



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Energy Workforce Advisory Council Meeting

August 4, 2026

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual WebEx Video Conference

Minutes:

I. Call to Order at 3:08 p.m., with Co-Chair Collins presiding over the meeting.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Vernis Barrier-Likes: Yes

Jonathan Carson: Yes

Ramone Collins: Yes

Rep. Marcus Evans Jr.: No

Chynna Hampton: No

Jennifer Martin: No

Marlon McClinton: Yes

Angela Morrison: Yes

Scott Onque: No

William Ryan: Yes

Sen. Steve Stadelman: No

Aur Beck: No

Beatrice Thompson: Retired

Michael Boyd: Yes

Shaneal Clayborne: Yes

Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado: Yes

John Freitag: No

Alaina Harkness: Yes

Lesley McCain: No

Denise Moore: Yes

Amalia NietoGomez: No

John Pady: Yes

Lorenzo Savage Sr.: Yes

Darnell Tingle: No

Rep. Michael Coffey: No

III. Approval of April 7, 2026 and June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the April 7, 2026 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Jon Carson

Seconded by: Shaneal Clayborne

Outcome: The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Motion: Approve the June 2, 2026 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Shaneal Clayborne

Seconded by: Jon Carson

Outcome: The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. EWAC old business

Co-Chair Collins provided the following updates:

- The prior breakout sessions focused on recommendations regarding the Power Act and preparation for the legislative veto session anticipated for late summer/early fall.
- EWAC administrative work included improving clarity in reporting and the presentation of speakers.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Considering potential legislative recommendations for discussion	Council members	Next meeting
Suggestions for future speakers	DCEO/Council members	Ongoing

V. EWAC New Business

The speakers were invited to speak to provide perspectives on environmental justice, equity, community investment, and community engagement.

a. Mayor Phil A. White, Jr.

Mayor Phil White, Jr., discussed the experience of an equity investment eligible community in Madison County and conditions affecting predominantly Black communities. Mayor White mentioned the new developments in the city of Venice and all the work being done to continue improve and educate the people of the city.

Council Discussion Summary

Members discussed:

- The impact there has been from being an industrial area.
- The opportunities available for job seekers in the Venice community.
- The benefits from the contractor program to small businesses in the community.
- Pursuing CEJA opportunities that are appropriate for Venice.
- Expanding solar education to residents with clearer information about programs, requirements, costs, and benefits.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Continue to seek grants and other funding that align with the city's priorities	City of Venice	Ongoing
Continue to advance development in Venice	City of Venice	Ongoing

b. Angelia Gower- Prominent community leader in Venice/Madison County

Angelia Gower is a Madison County community leader, invited to discuss community engagement and efforts to amplify community voices in local decision-making.

Council Discussion Summary

Members discussed:

- Bridging the gap between the lack of information residents know and restoring power and strength back into the community by giving them a voice.
- Make residents aware of opportunities available to them by building relationships
- Continued efforts of growing and developing the area for better community engagement.
- Growing businesses in Venice and Madison with economic development efforts by grant opportunities to promote generational wealth.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Growing businesses in Venice and Madison for economic benefits to return to the cities	City of Venice	Ongoing
Building trust in the communities	City of Venice	Ongoing
Improve residents' awareness of grant readiness	City of Venice	Ongoing

c. Mr. Gregory Norris-Founder, President/CEO of ISEEJustice40 (CBO partner)

Mr. Gregory Norris spoke on his connection with environmental equity and equitable access and the effects on the community.

Council Discussion Summary

Members discussed:

- The importance of community development by listening and building trust
- Local government coordination by engaging municipal leadership before beginning community initiatives to establish awareness and trust.
- Focus on programs capable of producing lasting infrastructure, partnerships, skills, and economic benefits.
- Solar development opportunities while keeping community needs central to implementation.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Partnership building for shared goals between communities and local officials	City of Venice/Government	Ongoing
Sustainable development of programs	City of Venice/Government	Ongoing

d. ICJC Data report request- Diana Fuller

Diana Fuller presented the data requested by the council.

Council Discussion Summary

Members discussed:

- Define trainings to be a more flexible workforce-development model.

- Assessing regional barriers by evaluating the capacity at the local level.
- Encourage engagement between employers and community stakeholders to ensure training aligns with priorities.
- Assess class capacity and scheduling to determine if high demand hubs can accommodate additional classes.
- Stronger alignment between workforce hubs and the existing community college system, that could help address capacity constraints.
- Ground request for additional funding or program changes in regional evidence.
- Improve the path from application to enrollment, training, and employment.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Curriculum feedback summary provided to committee with a high-level summary of findings and trends	Diana Fuller	Ongoing
Discussing of alignment between hubs and community colleges/CBO's	Council Members	Next meeting
Add regional workforce capacity and alignment as an agenda	Council Members	Next meeting

VI. EWAC Administrative Business

Kindy Kruller mentioned change in staff leadership with her now managing the committee. Asked for any other additional feedback or opportunities for continued refinement in deliverables provided by the staff.

Council Discussion Summary

Members discussed:

- Suggestion to change the cadence of meetings to quarterly for more substantive meetings to provide additional time between subcommittee sessions to complete committee work.
- Determine the committee's goals for best meeting structure and intended outcomes.
- Considering a strategic calendar tied to legislative activity, CEJA grant cycles, NOFOs, and other significant program milestones for better outcome for recommendations.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Due
Continue improving reporting measures	DCEO Staff	Ongoing
Acquire speakers for upcoming meetings	DCEO Staff/EWAC	Ongoing
Determine new meeting cadence	Council members	Next meeting

VII. EWAC Member Comment Period

There were no EWAC member comments at this time.

VIII. Audience Comment Period (required by OMA)

There were no audience comments at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: John Pady

Seconded by: Marlon McClinton

Result: Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Outcome: The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote.