



Local Elected Official (LEO) Board Meeting

March 18, 2026

Union County Government Center
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

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Local Elected Official (LEO) Board Meeting Agenda

Union County Government Center, Lewisburg
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

9:00 – 9:05	Call to Order and Approval of Minutes	Rob Postal
9:05 – 9:10	Public Comment	
9:10 – 9:15	WDB Membership – Action Needed: Appointment of new Workforce Development Board Member	Rob Postal
9:15 – 9:25	Executive Director’s Update	Erica Mulberger
9:25 – 9:30	Open Discussion	
9:30	Adjournment/Date of Next Meeting	Rob Postal

- Executive Committee – April 10, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
- Annual Meeting of the Members/LEO Board - June 17, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- WDB/LEO Board Joint Meeting – June 17, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Local Elected Official Board Action Items March 18, 2026

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 LEO Board meeting.

Motion:

Second:

- Action Needed: Appointment of new Workforce Development Board member.

Local Elected Officials (LEO Board)

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

The Local Elected Official (LEO) Board of Advance Central PA held a meeting Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at the Union County Government Center in Lewisburg, PA.

LEO Board Members Attending

Commissioner Rebecca Dressler, Montour County
Commissioner Angela Harding, Clinton County
Commissioner Mark Mussina, Lycoming County
Commissioner Robert Postal, Mifflin County
Commissioner Stacy Richards, Union County
Commissioner Chuck Steininger, Snyder County

Guests Attending

Jon Dewald
Michele Foust
Dave Zartman

WDB Staff Attending

Allison Grose
Korrie Lucas
Erica Mulberger
Gabi Randall
Kelly Walter
Morgan Whitteker

LEO Board Members Excused

Commissioner Steven Dershem, Centre County
Commissioner Joe Klebon, Northumberland County
Commissioner David Kovach, Columbia County

Call to Order and Welcome

Commissioner Robert Postal opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and confirmed a quorum was met.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Postal called for a motion to approve the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes previously sent to all LEO Board members.

- ▲ **Commissioner Rebecca Dressler made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 LEO Board meeting. Commissioner Stacy Richards seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions.**

Invitation for Public Comments

Commissioner Postal opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

2026 Workforce Development Board Schedule

Erica Mulberger, Advance Central PA Executive Director, presented the proposed 2026 Workforce Development Board (WDB) meeting schedule which includes planned meetings for the WDB, LEO, and Executive Committee.

- ▲ **Commissioner Angela Harding made a motion to approve the Workforce Development Board Schedule for 2026. Commissioner Mark Mussina seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions.**

A question was raised regarding whether a proxy can attend in place of an LEO member; Erica responded she will research and follow-up with an answer.

Executive Director's Update

Erica Mulberger, Advance Central PA Executive Director, provided updates.

Workforce Development Board (WDB) Membership

Jamie Aurand's resignation from his employment also required him to step down from the WDB, leaving the Audit/Finance Chair position vacant. Jamie has indicated interest in re-applying for membership on the WDB if his new employment permits. Steve Stumbris will be leaving the WDB in June, vacating the Economic and Community Development category seat. Erica plans to reach out to Jennifer Wakeman from DRIVE to gauge her interest in joining as she is also a member of the PA Workforce Development Board. These vacancies are critical to fill, so Erica asks that anyone with potential leads share them with her.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Re-Authorization

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) re-authorization is not progressing at the federal level at this time. Erica noted that Senator Fetterman's office responded to her informational letter and expressed shared concern about the importance of an available workforce. Until a new law is enacted, funding will continue through a continuing resolution, ensuring temporary support but leaving long-term uncertainty unresolved.

EARN Contract Renewal

There has been no official communication from the PA Dept. of Human Services (DHS) regarding the EARN contract set to expire June 30, 2026. Erica expressed optimism that a new contract may be issued to Advance Central PA and other WDBs across the Commonwealth.

PA CareerLink® Locations/State and Other Partner Funding

Multiple partners are facing funding cuts, including Title II Adult Basic education which has pulled their programming from the PA CareerLink® Lycoming County for a more affordable rent. Therefore, staff is researching office space availability with a goal to ensure we are leasing only the square footage needed at the best rates possible. Similarly, Advance Central PA's office space has been significantly reduced to maintain level rent.

Commissioner Postal raised concerns about the impact of partners leaving the PA CareerLink® and asked how the existing leases are structured. Erica responded that all leases have a funding-out clause, providing an option to terminate if necessary.

Commissioner Postal asked about the potential impact of SNAP work requirements on the PA CareerLink® space and the EARN budget. New requirements go into effect January 1, 2026 and Erica explained that she anticipates the Pennsylvanians with Employment and Engagement Requirements (PEERs) may turn to PA CareerLink® for assistance, with some referred directly to EARN. The SNAP EARN budget is small and the federal changes are unfunded mandates. She emphasized the desire to serve individuals who are seeking employment. According to data released by DHS, up to 4,992 participants could lose services if compliance requirements are not met in our local region, therefore funding is a grave concern.

Commissioner Richards inquired as to the guidance SNAP recipients are given when they present to PA CareerLink®. Erica explained staff developed operational procedures for the PA CareerLink® staff so that they provide consistent and appropriate services. This includes inviting the individual to complete an online DHS screening tool which can help identify whether they have work requirements. Customers are referred to the County Assistance Office for concrete information regarding their individual circumstances.

Open Discussion

Commissioner Postal inquired about the PA CareerLink® Job Seeker Services Report which is included in the packet for the joint WDB/LEO meeting; specifically the virtual UC pie chart showing 325 participants in Columbia/Montour compared to only 5 in Mifflin. He asked what "virtual" means and why there was such a large discrepancy. Erica explained that "virtual" refers to individuals calling in rather than attending

in person. The higher numbers in Columbia/Montour were largely due to layoffs during that timeframe, reflecting demand. A Rapid Response event was held for IG Design Group in Columbia/Montour, which affected approximately 380 workers.

Commissioner Postal asked if anyone has participated in the Rural Health Act summits. He described the project as an assertive effort to secure federal funds to improve rural healthcare. He noted that there is a chapter on workforce, yet he did not see the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry listed. The LEO Board discussed that CCAP has noted behavioral health as a priority. A major outstanding issue is in regard to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as well as overall workforce issues.

Date of Next Meetings

Commissioner Postal announced the following upcoming meetings:

- Executive Committee Meeting – February 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
- LEO Prep Meeting – March 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – March 18, 2026 Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to attend to, Commissioner Postal adjourned the LEO Board at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walter



Office/Board Coordinator