

**Workforce Investment Board of Will County
October 21, 2024, Minutes**

| BOARD MEMBERS | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------|----------------|---------|--------|
| Name | Present | Absent | Name | Present | Absent | Name | Present | Absent |
| Jayne Cain | X | | Cornell Lurry | X | | Juan Rico | X | |
| Beth Gonzalez | X | | Judy Mitchell | X | | Jim Rink | | X |
| Doc Gregory | | X | Pat Mudron | X | | Amy Seeley | | X |
| Linda Guerrero | | X | Clyne Namuo | X | | Michelle Stiff | X | |
| Maribeth Hearn | X | | Mike Paone | | X | Ben Stortz | X | |
| Carlos Interrial | X | | Josh Potter | X | | James Tromp | X | |
| Kraig Kistingner | X | | Doug Pryor | | X | Maggie Wolf | X | |
| Paul Lauridsen | X | | Anne Rapp | X | | | | |
| STAFF | | | | | | | | |
| Caroline Portlock | Pat Wendholt | Lisa Borrelli | John Hall | Dakota Mashak | | | | |
| GUESTS | | | | | | | | |
| Keri Peter | Mandy Dwyer | Abby Saltzman | Kayla Sorensen | | | | | |

Welcome and Introductions –Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM.

Presentation: JJC - Adult Education and Literacy Overview Presentation by Maggie Wolf and Mandy Dwyer presented information on their Programs & Services. Information on the presentation and these programs will be sent to the board.

ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes - Minutes of August 12, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Kistingner; seconded by Potter. Motion carried.

Training Programs –

Training Programs for recertification as received in the packet from Governor State University. Motion to approve as presented was made by Mitchell, seconded by Tromp. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

- Communications Committee – Mitchell presented the information as presented in the packet that included information on Business Services Team activities, Outreach initiatives and social media engagement.
- Program Operations Committee – Stiff presented the information as presented in the packet that included 1st Quarter program enrollment reports for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth.
- Systems & Trends Committee – Interrial presented the information as presented in the packet which included an update on the Business Grants.

- One Stop Operator / Workforce Center Report- Stiff reviewed the Workforce Center Report as presented in the packet noting the events, activities, and partner referrals.

Director's Report- Portlock discussed the following funding opportunities and events:

- Websites: The county would like to combine all the websites throughout the county into one website. Staff are looking into the options and working with the County on integration where possible.
- IWP Award Recognition: Portlock announced the 2024 Illinois Workforce Partnership's award recipients for Will County (LWIA 10): The individual award went to Bob Herling and the Business Leadership Award went to Dutch American Foods (DAF). Bob and DAF were given their awards at their place of employment (Bob at Cornerstone Services and place of business (DAF).
- PY24/PY25 Performance Measures: Portlock presented the performance measures that were negotiated with DCEO – these measures stated from Program Year 24 (7/1/25) and will continue through Program 25 (6/30/26)
- 2025 Meeting Dates: The dates for the board and committee meetings were included in the packet. It was also noted that this is a great opportunity to review the calendar and committee assignments and adjust based on interest and availability. The majority of the work of this board does is at the committee level, therefore, participation by board members in the committees is key to ensuring we are creating and maintaining a flexible, responsive, and comprehensive workforce system.

WIB Member Updates/Announcements:

- The Board welcomed Amy Seely, DRS who replaced Kimberly Mokris on the board.
- The Board thanked Dana Bradley, Silver Cross Hospital for the time she gave to the board.

Public Comment:

- Sorensen provided an update on the CED Internship program and how employers can get involved.
- Kistingler talked about a Kewanee Life Skills project and how it's a great opportunity & experience for employers.
- Mudron informed everyone that the Ruby Street Bridge in Joliet will be closed until the end of the year necessary to accommodate the installation of new aerial cables and a control system, along with various tender house upgrades. The improvements will allow the bridge to be controlled from a central location, creating a more efficient system of lifting and lowering the bridges and increasing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and marine traffic.
- Hearn announced that USF's Center for Non-Profit Excellence will host an HR workshop facilitated by Caroline Portlock on November 19th.
- Interrial reminded everyone to ship early for the holiday season!
- Stortz mentioned some hiring trends that Cornerstone is experiencing.

- Rapp announced the following:
 - The Institute for Workforce Education at Lewis launched its second cohort of participants in the Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program. at the Romeoville Campus this fall. The first cohort finished classes in May and were celebrated at graduation in August. The program is funded by DCEO through Illinois Works. Participants will earn the following recognized certifications: NCCER, Flagger, OSHA 10, and First Aid/CPR. There is no cost to participants and stipends, wrap around support, and job placement assistance is built into the program. We offer this program at three additional locations throughout the Chicagoland area.
 - The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership has selected the Institute for Workforce Education to deliver training at Decatur Corrections Facility. Funded by the Climate Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), the Returning Citizens Pre-Apprentice Grant will fund IWE's training program in solar technology. Women in the program will receive job placement support and assistance that will be delivered by the Partnership.
- Mitchell is working with the Illinois Community College Board in updating their Policies and Procedures.
- Lurry talked about the Landlord Convention that is being held on October 24th at JJC main campus. Lurry also talked about the Housing Action Illinois (HAI) annual Housing Matters conference that took place last Thursday and Friday (October 17-18)
- Cain is working on their program of work as they continue moving towards the digital age.
- Lauridsen talked about the Recovery Home for Women, currently they are housing seven women.
- Rico mentioned that a new training facility opened in August. Every Monday anyone can fill out an application.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Stiff, seconded by Interrial at 9:09 AM. Motion carried.

Next meeting December 9, 2024, at 7:30am