



## LACWDB Business Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2025

Location: Department of Economic Opportunity (Hybrid)

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Business Engagement Committee Chair Jeffrey Thompson called the meeting of the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (LACWDB) Business Engagement Committee to order at 4:10 pm.

### I. 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 \(Click Here\)](#)

II. Conflict-of-interest protocol from Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was read.

### B. ROLL CALL

A quorum was confirmed with 5 members present.

### C. CHAIR REMARKS

- Thanked the members and guests for attending.
- He identified ongoing challenges to the workforce system including immigration enforcement and fire recovery. He also explained that current tariff policies are impacting on the local economy, including goods movement at the ports.
- He acknowledged the Monrovia AJCC grand opening, inviting LACWDB Executive Director Cheren Kochen to say a few words.
  - Executive Director Kochen gave highlights of the ribbon cutting while explaining the history of the AJCC moving into the Los Angeles County AJCC system . She thanked LACWDB Chair Marquez for attending and speaking at the event. Chair Marquez also shared his perspective on the event.
  - Member McIntyre explained that the Department of Rehabilitation will have a role at the AJCC.



**D. ACTION ITEMS**

**I. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LACWDB BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON July 9, 2025**

**Presenter:** Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

**Summary:** This item presented for review and approval, and any other action deemed necessary, the draft minutes of the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee meeting held on July 9.

**Discussion Highlights:** There was no discussion on the item.

**Member McIntyre made a motion to adopt the July 9, 2025 minutes of the LACWDB Business Engagement Committee.**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**  
**In Favor (6):** Amber Chatman, Mary Hewitt, Tami-Hutchins Nunez, Maureen McIntyre, Jorge Marquez, Jeffrey Thompson  
**Abstain (0):**  
**Recused (0):**  
**Opposed (0):**  
**Absent (2):** Larry Taylor, Michelle Yanez

**D. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**I. DISCUSSION ON RECENT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IMPACTS TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IMPACTS TO WORKFORCE, AND ACTION FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

**Summary:** This item presents for discussion and feedback from the committee on impacts on economic and workforce development from recent immigration enforcement action from the federal government and response from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

**Discussion Highlights:**

Cheren Kochen spoke on behalf of DEO stating that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (LACBOS) recently passed a motion in response to the recent immigration enforcement and the impacts that have been having on communities and businesses.

She highlighted that the motion recognizes the economic and cultural contributions of immigrant Angelinos noting that the recent federal actions have had a dis-propionate impact on LA County. The motion requests DEO to develop and implement emergency economic relief strategies for impacted immigrant workers, expand access to workforce programs for undocumented and mixed status families, and engage employers and community partners



to support displaced workers from these actions. It also expands access to workforce programs for undocumented and mixed status families and engage employers and community partners to support displaced workers that resulted from enforcement actions as a report back to the LACBOS. Time permitting, the item will also be presented at the LACWDB Quarterly Meeting.

- Chair Thompson asked if funding at DEO requires to consider citizenship/documentation status.
  - Executive Director Kochen answered yes since it is federal funding, but there are other opportunities and funding sources that offer greater flexibility.
  - Member Chatman asked which supervisorial district could be impacted the most.
  - Ms. Kochen answered that it is a significant impact countywide noting there will be an analysis on where the impacts are felt greatest and how t resources attributed based on data. She also explained outreach will have to be conducted in a way that does not traumatize the community further.
  - Member Chatman asked if there are historic programs that can be leveraged.
  - Member Marquez answered that there are some organizations that have served the immigrant community including El Proyecto Del Barrio in the San Fernando Valley. He also noted that co-located models work mentioning Mission College and Para Los Ninos. He mentioned that Mission College co-hosts a Workforce Center jointly operated by LA County and LA City. He asked if there are other similar arrangements in the county.
  - Ms. Kochen stated there is the Office of Immigrant Affairs via the Department of Business and Consume Affairs that serves an information gathering point for immigration information. There were past programs at AJCCs that served immigrant communities where relationships may still exist. She also stated that there are opportunities for private funding that do not have federal requirements.
  - Chair Thompson stated that the discussion illustrates the business engagement strategy for key sectors of the community. He also expressed concern with the multiplier impact on the current and future business/economic factors.
  - Member Marquez asked if the motion calls out if business impact will be reviewed.
  - Ms. Kochen answered not directly, but the answers could be indirectly addressed in the report back to the LACBOS.
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- Chair Marquez commented that a Know Your Rights campaign could be beneficial assisting business with recruitment and retention.
  - Chair Thompson indicated that the University of Southern California (USC) has students with Visas that may not be able to re-enter the country which illustrates a greater impact to the education community/sector.



- Member Marquez recommended that this discussion be held at the LACWDB Quarterly Board Meeting.

**Action: Agendize Immigration Motion for the LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**

**II. DISCUSSION WITH UNITE-LA ON IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYER INTERMEDIARIES**

Presenter: Amber Chatman, Member, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee Summary: This item presents for discussion potential partnerships with employer intermediaries utilized by UNITE-LA

Discussion: Chair Thompson started the discussion highlighting the importance of employer intermediaries by sharing a conversation relating to the significant resource needs the 2028 Olympics will have on the region.

- Member Chatman started her presentation by stating that UNITE LA created the list at a high level trying to identify key stakeholders acting as liaisons between business partners and the workforce system. She continued that depending on the depth of their work, intermediaries could conduct one-to-one sit downs with employers or engaged in a broader ecosystem. The list was also put together in anticipation of the continued advancement of DEO's Centers of Excellence (COEs). She noted that the liaisons from the intermediaries on the list would be worth having discussions with.
- Member Marquez sought clarification that the intermediaries would not necessarily be providing services, but there could be information that can be gained from partnering with them. Member Chatman responded yes.
- Member Marquez asked if the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce would be included, Member Chatman responded yes.
- Chair Thompson identified some of the private sector partners including the Valley Industry Association (VIA) and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).
- Member Chatman also stated that other conversations and discussions can occur with other intermediaries the committee wished to elevate. She stated a good next step would be to bring in partners.
- Member Marquez stated that after introductions, followed up with more strategic discussions surrounding modernization and other topics could commence.
- Member Chatman explained that UNITE LA tried to identify diversity of types of services using the Los Angeles Economic Development Collaborative (LAEDC) that could help determine sector priorities as an example.
- Member Marquez asked what the role of a workforce intermediary.
- Member Chatman responded that they bridge and connect the business, community education systems and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in amplifying employment opportunities.



- Member Marquez asked if each AJCC should have an intermediary that would expand their reach and service delivery, or service multiplier, and that would mean each one would have to have an established MOU with goals and deliverables.
  - DEO Assistant Director, Kate Vacanti, added that the Business Services team supports business development including employer recruitment and partners with the AJCCs to recruit, hire and train people for permanent jobs and increase employer engagement. She further explained that DEO continues to review its COEs and how to measure goals surrounding employer engagement.
  - Member Chatman asked if an intermediary is to support an AJCC or the entire system.
  - Member Marquez responded that it makes sense for them to do both.
  - Assistant Director Vacanti stated that DEO could share with the committee what the goals for the AJCCs are at the next committee meeting.
  - Member Marquez recommended that the AJCCs and Business Services should ask the business community what their needs are.
  - Member Chatman also stated that she would resend an updated list of the workforce intermediaries.
  - Member Marquez stated that an important next step discussion is to connect with the intermediaries, making the next meeting more constructive.
  - Chair Thompson offered the idea of a paid consultant or contractor to assist in how to engage with workforce intermediaries. Member Hutchins-Nunez agreed with the concept.
  - Member Marquez stated that it is an opportunity to work with LAEDC as well. He asked if that was an opportunity that could be leveraged. Executive Director Kochen stated that the LAEDC is contracted with DEO for business technical assistance but could be expanded to include intermediary work.
  - Member Marquez recommended inviting someone from LAEDC and the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce to the next Business Engagement Committee meeting.
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- DEO Assistant Director Vacanti stated that it would be ok to invite LAEDC to the next Business Engagement Committee meeting considering they are already partners with DEO.
  - Chair Thompson asked if that relationship could be discussed at its next committee meeting in September. He also stated that inviting the Tourism Association to the meetings could be beneficial with multiple high-profile events coming to Los Angeles County including the Super Bowl and World Cup.

### **III. DEO REQUEST – EMPLOYERS FOR YOUTH WORKSITES**

Presenter: Jenny Synn, Workforce Systems Program Manager, DEO



Summary: This item presents a request to LACWDB Business Engagement Committee members to assist in identifying employers to be worksites for youth engaged in paid work experience

Discussion: Program Manager Syn started her presentation by stating that DEO is limited to the work sites available to youth and there is room for development. She explained that there was an Eaton Fire recovery interest form for participants. There was significant interest in technology and healthcare. She also responded that youth are defined as ages up to 24, however, DEO is looking to serve up to 26 in the modernization. She explained that opportunity youth who are out of school, out of work; and there is an AP3 waiver that could include youth who are in school but who are in foster care or have connections with foster care, homelessness or justice involvement.

- Assistant Director Vacanti added that they are looking for worksites in the Antelope Valley as well as near the Eaton Fire burn area, and those families impacted by the immigration enforcement actions noting that there are a lot of interests for work but not enough work sites right now.
- Executive Director Kochen asked the committee to leverage the networks they have and lift the program to employers they may have relationships with,
- Ms. Synn added that DEO does have a Youth@Work strategy and other programs that could support business, including those impacted by the immigration enforcement efforts. There are multiple programs that could benefit youth worksites.
- Member Chatman asked if collateral is being used to engage business.
- Ms. Vacanti stated that electronic collateral can be shared.
- Member Marquez recommended that DEO work closely with Hospitality Training Academy (HTA). He also stressed that employee retention needs to be accounted for.
- Executive Director Kochen explained that the board could use Innovation Funding for work experience. That funding could be reviewed again at the September Quarterly meeting of the LACWDB.

#### IV. RESOURCE MAPPING

Presenter: Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee Summary: Review existing partners, approve connections to partners identified through Resource Mapping, identify potential partners in specific geographic areas including:

- a. Business Groups/Organizations
- b. Affinity Groups
- c. Training Partners
- d. Non-Profits, Community-Based Organizations, and Others



Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next meeting of the Business Engagement Committee.

## V. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DELOITTE CONFERENCE

**Presenter:** Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

**Summary:** As proposed at the July 9 Business Engagement Committee Meeting, review and discuss Deloitte Report.

- Chair Thompson reported back from the Paris Labor Activation Summit he attended with Member Jorge Marquez. He reminded the committee that the 200-page report from the conference was e-mailed to all members. He highlighted the diversity of sectors and populations that attended the conference. Discussion of the future of the workforce was prevalent.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a significant topic noting that there is a global investment of 500 billion dollars worldwide in AI, including Generative AI, but that there are still layoffs taking place within AI development.
- Chair Thompson indicated that Green Transition continues internationally. In addition, he stated that there are seismic shifts related to generational transitions with an aging population noting aging populations may require people to also work longer.
- Member Marquez highlighted the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development stating that the United States government withdrew but it is worth reviewing to determine if Los Angeles County should participate.
- Chair Thompson identified that all many countries are facing the same issues as Los Angeles County, and all may have differing solutions.

## VI. CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE PURPOSE OF THE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

**Presenter:** Jeffrey Thompson, Chair, LACWDB Business Engagement Committee

**Summary:** This item is for continued discussion and direction on the creation and framework of a Business Engagement Plan containing elements identified.

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next meeting of the Business Engagement Committee.

## E. NEXT STEPS

- **Agendize Immigration Motion for the LACWDB Quarterly Meeting**



- Share AJCC goals at the Business Engagement Committee meeting.
- Request Member Chatman to send updated Intermediary List.
- Request LAEDC to attend next Business Engagement Committee meeting and invite the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.
- Share business engagement collateral used by Business Services/DEO

#### **F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were submitted.

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of August 18, 2025 LACWDB Business Engagement Committee was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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