



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(LACWDB)
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 28, 2025

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Department of Economic Opportunity Headquarters
510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

A. CALL TO ORDER

Business Engagement Committee Chair Jeffrey Thompson deferred to member Marquez to begin the meeting. Member Marquez called the meeting to order at called the April 28, 2025, Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board's (LACWDB) Business Engagement Committee meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

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:

- Fernandefño 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 \(Click Here\)](#)

B. ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with 3 members in-person attendance during roll call.

Present: 7 (4 in-person and 3 virtual): Mary Hewitt (Virtual), Tami Hutchins-Nunez (virtual), Jorge Marquez (in person), Larry Taylor (in person), Maureen McIntyre (in person), Jeffrey Thompson (Virtual), Michelle Yanez (in person), Amber Chatman (Virtual).

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.

C. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Member Marquez gave the chairs remarks on behalf of Chair Thompson. He thanked the committee members for appearing more frequently with the attempt to drive the Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) modernization forward. He explained that the goals are to engage industry through DEOs Centers of Excellence (COEs) as well as aligning key strategic partnerships including chambers of commerce and other business groups. He stated that the work the committee is undertaking is important to ensure the needs of growing industry areas are met by identifying high growth occupations that have high employee demand and then develop a system and infrastructure to be able to support career pathways to fill that demand.

D. ACTION ITEMS

I. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2024

Presenter: Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

Summary: This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the draft minutes of the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee meeting from December 10, 2024.

Discussion: It was noted by member Marquez that member Taylor was already recommended as a member of the Business Engagement Committee as approved by the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee. Member Marquez asked for a motion to amend the December 10, 2024, minutes to reflect that action.

Moved by member Marquez and seconded by member Yanez to amend the minutes of the December 10, 2024, Business Engagement Committee meeting to reflect that Larry Taylor was recommended as a member of the Business Engagement Committee and confirmed by the LACWDB.

Motion passes with a majority vote.
In Favor (7): Hewitt, Hutchins-Nunez, Marquez, McIntyre, Taylor, Thompson, Yanez
Abstain (0):
Recused (0):
Opposed (0):
Absent (0):

Moved by member Yanez and seconded by member Taylor to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024, Business Engagement Committee meeting as amended to reflect that Larry Taylor was voted upon and approved by the committee as an outside expert member.

Motion passes with a majority vote.
In Favor (7): Hewitt, Hutchins-Nunez, Marquez, McIntyre, Taylor, Thompson, Yanez
Abstain (0):
Recused (0):
Opposed (0):
Absent (0):

II. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 14, 2025

Presenter: Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

Summary: This item presents for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the draft minutes of the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee meeting on April 14, 2025.

It was recommended by Executive Director Kochen that in the minutes, the proper date of the December Business Engagement Committee meeting from December 12, 2024, to December 10, 2024.

Moved by member McIntyre and seconded by member Taylor to approve the minutes of April 14, 2024, Business Engagement Committee meeting as amended to reflect in the minutes that the December Business Engagement Committee meeting took place on December 10, 2024. It was further requested to add page numbers to the minutes.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (7): Hewitt, Hutchins-Nunez, Marquez, McIntyre, Taylor, Thompson, Yanez

Abstain (0):

Recused (0):

Opposed (0):

Absent (0):

III. APPROVE AMBER CHATMAN AS AN OUTSIDE EXPERT MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Presenter: Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, Business Engagement Committee

Summary: This item presents for review and approval of Amber Chatman as member of the Business Engagement Committee.

Discussion: Member Marquez requested that Ms. Chatman open by introducing herself.

Ms. Chatman shared that she brings over 17 years of experience in workforce development, with a focus on supporting priority populations. Her work has included:

- Expanding access to work-based learning and on-the-job training in partnership with employers.
- Developing career pathway frameworks, notably with the LA Conservation Corps and YouthBuild.
- Leading youth-focused sector strategies across LA regions to connect young people with education, training, and employment.
- Designing employer engagement activities and aligning talent pipelines with business needs.
- Recently, partnering with LA County and San Diego healthcare and nonprofit sectors to address hiring and retention challenges.
- Collaborating with major and small employers, including Google, Snapchat, and Amazon, to support first-time job seekers.

At the request of the Chair and a board member, Ms. Chatman explained that **UNITE-LA** is a third-party intermediary that advances economic mobility and sector-based career pathways for individuals facing employment barriers.

Moved by member Hewitt and seconded by member Taylor to approve Amber Chatman as an outside expert on the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (6): Hewitt, Hutchins-Nunez, Marquez, McIntyre, Taylor, Thompson, Yanez

Abstain (0):

Recused (0):

Opposed (0):

Absent (0):

Following the committee's vote to approve Ms. Chatman as member, Chair Thompson commended both her contributions and the work of UNITE-LA. He also noted the committee's broader role in supporting employers not only in retaining talent but also in identifying strategies to adapt and elevate workforce skill sets in response to economic shifts.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE PURPOSE OF THE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Presenter: Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

Summary: This item is for continued discussion on the creation of a Business Engagement Plan

The committee discussed refining its objectives by exploring opportunities for site visits to Los Angeles County America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs). Member Taylor expressed interest in visiting centers to better understand their operations and asked about coordinating visits. Executive Director Kochen welcomed the idea and recommended coordination through DEO to ensure proper protocols.

Chair Thompson emphasized the value of learning about AJCCs' specialties through more formal, structured visits. Miss Chatman suggested that a joint meeting with leadership from the Centers of Excellence (COEs) could be more effective than individual visits. The committee agreed this could offer a clearer picture of service delivery and challenges.

County Counsel reminded members to avoid quorum violations when coordinating group visits. Member Marquez proposed prioritizing comprehensive AJCCs with regional significance, including Pomona, Veterans, and Rancho Dominguez, each tied

to a specific COE focus area. There was consensus that visits would be beneficial and should proceed with DEO support.

- **Conduct site visits and/or future Business Engagement Committee meetings at AJCCs starting with the Pomona AJCC.**

The committee continued its discussion on AJCC site visits, with Member Taylor suggesting that six centers be identified for comparison. Miss Chatman noted that AJCCs may differ in operations due to varying contractors and COE leadership. Member Marquez flagged that two AJCC procurements—West San Gabriel Valley and Southeast LA—are still under review, with Executive Director Kochen confirming that results are pending final evaluation. Member Yanez agreed that grouping the AJCCs by service providers would be effective.

Member Marquez recommended visiting sites operated by MCS, JVS, and SASFA, and the committee agreed. Ms. Kochen reminded members to avoid quorum-related issues by visiting in smaller groups.

Member Chatman asked the committee to review the AJCCs from a regional context stating that the flow and the access to business may look different across each site, even within the same organization, each AJCC have different program managers who are leading that work across the different work sites.

- **Member Chatman to provide stakeholder list on behalf of UNITE-LA.**

Chair Marquez emphasized the need to clarify the committee's role regarding industry Centers of Excellence (COEs), including how COEs will engage key business partners, align with high-growth occupations, and potentially establish advisory boards.

Member Taylor inquired about performance metrics used to evaluate COEs.

Executive Director Kochen shared that draft metrics are forthcoming and explained that current WIOA-related performance measures include employment and retention rates post-exit, alongside quality indicators. She noted that DEO will begin certification visits this summer and confirmed that the results of those visits can be shared with the committee.

DEO to share with the committee results and/or updates related to AJCC certification/site visits.

Ms. Chatman asked how COEs will track and demonstrate effectiveness, noting their role as holders of best practices meant to support the broader workforce system.

Executive Director Kochen responded that as COEs launch operations this summer, more clarity will emerge regarding their systemwide impact.

Chair Marquez emphasized the need for COE roles to be guided by performance-based measures.

Member Taylor noted he still had questions for AJCC directors about their strategies to meet objectives and how their approaches compare across providers or sectors.

Member Yanez referenced the community college system—specifically Rio Hondo College—as a potential model for sharing best practices and system coordination.

- **DEO to research how community colleges share best practices and opportunities for business engagement/outreach.**

Executive Director Kochen noted the committee was short on time and reminded members that the WDB Team can share information between meetings. She referenced recent materials sent, including the LAEDC Industry Cluster Report and the 2025 Economic Forecast. Members are encouraged to share relevant information with the WDB Team as needed.

Chair Thompson requested that the next meeting include a discussion on potential private partners for committee engagement.

- **DEO to research private entities that the Business Engagement Committee could be engaging with.**

F. NEXT STEPS

- Conduct site visits and/or future Business Engagement Committee meetings at AJCCs starting with the Pomona AJCC.
- Member Chatman to provide stakeholder list on behalf of UNITE-LA.
- Share with the committee results and/or updates related to AJCC certification/site visits. Site visits were originally scheduled for earlier in the year but were postponed due to the fires. New site visits will be coordinated later this spring into the summer. The new schedule will be provided to the committee once released.
- Research how community colleges share best practices and opportunities for business engagement/outreach.
- Research private entities that the Business Engagement Committee could be engaging with.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sharon Cruse introduced herself and her organization, Purple Rain Life Skills Center. She stated that her organization brings together resources for youth ranging from justice impacted to high school students. She had a deck presentation she wanted to share with the committee. She was encouraged to send the presentation to wdb@opportunity.lacounty.gov. The presentation would be forwarded to the committee once received.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Member Marquez adjourned the April 28, 2024, meeting of the Business Engagement Committee at 4:10 pm.