

Systems Development & Oversight Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting by Zoom  
09/16/25

Attendees:

Cristina Fernandez  
Mereadith Shivers  
Danielle Chambers  
Linda Kaiser  
Mike Conley  
Robert Guzman

Staff:

Lee Reese  
Cindy Layman

Guest:

Vicki Wilkins

Lee called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

There was a review of the 07/15/25 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike and seconded by Linda. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Robert announced plans to set up individual meetings with partners and discussed a scheduled cross-training session at the American Job Center in Belleville on November 6th. Lee raised a concern about a potential conflict with Representative Schmidt's annual job fair on the same date, though Robert confirmed the event would be at the one-stop location in Belleville. Robert also mentioned that customer satisfaction surveys would be printed on a plastic card instead of paper, and he planned to schedule individual meetings with core partners between now and mid-October.

Cristina provided an update on upcoming changes to the SNAP program due to new work requirements, with implementation potentially starting February 26th. Cristina discussed challenges with implementing FNS (Food and Nutrition Services) in Randolph County, including the need to find additional work sites and community partners, and addressing high payment error rates that could result in significant cost implications. Lee offered to connect Cristina with Gilster Mary Lee for potential collaboration.

Linda reported that the SCEP program is currently paused at a national level due to furloughs affecting 350 participants across Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, though they hope to resume once DOL

releases allocated funds. Lee mentioned following up with Monique about potentially hiring furloughed staff for orientation and data entry roles.

Cindy provided an update on a recent event focused on employers hiring individuals with disabilities, which included panels, a guest speaker, and a reverse job fair. She also mentioned a potential training opportunity from the National Restaurant Association that could benefit staff and employers across various customer service settings. Additionally, Cindy highlighted a hospitality summit held September 11<sup>th</sup> aimed at employers and educators, discussing career pathways in the hospitality industry.

Mike reported increased enrollment at SWIC and discussed ongoing pre-apprenticeship programs, including a new manufacturing program and an upcoming cohort starting October 7th. He also mentioned a non-credit training grant offering workplace employability skills courses and digital badges, with plans to collaborate with the National Restaurant Association to provide the Guest Service Gold course at no cost.

Mike shared that SWIC is executing two grants, Illinois Works and Climate Equity Jobs Act. Mike reported that SWIC is starting a Manufacturing Pre-apprenticeship program in the fall.

Vera updated on pending HUD changes regarding housing time limits and emphasized proactively helping families without 100% disability access workforce programs and training opportunities.

Meredith reported on recruiting for HSD high school diploma classes starting October 13th and upcoming Project Read family reading events in November.

Ashley shared that college cases were nearly double the previous year's amount and discussed a new partnership with Equipped for Equality to provide programming in St. Clair County Jail.

Lee announced a Career Expo on November 18th from 4-6:30 PM at the Belleville Township District 201 Cave, which is expected to attract over 3,000 attendees.

Seeing no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.