

# HACIA CEJA Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

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Meeting Date: 4/14/2026  
Meeting Location: HACIA Chicago/Virtual  
Recorded By: Marisabel Pozo, Olivia Salazar



**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
Charlotte Parker	Director of Public Engagement	Dimension Energy	Yes (Virtual)
Roberto Arista	Vice President	Wintrust	Yes (Virtual)
Angela Tovar	Chief Sustainability Officer and Commissioner at City of Chicago	City of Chicago Dept. of Environment	Yes
Christopher Edwards	Program Director	Evolve Foundation	Yes
Robert Hattier	Renewable Energy Director	Local 134 IBEW	Yes
Conner Rettig	Equity Eligible Contractor Sector Strategist - Illinois Shines	Energy Solutions	Yes
Manny Rodriguez	Executive Director	Revolution Workshop	Yes
Chyanne Husar	Principal of Sustainability and Architecture	Husarch	Yes
Francisco Lopez Zavala	Associate of Policy Programs	IL Env. Council	Yes
Omy Garcia	Manager of Energy Efficiency Programs	Peoples Gas	Yes
Brian Imus	Executive Director	Illinois Green Alliance	Yes
Francisco Galliano	Senior Vice President	Illinois Climate Bank	Yes
Jackie Gallo	Senior Director of Programs	Revolution Workshop	Yes
Ken Stepps	Director of Training & Business Development	Insight	Yes
Christine Flynn	CEJA Capacity Grant Program Lead	Workforce Policy Lab	Yes
Alek Jaunzemis	CEJA Program Lead	HACIA	Yes
Alma Tello	Senior Director of Innovation & Impact	HACIA	Yes
Ivette Trevino	Dir. Of Strategic Partnerships & Membership Engagement	HACIA	Yes
Hector Tello	Membership & Business Dev. Manager	HACIA	Yes
Jose Escobedo	Marketing Manager	HACIA	Yes
Jackie Gomez	Executive Director	HACIA	Yes
Olivia Salazar	Program Coordinator	HACIA	Yes
Marisabel Pozo	Business Capacity Programs Manager	HACIA	Yes (Virtual)

## **MEETING LOCATION**

HACIA Offices | 650 W. Lake Street, Chicago, IL

Virtual

Meeting Start: 5:14 PM

Meeting End: 6:38 PM

Meeting Scribes: Marisabel Pozo, Olivia Salazar

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Alek Jaunzemis begins meeting, thanking the Board for complete attendance.
- b. HACIA Staff are introduced.

### **II. Welcome & Objective Framing**

- a. Board introduced to CEJA initiative
- b. HACIA CEJA Incubator Year 1 is summarized.
- c. Incubator Year 2 curriculum, scope, and objectives are introduced.

### **III. Advisory Board Member Introduction**

- a. End - 5:52 PM

### **IV. Open Discussion**

- a. Clean Energy Ecosystem Deep-Dive & Skills/Training Needs
  - i. Need for building assessors, gap in market and training.
  - ii. Changing energy code adoptions to 2024 code-mismatch with skills and municipalities
  - iii. Not enough workforce to handle coming changes and market demand created by progressive policies and building practices.
  - iv. Organizations like Insight meet this need-wider adoption across industry
  - v. Building and Performance standards are barriers for training, employment, and adoption of standards.
  - vi. Need for contractors and professionals to be trained as design field creates challenges.
  - vii. More comprehensive approach to “clean energy workforce” is proposed as solution to imbalance of entry level technicians.
    1. Example: Entry level solar installation technicians are ample, jobs are not. Role is too narrowly defined. Training for role should adopt more electrician skills and prepare technicians for work pivoting from installation.
    2. This can lead to plateaued pay structure where pigeon-holed installers limited by skillset receive limited pay
  - viii. Preparing professionals with expanded skillset within clean energy proceeds expanded definition of “clean energy/construction/practices” by the industry and policy makers.
- b. Clean Energy & Communities
  - i. Workforce training partners (HACIA, Revolution, etc.) need to approach outreach to communities using the social media channels of today (TikTok vs LinkedIn)
  - ii. Difficult to spread awareness of incentive programs from utilities and government due to program complexity, websites, distrust.
  - iii. Grassroots Educators need to be invested in – residential customers have level of mistrust. Difference between “sophisticated” property owners (i.e. commercial, landlords, etc. and residential homeowners)
    1. Contractors can be these Grassroots educators-depends on quality of work and what incentives they can pass onto customer.
- c. Near Term Priorities

Identify stakeholders not currently being engaged enough by the industry and ecosystem of clean HACIA CEJA Incubator

- i. energy
  - ii. Capitalize on enthusiasm for Advisory Board to meet more frequently.
- d. Conclusion & Next Steps**
- i. Alek and HACIA team thank those in attendance for their participation and patience
  - ii. HACIA CEJA team will create post-meeting survey to cover agenda items not addressed for time at meeting.
  - iii. HACIA team will debrief and strategize on how best to utilize Board enthusiasm and keep momentum.
  - iv. Meeting is adjourned at 6:38 PM

## **END OF MINUTES**