

Workforce Investment Board of Will County

Location: Workforce Center of Will County

December 9, 2019 Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS								
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Tracy Ardis		X	Doc Gregory		X	Mike Paone	X	
Nancy Baldwin	X		John Greuling	X		Steve Randich	X	
Herb Brooks	X		Linda Guerrero	X		Andy Rico		X
Jayne Cain Casimere		X	Maribeth Hearn		X	Suzanne Sallay	X	
Rocky Caylor		X	Rita Herrick	X		Anitarice Schmidt		X
David Conterio	X		Carlos Interrial	X		Michele Smith	X	
Kevin Daly	X		Kraig Kistingner	X		Michele Stipe		X
Joe Del Real	X		Paul Lauridsen	X		Ben Stortz	X	
Gloria Dollinger	X		Damien McDonald	X		James Tromp	X	
Susan Flessner	X		Judy Mitchell	X		Shawn Walsh	X	
Beth Gonzalez	X		Pat Mudron	X				
STAFF								
Sue Davinger	Mary Gajcak		Caroline Portlock					
GUESTS								
Amy Murphy								

Welcome and Introductions –Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order and welcomed new member Mike Paone of the Joliet Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Minutes - Minutes of the October 21, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Kistingner; seconded by Del Real.

Reports/Committee Updates:

Workforce Center Report:

- WCWC has seen great success attracting new customers to WCWD with off-site and after-hours job fairs. As unemployment rates continue to decrease, job fairs will move to bi-weekly after the first of the year.
- The entire Will County business services team received the ‘Certified Business Engagement Professional’ credential.
- WCWC partnered with Goodwill to offer no-cost Customer Service Training to job seekers. Eleven job seekers attended, two of which were new to WCWC.
- On November 19th and December 5th, IDES partnered with WCWC to present a State Employment Workshop for job seekers interested in applying for State jobs. 58 attended (20 new) the November workshop; 52 attended (25 new) the December workshop.
- WSD received an \$854,000 award from the Department of Labor to use in partnership with Will County offices to staff recovery coaches and treatment efforts to fight the Opioid crisis in Will County. Governors State University received a grant to train recovery coaches; Will County will provide training dollars for trainees to provide addiction services to Opioid patients at Cornerstone Services and others.

Service Utilization Report: Portlock noted that continuing low unemployment rates have affected the number of customers visiting the WCWC. The Mobile Workforce Center has enjoyed steady numbers due to the increase in outreach. In-person workshop attendance has lowered as workshops are now streamed on Facebook Live and are viewed from home. While the number of customers seeing workshops online is encouraging, it is difficult to track them.

Communications Committee:

- Mudron announce that the Business Services Team will host an online workshop on December 10th. Topics will include recruiting assistance, IL Job Link for Employers, Work Opportunity Tax Credits, Unemployment Law, Wage and Workforce Data, Paid Internship Opportunities and On-the-Job Training.
- Mitchell reported that the National Apprenticeship Kick-Off Event designed to educate businesses about the benefit of a Registered Apprenticeship Program was a great success. Hosted in conjunction with Joliet Junior College, Workforce Investment Board of Will County, and the Grundy/Livingston/Kankakee Workforce Board, the event drew 100 guests including 48 businesses from various industries.

System and Trends Committee:

- Program Re-Certification: Herrick presented a request from Joliet Junior College to approve a tuition change for the 'Professional Medical Coding and Billing Online Training' program. The change was approved on a motion by Greuling, seconded by Brooks.
- On-the-Job Training Report: 14 new WIOA-eligible customers have been enrolled in OJT to date; another seven, not eligible for WIOA funding, were placed as direct-hire placements.
- Incumbent Worker Training Grants: A fund balance of \$37,722 remains for PY19; \$87,278 has been obligated; 145 workers have received training (86 received training in PY18.)

Youth Council:

Flessner delivered the October/November Connect to Your Future reports for both facets of the program including High School Equivalency/Academic Skills Improvement and Occupational Skills Training.

Director's Report:

- Demand Occupations: Portlock presented updates to the Will County Demand Occupations list for years 2020-2021. Changes were approved on a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Conterio. Motion carried.
- Allocation Funds Transfer: Portlock recommended that an additional \$500,000 from the Title 1 (Dislocated Worker) budget to the Title 1A (Disadvantaged Adult) budget. Motion to approve transfer of funds was made by Interrial, seconded by Tromp. Motion carried.
- Election of Officers: The following slate was presented for Board Officers and Committee Co-Chairs:
 - Chair: Suzanne Sallay
 - Vice-Chair: Beth Gonzalez
 - Immediate Past Chair: Nancy Baldwin
 - Committees:
 - Communications Co-Chairs: Judy Mitchell
Pat Mudron
 - System & Trends Co-Chairs: Rita Herrick
Carlos Interrial
 - Youth Council Co-Chairs: Susan Flessner
Michele Stipe

Greuling motioned to approve the slate as presented. Dollinger Seconded. Motion carried.

- Portlock thanked Nancy Baldwin for her leadership as Chair of the Workforce Board 2017-2019. The entire Board expressed appreciation for her dedicated service.
- Portlock congratulated Larry Walsh for having received the Frank Turk Business and Community Achievement Award as well as an honorary Doctorate from the University of St. Francis.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dollinger, seconded by Del Real. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Workforce Investment Board will be Monday, February 10, 2020 at the WCWC.