources and ensuring pathways into employment. She also noted that there are partnerships with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of L.A. Workforce Development Board.

Member Wallace added that as organization leaders, Leaders UP published an analysis of the youth apprenticeship programs in their alignment with their high growth sectors across L.A. County. They surveyed young adults across L.A. County on not just their awareness of but understanding of how apprenticeships can be a vehicle for economic empowerment. He would be happy to share the report with DEO.

Program Manager Isidro Villanueva stated that there are also ARPA funded programs including a focus on teacher assistant apprenticeship partnering with West LA College, Pierce College, and will be starting with College of the Canyons through the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Child Care Resource Center. DEO Executive Director LoBianco added there is a graduation that will primarily focus on foster youth. There will be a second graduation that will focus on digital story telling with youth, and it is a pre apprenticeship registered with Venice Arts and the Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Fund at Southwest College.

Chair Marquez asked if they could coordinate a training session on the dashboards between the current and the next board meeting for whoever wants to participate.

Chair Marquez asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

**It was moved by member Thompson and seconded by member Hutchins-Nunez to approve FY 2024-2025 L.A. County Workforce Programs Q1 WIOA Performance Report through September 30, 2024.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

**V. APPROVE FORMATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTION OF MEMBER ALEX-HANDRAH AIME AS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**Presenter:** Jorge Marquez, Chair LACWDB

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval, the formation of the Finance Committee and selection of member Alex-Handrah Aime as Committee Chair.

**Discussion:** Chair Marquez started the discussion by asking member Aime if she has any comments on this committee.

Member Aime shared that she is pleased that the committee is being formed to address persistent questions relating to finance and reporting.

**It was moved by member Wallace with and seconded by member Thompson to approve the formation of the finance committee and selection of member Alex-Handrah Aime as committee chair.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

## **VI. APPROVE FORMATION OF THE YOUTH AD-HOC WORKGROUP AND SELECTION OF MEMBER JEFFERY WALLACE AS CHAIR**

**Presenter:** Jorge Marquez, Chair LACWDB

**Summary:** This item presents for approval of the formation of the youth Ad-Hoc workgroup and selection of member Jeffery Wallace as Chair.

**Discussion:** Chair Marquez started the discussion by asking member Wallace if he has any comments.

Member Wallace shared that he's honored to lead the working group recognizing that across L.A. County there are approximately 143,000 opportunity youth that are disconnected from work and employment generating the cost of one billion dollars annually. That is along with over 30,000 young people in the child welfare system that are transitioning out. He noted there is tremendous opportunity given the numbers that were previously reported related to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the training and preparing young people to be empowered and thrive in the future. Member Wallace is very excited to bring young people to the discussion and bridging those discussions

with DEO and the county's Youth Development Department,

Chair Marquez thanked member Wallace and asked if there were any comments from the board or public.

There was one anonymous public comment thanking the board and DEO for their work stating that they are a recipient of workforce training. They stated that when they were 18, they found a job through a program that completely changed their life. They noted that the board talking about youth in the board meetings meant a lot to them.

Chair Marquez asked the speaker to fill out a speaker card to ensure that the speaker is appraised of working group developments and applauded them for their incredible success of participating in the program.

**It was moved by member Aime with and seconded by member Thompson to approve the formation of the youth AD-HOC workgroup and selection of member Jeffery Wallace as chair.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

Chair Marquez asked if there are any members interested in serving on the Working Group, noting that members can also volunteer later.

Member Thompson recommended sending the information to Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt who was not present, noting she may want to participate.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim stated that she'll follow up with members that are not in attendance.

Member Garcia, Member McIntyre, and Member Aime were interested in participating.

Chair Marquez asked if there were any immediate volunteers for the finance committee.

Members Saucedo, Thompson, McIntyre, and Newman were interested in volunteering.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim added that they will send an email within the next two weeks to attempt to calendar within 90 days.

Member Saucedo asked what the duration would be for the Youth Ad-Hoc Working Group.

Chair Marquez stated that the Working Group could meet for the next six months to allow for research and analysis. He identified the June quarterly meeting as an opportunity to report back to the board on what the next steps could be for the working group, including a discussion if it should be formed into a standing committee.

Member Wallace would like to recommend for the Youth Working Group to include young people in the discussion noting it would be counterproductive not to do so.

Lawrence Green from County Counsel responded that a full committee would need to be formed to bring in outside members. He noted that a working group is internal, at will, not official, and not a Brown Act body. They operate within the LACWDB and its roles and report out to the chair and to the board.

Member Wallace asked if County Counsel could send him that opinion in writing so he can further understand the limitations.

Mr. Green answered yes and confirmed a question from Chief Deputy Jessica Kim that a working group is the same as an Ad-Hoc group.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim asked if the working group could put together a framework and then host public meetings, bringing youth at the table for discussion.

Mr. Green stated that it is an ad-hoc workgroup and only meets as needed and the meeting does not need a quorum of the board. The workgroup would then just report to the board its recommendations for review. He also stated that DEO could host an event, but the actual workgroup is constrained to a specific topic or assignment and is temporary in nature whereas a standing committee has no expiration date nor a specified, temporary assignment.

Member Wallace asked if the working group title could be changed to be a committee.

County Counsel Lawrence Green responded that the board would have to agendize a new item to elevate the working group to a full committee. That does involve Brown Act compliance requiring an act of the LACWDB, which he recommended being on the next agenda.

Member Wallace stated that those recommendations were presented to the board two meetings ago. He noted that any shifts that need to happen to move the strategy forward he will support to ensure the board can easily move strategy forward to be as impactful as possible to the communities they serve

Member Aime would like the board to consider the implications of turning a working group into a Brown Acted committee noting the differences between the two.

Chair Marquez agrees and believes the board needs to have insights and guidance provided by County Counsel as they execute strategy to address obstacles that would

prevent the board from achieving its goals.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim added that it is the job of the LACWDB team to be very clear on ad-hoc vs permanent committee. Members of the LACWDB team will work with County Counsel so the board can understand the difference.

## **VII. APPROVE THE INNOVATION FUNDING PLAN**

**Presenter:** Jorge Marquez, Chair LACWDB

**Summary:** This item presents for review and approval of the draft Innovation Funding recommendations as discussed during the Finance Workgroup.

**Discussion:** Chief Deputy Jessica Kim started the discussion by explaining that the Innovation Funds are reserved for training, including on the job, apprenticeships, incumbent worker, and others. The Finance workgroup met twice in the past quarter on October 16, 2024, and December 9, 2024. She identified some items for discussion including alignment around the priority sectors and priority populations associated with the COEs. The working group discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) to advance opportunities and support people with the right skill set that are not left behind. She said the working group was intentional about the integration into the training and partnership base. She noted that funds are for training and there needs to be a partnership with the AJCCs to support data entry. The recommendations prioritized non-profit social enterprises and community college partners and others. For recommendations from DEO to the board, there are three requirements: first there is a required partnership with the AJCCs to leverage WIOA funding. Secondly, the department offered to leverage its High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) grant program to cover the cost of administration and bring other resources to the table, including a third-party administrator. There will be a focus on job quality, equity, and sustainability. She noted that the board and the finance committee can be updated on the program's effectiveness as it is implemented.

Member Saucedo stated that it is critical for the board to move this forward. He wanted to state that it is harder to adjust as a board. He also wants the board to understand that change is going to be consistent and that they must be prepared for it. While discussing apprenticeships, he stated that some apprenticeships would not just be for the unions. He said change will be important as new data scientists and program managers are going to be hired to manage these new types of technologies and products that are being introduced.

Chair Marquez added that many organizations and industry associations at the State have been discussing that impact. He questioned if the board should form a future workforce group or committee.

Member Saucedo said yes, and stated their strategy should be intentional.

Chair Marquez stated that the board should add that to the agenda for March as an item. Member Garcia asked if the COEs will have an advisory body with industry partners including labor, contractors or employers.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that there could be.

Chair Marquez asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

**It was moved by member Wallace with and seconded by member Thompson to approve the innovation funding plan.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**In Favor (12):** Alex-Handrah Aime, Luis Arida, Stephen Cheung, Ben Garcia, Christopher Graeber, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Darrel Saucedo, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeffery Wallace, Delbert Whetter

**Abstain (0):**

**Recused (1):** Jorge Marquez

**Opposed (0):**

**Absent (6):** Gustavo Camacho, Jesse Cuevas, Mary Hewitt, Miguel Hurtado, Kyle Miller, Dr. Armida Ornelas

## F. INFORMATION ITEMS

### I. AMERICA'S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA (AJCC) MODERNIZATION UPDATE

Summary: This item presents information on the most recent updates on the AJCC Modernization Request for Proposal (RFP).

Chair Marquez started the discussion asking if Member McIntyre if she had a comment.

Member McIntyre shared that the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has partnered with Employment Development Department (EDD), and they are looking to fund ten different pilot awards for AJCCs statewide. It is a grant for three years, between \$1 and \$2 million dollars per AJCC. It's not an RFP process but a letter requesting participation. The focus is on working with individuals with disabilities that have barriers to employment. The goal is to increase the number of people that they are serving at their AJCC who identify as a person with a disability and have that disability as a barrier to employment. The funding is braided with Title I and Title IV funds. She stated that there is a letter being released to explain the program.

Chair Marquez appreciated the partnership with DOR and that funding opportunity.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim added that it is very exciting, and they will make sure that the AJCC focusing on individuals with disabilities applies as well as the other AJCCs because those resources are critical.

Chair Marquez asked Chief Deputy Jessica Kim if she can give a AJCC transition update.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim responded that they have the printout and if they have any questions to feel free to reach out to her and she will discuss with them.

Chair Marquez shared that on the quarterly meeting on the calendar that member Aime highlighted that dates need to be correct. He recommended that they rotate meetings across the supervisorial districts. He acknowledges that travel can be an issue. He recommended that the AJCCs can host, and the board could tour the AJCC.

Chief Deputy Jessica Kim said the DEO team would review.

## **II. SAVE-THE-DATE: UPCOMING LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETINGS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting Friday, March 21, 2025**

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

Location: TBD Hybrid Virtual & In-Person

### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting Friday, June, Date to Be Determined**

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

Location: TBD Hybrid Virtual & In-Person

### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting Friday, September 19, 2025**

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

TBD Hybrid Virtual & In-Person

### **LACWDB Quarterly Meeting Friday, December 19, 2025**

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

Location: TBD Hybrid Virtual & In-Person

## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)**

The Forum 2025

Date: March 29, 2025 – April 1, 2025

Location: Washington Hilton, Washington D.C.

### **California Workforce Association (CWA) WorkCon**

Location: Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa

Date: April 29, 2025 – May 1, 2025

## **G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Marquez called for public comment. There was no public comment.

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Marquez adjourned the meeting of the LACWDB at 12:25 pm.