



LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (LACWDB)

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: JUNE 13, 2025

LOCATION: LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE (HYBRID)

A. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Jorge Marquez called the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (LACWDB) June 13, 2025, meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Executive Director Cheren Kochen honored the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples, reaffirming the County's commitment to reconciliation and tribal engagement. [Board Motion](#) and [Los Angeles City/County NAIC Website \(Click Here\)](#)

C. ROLL CALL & CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER

- Quorum confirmed (16 present). Conflict-of-interest protocol from Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was read.

D. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- Welcomed Dr. Armida Ornelas (reappointed) and new board member Andy Perez (District 4).
- Recognized Mission College for hosting; encouraged AJCC site visit and addressed the following challenges:
 - Wildfires and their ongoing economic impact.
 - ICE enforcement and resulting community tensions.
 - Emphasized the County's advocacy for immigrant workers.
 - Call to action regarding \$7B in youth workforce funding cuts and underscored the need for WIOA advocacy.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Recapped strategic board engagements at NAWB in D.C. and WorkCon in California.
- Highlighted LA County's North Star workforce principles and wildfire recovery programs.

- Youth@Work launched a summer push, including Altadena initiative for 500 fire-impacted youth. Over 100 applications submitted; 20 were awarded.
- Federal and State updates:
 - \$60M reduction to California Competes Grant.
 - Slight increase in apprenticeship funding.
 - Highlighted AB 338, proposing \$50M for post-fire recovery training opportunities for underserved populations.
 - SB 275, which the county has already supported relating to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL)

F. ACTION ITEMS

a. APPROVE FY 2024-25 L.A. COUNTY WIOA PROGRAMS Q3 PAYMENT STATUS REPORT THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025, AND DISCUSSION OF FY 2025-26 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD BUDGET FOR WIOA PROGRAMS AND APPROVE NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT (NDWG) FUNDS AND WORKFORCE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (AA) GRANTS TO ASSIST IN POST FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

Discussion Highlights:

- FY 25/26 Workforce Budget: \$47.68M in new WIOA allocation + \$12.9M carryover = \$60.5M total.
- Post-fire funding increased to \$6.9M, with \$400K spent and the remainder allocated to FY 25/26.
- Key allocations: 22% youth, 31% adult/dislocated workers, 25% to DEO personnel. Admin capped at 4% (under WIOA's 10% limit).
- Youth funding risk: Federal youth funding could be eliminated - County is preparing contingency plans.
- Performance accountability: Members requested clearer data on cost-per-customer, efficiency, and alignment with service demand.

Takeaways:

- Board interest in performance metrics tied to budget allocations.
- Request for increased transparency on DEO staffing and lease costs.
- Reminder: Training and Youth@Work spending updates to be reflected in Q4 reports.

It was moved by Member Ornelas to approve the FY 2024-2025 LA County WIOA

Programs Q3 Payment Status Report through March 31, 2025, approve the FY 2024-25 WIOA Budget for WIOA Programs, and approve the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) funds and Workforce Additional Assistance (AA) Grants to assist in post fire recovery efforts.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (5): Luis Arida, Chris Graeber, Maureen McIntyre, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez

Abstain (8): Alex-Handrah Aimé, Edward Chang, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchin Nunez, Toni Newman, Jeffrey Thompson. Jefferey Wallace

Recused (1): Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0):

Absent (7): Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

It was moved by Member Thompson to form a workgroup on Board Governance to discuss how the LACWDB can create greater accountability, visibility, and communications to the public on board governance. The workgroup would be chaired by Member Hampton.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (13): Alex-Handrah Aimé, Luis Arida, Edward Chang, Chris Graeber, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez, Jeffrey Thompson, Jefferey Wallace

Abstain (0):

Recused (1): Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0):

Absent (7): Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

b. APPROVE FY 2024-25 L.A. COUNTY WIOA PROGRAMS Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND RAPID RESPONSE UPDATES THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

Discussion Highlights:

- Program Performance Trends
 - Adult enrollment is on track to meet annual WIOA targets.
 - Dislocated worker and opportunity youth recruitment lags, with a projected increase in dislocated worker numbers in the next two quarters.
- DEO is planning ****youth outreach campaigns**** aligned with the return to school later in the summer.

- Outreach to Opportunity Youth - Board members inquired about summer outreach strategies. DEO clarified that opportunity youth include foster, homeless, and out-of-school populations, and reported year-over-year improvements in engaging these groups.
- Performance Metrics & Training Gaps - Board members raised questions on new enrollments vs. participants served and a 23% decline in displaced worker training performance.
 - DEO attributes this to service carryovers from previous cohorts.
 - Limited impacts from virtual engagement efforts.
 - Ongoing outreach to impacted workers may yield results in future quarters.
- Reentry Program Engagement - Members requested information on DEO's reentry population strategies.
 - DEO cited three programs: INVEST, RENEW (launched February 2025), and P2E (expected launch in July 2027)
 - Rancho Dominguez AJCC will host a Center of Excellence for reentry.
 - DEO's Fair Chance Campaign promotes ordinance awareness among job seekers and employers.
- Clarification on Program Scope - DEO reminded the board that data presented only reflects WIOA programs, not the full DEO portfolio.
- Training Provider Landscape - Members asked about the role of community colleges in workforce training.
 - DEO acknowledged low participation and shared that DEO is evaluating partnership opportunities, including via High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs).
- Rapid Response & WARN Notices
 - 80 WARN and non-WARN notices to date (21 in Q3)
 - 12 notices stem from burn areas (Malibu and Altadena)
 - Large-scale layoffs - Phillips 66 refinery (900 affected) and Rite Aid bankruptcy (607 workers)
- Policy and Business Engagement Concerns
 - Members questioned whether the Business Engagement Committee is adequately identifying employer needs.
 - Members raised concerns about ICE-related workforce disruptions, suggesting emergency funds for impacted small businesses.
 - DEO has transition assistance funds available to support these employers.

Takeaways:

- Real-time adjustments are underway to respond to fluctuating worker populations and program performance.

- DEO is actively expanding engagement with reentry populations and youth but faces challenges with dislocated worker training completion.
- The board has shown interest in greater transparency, expanded partnerships with community colleges, and policy responses to ICE-related workforce barriers.

It was moved by Member Aimé Member Hutchins Nunez to approve the FY 2024-25 L.A. County WIOA Programs Q3 Performance Report and Rapid Response Updates through March 31, 2025.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (13): Alex-Handrah Aimé, Luis Arida, Edward Chang, Chris Graeber, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez, Jeffrey Thompson, Jefferey Wallace

Abstain (0):

Recused (1): Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0):

Absent (7): Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

c. APPROVE SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR THE ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER LIST (ETPL), BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (BTA) FOR WORKFORCE SERVICES AND AMERICA'S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA (AJCC) SERVICES FOR EAST LOS ANGELES AND SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES REGIONS

Discussion Highlights:

- Approval of Sole Source Contracts: ETPL, BTA, and AJCC Services. DEO sought board approval for several sole source agreements pending competitive procurement, including:
 - ETPL services (South Bay WIB)
 - Business Technical Assistance (LAEDC)
 - AJCC services in Southeast Los Angeles and East Los Angeles/West San Gabriel Valley (Hub Cities Consortium and AYE-Catholic Charities)
- Contract Extension Timeline - Extensions would run through December 2025, with possible 6-month extensions beyond that if needed.
- AJCC Modernization Procurement Process Status for Southeast Los Angeles and East Los Angeles/West San Gabriel Valley - DEO has completed proposal reviews via an evaluation committee and is targeting end-of-month selection announcement.
- Program Readiness & Redesign:

- For Business Technical Assistance (BTA), DEO requested time to refine the layoff aversion model before launching a competitive bid.
 - For ETPL, DEO requested a short-term contract extension while it conducts a program evaluation and explores revamp opportunities.
- Board members requested regular updates on the ****status and progress**** of the procurement and program design activities.

Key Takeaways:

- DEO is working to maintain service continuity while advancing a thorough, equity-informed procurement and program redesign process.
- DEO is prioritizing program refinement and transparency before moving to competitive procurement.

It was moved by Member McIntyre to approve the sole source contracts for the ETPL, BTA for Workforce Services and AJCCs services for the East Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles regions.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (11): Edward Chang, Chris Graeber, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez, Jeffrey Thompson, Jefferey Wallace

Abstain (1) : Alex-Handrah Aimé

Recused (1) : Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0) :

Absent (8) : Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

d. REPORT-OUT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVE MEMBER EDWARD CHANG AS VICE CHAIR

Discussion Highlights:

- Update on committee transitions and collaboration plans, with formal action to appoint a new chair.
 - Leadership Transition: Chair Aimé announced she will be stepping down from her role as Chair of the Finance Committee and as a member on the committee.
 - Committee Activity - Most pending items were deferred for future discussion, though the committee affirmed the importance of enhanced collaboration between the Finance Committee and DEO.
 - New Workgroup Formation - The Finance Reporting Workgroup will be established to deepen review and transparency in DEO financial reporting.

Takeaways:

- The committee is entering a transitional phase, with a focus on refining oversight through a targeted workgroup.
- Collaboration between DEO and Finance members will continue to improve reporting clarity and fiscal governance.

It was moved by Secretary/Treasurer Hewitt to approve the appointment of Member Chang as chair of the Finance Committee and accept the report from the Finance Committee.

Motion passes with a majority vote.

In Favor (12): Alex-Handrah Aimé, Edward Chang, Chris Graeber, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez, Jeffrey Thompson, Jefferey Wallace

Abstain (0):

Recused (1): Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0):

Absent (8): Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

e. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON MARCH 21, 2025

Discussion Highlights:

- The draft minutes of the LACWDB quarterly meeting held on March 21, 2025 were reviewed.
- Approval of March 2025 Minutes passed unanimously.

Key Takeaways:

- Meeting minutes to be overhauled for clarity and conciseness.

Motion passed unanimously.

In Favor (12): Alex-Handrah Aimé, Edward Chang, Chris Graeber, Jermaine Hampton, Mary Hewitt, Tami Hutchins-Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Toni Newman, Dr. Armida Ornelas, Andrew Perez, Jeffrey Thompson, Jefferey Wallace

Abstain (0):

Recused (1): Jorge Marquez

Opposed (0):

Absent (8) : Luis Arida, Gustavo Camacho, Ryan Craig, Jesse Cuevas, Jeremy Diaz, Ben Garcia, Miguel Hurtado, Delbert Whetter

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. YOUTH WORKGROUP UPDATES

Discussion Highlights:

- An overview of the Youth Workgroup's recent priorities, next steps, and alignment opportunities:
 - Strategic Alignment: - The Workgroup emphasized aligning youth workforce development strategies with the broader goals of DEO and LACWDB, centering equity as a guiding principle.
 - Equity & Inclusion Priorities - Focused on supporting historically marginalized youth, including foster youth, unhoused youth, and opportunity youth, to ensure programming is inclusive and effective.
 - Strengthening Accountability - The committee reaffirmed the importance of transparent outcomes tracking and continuous evaluation to ensure meaningful results for youth programs.
 - Partnership Development - Identified community colleges as key partners in expanding training access and career pathways for young people.

Key Takeaways:

- The Workgroup is advancing a cohesive equity-focused youth strategy that strengthens systemwide collaboration.
- There is strong momentum for deeper engagement with education institutions and underrepresented communities.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- One member of the public (from a local immigrant rights coalition) spoke on concerns regarding ICE enforcement's impact on jobseekers and urged the Board to expand outreach and legal service referrals.
- Additional community input emphasized the need for youth mental health support within workforce programs, particularly in wildfire-affected communities.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

J. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- **Finance & Budget Oversight:**
 - Provide a review of federal and state budget proposals impacting the workforce

- system to the Finance Committee.
 - Include performance metrics alongside budget proposals and fiscal updates.
 - Implement separate board votes for individual financial items in future fiscal and performance reports.
 - Coordinate meetings and submit DEO financial and program reports to both the Finance Reports Workgroup and Board Governance Workgroup.
 - Review program investment alignment with populations served and outcomes achieved.
- **Program Performance & Strategic Updates:**
 - Provide follow-up reporting on strategies to increase youth and dislocated worker enrollment in Q4.
 - Report on DEO's community college training partnerships and H RTP alignment efforts.
 - Share early outcomes from reentry programs: INVEST, RENEW, and P2E.
 - **Policy & System-Level Engagement:**
 - Continue tracking the impacts of federal and state policy/funding shifts, including potential youth funding cuts.
 - Flag ICE-related workforce disruptions for review by the Business Engagement Committee.
 - Evaluate emergency fund strategies to support small businesses affected by worker absences due to immigration enforcement.
 - **Youth Workgroup Alignment:**
 - Formalize recommendations for system alignment and present at a future board meeting.
 - Advance community college partnerships to expand youth training access.
 - Develop accountability metrics for youth workforce programs.

K. TABLED ITEMS

- BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT-OUT
- LOCAL AREA SUBSEQUENT DESIGNATION AND BOARD RECERTIFICATION FOR PROGRAM YEARS 2025-27 AND UPDATE ON TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS

L. SAVE-THE-DATE: UPCOMING LACWDB PUBLIC MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, & EVENTS

LACWDB WIOA MOU PARTNER ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Location: DEO Headquarters
510 South Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Thursday, June 26, 2025
Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting

TENTATIVE LACWDB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Youth Working Group
Monday, June 16, 2025, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Virtual

Business Engagement Committee
Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: DEO Headquarters
Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 south Vermont Avenue
Conference Room 11F25
Los Angeles, CA 90020

TENTATIVE LACWDB QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Friday, September 19, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: East San Gabriel Valley America's Job Center of California
14101 Nelson Ave
Willow Conference Center
East La Puente, CA 91746

DEO Headquarters
Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 south Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Friday, December 19, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: DEO Headquarters

Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 South Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, ca 90020

Friday, March 20, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: DEO Headquarters
Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 South Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Friday, June 19, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: DEO Headquarters
Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 South Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Friday, September 18, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: DEO Headquarters
Hybrid Virtual & In-Person
510 South Vermont Avenue
Terrace Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90020

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

California Workforce Association
Meeting of the Minds
September 2-4, 2025
Monterey Conference Center
One Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940

DEO RECRUITMENT

Youth@Work Eaton Fire Recruitment
Youth: bit.ly/DEOYouthAtWork
Business: bit.ly/DEOYWJobs