

**Executive Committee
Workforce Investment Board of Will County
Joliet Junior College Renaissance Center
214 N. Ottawa Street, Room 424, Joliet, IL 60432**

**April 7, 2014
Minutes**

| BOARD MEMBERS | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Name | Present | Absent | Name | Present | Absent |
| Greg Dover | | X | Cheryl McCarthy | X | |
| Susan Flessner | X | | Don Moran | | X |
| John Greuling | X | | Suzanne Sallay | X | |
| Mark Jepson | X | | Jim Tromp | X | |

Others Present: Pat Fera, Gina Tuminello

Welcome and Introductions

Jim Tromp called the meeting to order. The minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Susan Flessner, seconded by John Greuling.

Public Hearing

Jim Tromp announced that a public hearing must be held to review and accept recent funding increases. The public hearing was called to order on a motion by Susan Flessner and seconded by Suzanne Sallay. Fera presented a modification to the 5 year WIA plan to incorporate \$118,633 of additional Dislocated Worker funds into the PY13 budget. Tromp asked if there were any comments or questions about the additional funds. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed on a motion by Suzanne Sallay and seconded by John Greuling. The modification was approved on a motion by Suzanne Sallay, seconded by Cheryl McCarthy.

Old Business

Susan Flessner presented an update on the Equal Opportunity (EO) compliance review of the Workforce Services Division of Will County workNet Center. Almost all of the findings have been addressed or in progress and a revised MOA has been submitted to DCEO.

New Business

Pat Fera proposed an On-the-Job Training project to the Executive Committee. The purpose of the project would be to assist manufacturing employers in hiring new employees. The pilot project would be between \$300,000 and \$350,000. The project was approved on a motion by Suzanne Sallay, seconded by Cheryl McCarthy.

Pat Fera presented a report on Mobile Workforce Center customer usage for PY12 to date. The MWC went to a five location stop schedule more than two years ago and changes to location stops have been made to generate more traffic over the past year. Fera indicated that Governors State University (GSU) has been very low in the last few months. As a result, as of May 1, 2014 the Susan Flessner will be working with the Village of University Park to see if the MWC can use the Village Hall as a regular stop in place of GSU.

The Committee also looked at maps that show where our customers reside in the County.

Fera informed the Committee that Joliet Junior College Renaissance Center will no longer be renting out their meeting space after June 30th. Prairie Bluff Golf Course will host the remainder of Board meetings for 2014.

Fera informed the Committee that Lulu Blacksmith, a doctoral student at Benedictine University and the Governmental Relations Director for Waubensee Community College, has asked if the Workforce Investment Board of Will County would be willing to serve as the basis for her doctoral dissertation research on collaborations between business leaders, members of local Workforce Investment Boards, and local community college leaders. Fera noted that this research would be valuable to the Board for continuous improvement activities in the future. The Executive Committee agreed to the research and requested that Blacksmith present a final report on the research to the Board.

The US Department of Labor released *Ready To Work Partnership* grant program. This program will utilize approximately \$150 million in revenues from the H-1B Visa program to support high performing partnerships between employers, non-profit organizations and the public workforce system to help provide long-term unemployed individuals with the range of services, training, and access they need to fill middle and high-skill jobs. Two organizations have requested that we participate in their applications: DCEO and Skills for Chicagoland Future. Both organizations applied separately for this grant. We have agreed to participate in both.

Youth Council

Pat Fera provided an overview of a new program that is being proposed for funding. The recommended contractors for Occupational Skill Training Program for youth will assist youth who have a high school diploma or GED in identifying a career choice and enrolling in post-secondary education. A Request for Proposals was released and a review team recommends the following contract awards: Joliet Junior College - \$486,485 to serve 70 participants, and First Institute Training - \$176,000 to serve 25 participants. The recommendations were approved on a motion by John Greuling, seconded by Mark Jepson.

System and Trends Committee

Pat Fera presented the Dashboard Overview Report. The report provides general information about the economy and the workforce services provided to customers.

Fera also presented "*Where are the Jobs?*" This report is an indicator of jobs available and is created from an online program that uses web spider crawler technology to scour online job boards.

Manager's Report

Fera presented an update on the Accelerated Training for Illinois Manufacturing Project (ATIM). There were five grants awarded in the state of Illinois. As of April 3, 2014, our region has 159 applicants enrolled. Will County has 49 in the treatment group and 12 in the control group. The target enrollment is 177. There were 1,044 applicants received so far. Will County has by far the most enrolled.

Pat Fera gave an overview on Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). This partnership will help accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in regions across the country. The IMCP will reward communities that best highlight their strengths and demonstrate

that they can combine their efforts around workforce training, infrastructure and research centers to implement an economic development plan that will attract, retain, and expand manufacturing investment.

In March, Fera and Flessner attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington DC. During their time in DC, they visited with the staff of several representatives of the Illinois Congressional delegation. Fera provided a summary of those visits.

The latest Fiscal Report was reviewed. This report shows expenses from July 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014. The most recent Layoff Report was also reviewed. There were no new layoffs in Will County.

The US Department of Labor released the Workforce Investment Act allocations for PY14 and there is an increase over PY13 in all funding streams (Youth, Dislocated Worker, and Adult). We do not know Will County's exact allocations yet but will bring those figures to the Board once they are received from DCEO.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday, June 7, 2014 at 7:30 am at the JJC Renaissance Center, 214 N. Ottawa Street, Room 424, Joliet, IL