

**Workforce Investment Board of Will County
October 16, 2023, Minutes**

BOARD MEMBERS								
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Dana Bradley		X	Kraig Kistingner	X		Juan Rico	X	
Jayne Cain	X		Paul Lauridsen	X		Jim Rink	X	
David Conterio	X		Cornell Lurry		X	Suzanne Sallay		X
Beth Gonzalez	X		Judy Mitchell	X		Diana Sharpe		X
Doc Gregory	X		Pat Mudron	X		Christina Shirley	X	
Linda Guerrero	X		Clyne Namuo	X		Michele Stiff	X	
Maribeth Hearn	X		Mike Paone	X		Ben Stortz	X	
Rita Herrick		X	Josh Potter	X		James Tromp		X
Carlos Interrial	X		Doug Pryor		X	Maggie Wolf	X	
STAFF								
Caroline Portlock	Pat Wendholt							
GUESTS								
Dain Meza-Gotto	Jennifer Kowalkowski	Keri Peter	Mark Uner	Ziarra Miller				

Welcome and Introductions –Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM. She congratulated Director Portlock’s recent appointment as President of the Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP) association.

Minutes - Minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Interrial, seconded by Potter. Motion carried.

Presentation: Jennifer Kowalkowski, Cornerstone Services presented information on some of the employment challenges and opportunities for people with disabilities. Follow up discussion included Christina Shirley (IDHS-DRS) and John Hall (WSD) on some of the programs and services available. The upcoming Abilities Job Fair was discussed.

Reports:

Communications Committee - Mitchell/Mudron

Mudron reported on the events and activities of the Business Services team as well as efforts by the Outreach Specialist as presented in the in packet.

Program Operations Committee – Sharpe/Stiff

Stiff reviewed the current enrollment numbers and outreach activities for the Title 1 (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth) Program reports as presented in the packet.

Systems & Trends Committee - Herrick/Interrial

- Training Programs: Interrial provided an overview of the training programs for certification from Governors State University and recertifications from Governors State University and Joliet Junior College as received in the packet. Motion to approve programs as presented was made by Stiff, seconded by Rink with_Namuo and Wolf from JJC abstaining. Motion carried.
- Business Grants: Interrial reviewed the grants summary as presented in the packet.

One Stop Operator / Workforce Center Report- Stiff

Stiff reviewed the report for the Workforce Center of Will County as presented in the packet. In addition to the current events and activities, the type, topics, and frequency of workshops offered were discussed.

Director's Report- Portlock

- Portlock emceed the IWP Awards luncheon in Springfield celebrating 22 individuals, 15 businesses and 4 partnerships from across the state. Locally, we presented the Business Leadership Award to NFI, the Individual Achievement Award to Chris Hunigan and recognized the Pathways to Professions Career Expo as an innovative solution/partnership.
- PY23 MOU for LWIA 10 required minor revisions. Revisions were sent to partners and approved on a motion by Herrick, seconded by Gregory. Motion carried. Revised document will be signed by Gonzalez and submitted to state.
- Portlock noted the unexpected passing of Silver Cross Hospital's CEO, Ruth Colby, and asked that everyone keep the SCH family as well as Ruth's family in your thoughts.

WIB Member Updates/Announcements:

- JJC (Dain Meza-Gotto, Workforce Development Director) announced that JJC applied for the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) grant in partnership with the Workforce Investment Board of Will County and Workforce Services of Will County.
 - Applied for \$5 million in CEJA funding to provide clean jobs training programs for equity investment eligible communities and displaced energy workers within greater Joliet area.
 - Expect to receive notice on funding from DCEO in November.
 - Still looking for a community-based organization to apply for the Energy Transition Navigator and to serve as a Navigator for the Joliet hub.
- Additional announcements and updates will be sent to members this week. Please send any announcements to Pat by Wednesday.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Gregory, seconded by Paone at 9:01 AM. Motion carried.

Next meeting December 11, 2023, at 7:30am